

Luke was written between 59-63AD. Luke was the only Gentile writer of all the New Testament Books.

Luke was written to a Greek man named Theophilus who happened to be a very influential Christian. Luke knew the Greeks were cultured. They loved beauty and philosophy. Who better to teach the gentiles than a Syrian who also was well educated. You see Luke was a Physician, a well-educated compassionate man himself. He knew Christ's love for mankind. Physicians as compassionate people themselves, can see compassionate people who want to help others. Jesus' ministry is a ministry of compassion.

Luke had a desire to search out the truth about Jesus. He wanted to make sure everything he said was accurate. For him to do so, he interviewed people who were eyewitnesses to many of the accounts listed here. Luke also recorded Christ's lineage. This time Jesus' family tree is from Mary's side of the family. And it goes all the way back to Adam. That was done to show the prophesy was fulfilled.

You see, God hadn't spoken to his people for 400 years. It was at this time God is first heard from. He sent an angel to tell Elizabeth and Zechariah that they would give birth to a son named John. Their son would be a forerunner to announce Christ to the world. John and Jesus were cousins. Can you imagine playing with your cousin knowing that he would someday save the world? Jesus' birth and childhood were briefly discussed here. It's also important to note that Luke tells about the time Jesus' family traveled to Jerusalem. As was required under the Law of Moses, the first-born male was to be consecrated to the Lord. Upon completion of the required rites, they traveled back to Nazareth where Jesus continued to grow in God's wisdom and grace.

As was their custom, every year Jesus' family would attend the Passover feast in Jerusalem. On their annual trip when Jesus was twelve, Mary and Joseph headed for home not knowing Jesus wasn't with them. Concerned about their sons' whereabouts, three days later they found Jesus in the Temple talking with teachers. The next time we hear of Jesus is when he's baptized. Then tempted in the wilderness by Satan. Once Satan realized Jesus wouldn't give in, Jesus returned to Nazareth. Unfortunately, since the town had known Jesus since birth, they didn't believe he was the Messiah and forced him out of town. This is where his ministry begins. Jesus first ministers to Galilee, then Judea and finally Jerusalem. During his Galilean Ministry he called his first disciples then appointed his twelve apostles. Everywhere he went he told parables, twenty-eight in all. Parables are concise short stories that use simple homespun stories that tug at feelings. They usually have profound truths that captivate an audience and have dual meanings. A couple examples are, (a lost son) heaven rejoices when lost sinners are found. Or (Lazarus and the rich man) attitudes and actions towards less fortunate have eternal consequences. Jesus was showing his compassion to all people, not just the Jews. Many of the miracles performed brought about a change in people which is what Jesus wanted. His goal is to have everyone accept him as their savior, so everyone will be with Jesus in Heaven for eternity.

Luke shows that Jesus is our kinsman redeemer when Jesus died as an atonement for our sins. Jesus' resurrection showed the power that God gave Jesus by resurrecting him. And the gift of eternal life we have, if we just accept him.

Especially important was the story of two men on the road to Emmaus. They were discussing everything that had happened in the last three days. That is when Christ appears first after his death. Once everyone is convinced it is Jesus, he reminds the disciples that 'Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms'. Christ then tells them to preach to

all nations, Jews and Gentiles alike. Christ's redemption was for everyone. The next time you hear from Luke is when he writes the book Acts which is the start of the church.