

Luke: The Beloved Physician

↪ We've gone for 7 years in the Old Testament. We are now going to move to the New Testament and to the book of Luke for an in-depth study of the life of Christ. Luke was one of only 4 writers that God chose to communicate that story to the world, and because of that, he is one of the best-read authors in the history of humanity. But do you know who he was? He's the most comprehensive recorder of the saga of salvation, but we know little about him.

1. Why don't we know Luke?

- ✓ In 24 chapters of the gospel of Luke and 28 chapters of the book of Acts, he never refers to himself or gives us his name. He was a man who was happy to sit behind the massive achievements of his two volume inspired writings. Luke possibly never saw his compilation going any further than meeting the needs of this friend, but God had other plans!
- ✓ He knew that he was well researched **verse 3**; he knew that it came from a heart that wanted to communicate the truth **verse 4**, but did he know that these were the very inspired words of God? Luke is a shadow of a person to most of us, but there are many things we know by what little the New Testament says about him as well as how and what he wrote.

2. Luke was a highly educated man.

- ✓ We don't have any degrees or achievements listed, but we can learn something when we look at his writing style, verses 1-4. Unlike the rest of the writers of the New Testament, including the highly educated Paul, Luke writes this prologue not in the common Greek of the day, but in Classical Greek which is very sophisticated. We can assume he received this education through the same training where he learned to be a physician, one of the few references to this man, **Colossians 4:14**.

3. How do we know Luke wrote Luke?

- ✓ Our most reliable source of the authorship of this book is tradition, and it's an excellent source in this case.

4. What kind of person was Luke?

- ✓ A man of humility. In his fabulous writings we get no signature, no name, only pronouns like verse 3a or a simple "we" referring to himself and all those who traveled with and ministered alongside Paul.
- ✓ A deeply caring man about the individual. Careful research and interviews with eyewitnesses, as well as careful transmission of that information through excellent penmanship, and he compiles all that for a single person, Theophilus!, verse 3.

A man of loyalty. Paul writes second Timothy at the very end; it was last thing he ever wrote. He was executed in Rome, and he tells Timothy, 2nd Timothy 4:11.
