

Luke And The Investigation

8-12-18

Luke will give us a somewhat different perspective on our Christian faith. First of all, we need to identify Luke. **Luke is the only non-Jewish author in the Bible with maybe the exception of Job.** Not only was Luke a Gentile, non Jewish, he is writing to another Gentile, Theophilus. Therefore in one sense we have someone on “**the outside looking in**” of this great movement of Christianity and trying to explain it to another outsider. **Luke is investigating Christianity, especially Jesus and the Holy Spirit.** This is reflective in the introduction.

Luke 1:1-2 (NASB)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,

Luke 1:3-4 (NASB)

It seemed fitting for me as well, **having investigated everything carefully from the beginning**, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

After completing the investigation of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the gospel of Luke, Luke writes another Book, the Book of Acts. In Acts 1:1, we see Luke investigating how Jesus continues HIS teaching impacting all believers thus creating the church.

Acts 1:1 (NASB)

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus “**began**” to do and teach.

The key word here is “began”! The Book of Luke reveals what Jesus began. Today Jesus continues what HE began. What Jesus did through the Holy Spirit in the Book of Luke, HE continues to do in the church today!

Luke was the perfect man for an investigation. He was a doctor, well educated, and wrote in excellent ancient classical Greek.

Colossians 4:14 (ESV)

Luke the beloved physician greets you.

Another significant point, Luke was a personal friend of the Apostle Paul and traveled with him. At the end of Paul’s ministry in the last letter he wrote, Paul refers to Luke’s loyal companionship.

2 Timothy 4:11 (ESV)

Luke alone is with me.

Also by close examination of the book of Acts, we can determine when Luke joined up with the Paul.

Acts 16:10 (ESV)

And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately “**we**” sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

From this time, Luke traveled with Paul and personally observed the supernatural, miraculous growth of the church.

We have another insight that is worth mentioning that impacted Luke's investigation. Late in Paul's ministry, he was imprisoned for two years in Caesarea just north of Jerusalem. This would be the time and area where Mary the mother of Jesus would most likely still be living along with many other people who personally witnessed Jesus' ministry. It is not a stretch to believe that during this two years of Paul's time in prison that **Luke was actively investigating** the life of Jesus and talking to the first hand witnesses including Mary.

Acts 24:27 (ESV)

When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

This would explain the fact why only Luke records of the events of the parents of John the Baptist and events leading up to his the birth. We learn in Luke 1:36 that Mary, Jesus' mother is a relative of Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother. Also in Luke we have more intimate details about Mary, Jesus' mother and more intimate details about Jesus' birth. Mary would be the one who would know all these facts. Luke surely talked the Mary.

That is our introduction. Over the next several months we will walk with Luke as he gives his orderly account of his investigation. But before we start let us examine the first verse of the Book of Acts so we can have a greater appreciation of Luke.

Acts 1:1 (NASB)

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus “**began**” to do and teach.

In Luke we have the divine actions and teaching of Jesus Christ. The first verse in Acts tells us that all the actions and teaching in Luke was what Jesus “began**” to do and teach. The foundation that was laid by Jesus in Luke was the beginning of HIS actions and teaching “**to be continued**” in the church throughout all the ages by the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit which is revealed in Acts.**

Therefore, we need to pay close attention to Luke and personally embrace and apply the information we learn.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.