

## Wheelersburg Baptist Church 1/28/09 Wednesday evening

### New Testament Survey—Luke

#### Questions:

How many NT books are there? 27

What person did God use to write more of the NT than any other? Clue: If you are thinking *Paul*, then think again! In reality, the answer is... *Luke*. Though Paul wrote more books, Luke has given more in sheer length of reading material (Gromacki, p. 113).

#### To do (time allowing): Split into groups, and have each group research the following:

Group 1. Take 3 minutes and scan the book of Luke. What do you notice? Jot down what strikes you about Luke's presentation of the life of Jesus (i.e. what he includes that Matthew and Mark didn't; it's length; etc.)

Group 2. Take 3 minutes to write down as many details you can find about the author, Luke (include the source of the detail; e.g. Bible reference).

Group 3. Take 3 minutes to find the references to the Holy Spirit in Luke, since Luke gives emphasis to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### • **Who wrote the book?**

--Luke

Though his name does not appear in the book, much unmistakable evidence points to Luke. This gospel is a companion volume to the book of Acts. Both were written to the same person, Theophilus.

See: 1:1-4

Q: Acc. to v 1, what had many people already attempted to do by the time Luke wrote?

Q: Acc. to the implication of v 2, had Luke ever seen Jesus? No.

Q: What did Luke have available to him, acc. to v 2, which he used in the writing of his gospel?

Q: What was involved, acc. to v 3, in the writing of this gospel for Luke? Careful "investigation." [the Holy Spirit did not "zap" him].

Q: What do the words "to write an orderly account" (4) indicate about Luke's reason for writing? An orderly account of what? Jesus' life

Q: Acc. to v 4, why did Luke write this gospel?

See also: Acts 1

Q: In Acts 1:1, Luke refers to a "former book." What is that book?

Q: Acc. to verses 1 & 2, what did Luke say was the subject matter of his first book? The life of Jesus until the day He was taken up to heaven.

In the book of Acts, Luke continues the story, picking up with what happened after Jesus' ascension, presenting the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the growth of the early church.

Note: Lukan authorship is supported by the uniform testimony of early Christian writings (e.g., the Muratorian Canon, A.D. 170, and the works of Irenaeus, 180 A.D.; NIV Study Bible, p. 1529).

#### • **When was the book written?**

--A.D. 56-58 (Gromacki, p. 111) Since Luke researched his gospel using primary sources, the best time to have done so would have been during Paul's two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. If he did not write at this time, he gathered the data for the actual writing which would have taken place during the voyage to Rome, or in the early months of Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

--Another possible date: 70's or 80's (NIV Study Bible)

## Luke: The Person

[discuss findings of group 2]

- a Gentile by birth (indicated by Paul's omission of him in Col. 4:11, 14 when he lists his companions who were "of the circumcision")
- a physician by profession (Col. 4:14)
- an associate of Paul from his second missionary journey onward (he stayed loyal when others forsook the apostle; 2 Tim. 4:11)
- Antioch (of Syria) and Philippi are suggested places for his hometown

### • **Why was the book written?**

- Luke wrote this presentation of Jesus' life to strengthen the faith of his friend, Theophilus.
- Luke presents Jesus as the perfect man, the Son of Man.

Q: Look at the genealogy in chapter 3. How does Luke emphasize Jesus' humanity in 3:37? He is the son of Adam.

Note: Theophilus may have been the "publisher," the one responsible for seeing that the writings were copied and distributed (NIV Study Bible).

### • **What is the outline of the book?**

[discuss findings of group 1]

Outline adapted from Gromacki, pp. 117-8)

- I. The Preparation of the Son of Man (ch 1-2)
- II. The Introduction of the Son of Man (3:1-4:13)
- III. The Ministry of the Son of Man (4:14-9:50)
- IV. The Journey of the Son of Man to Jerusalem (9:51-19:28)
- V. The Presentation of the Son of Man (19:29-48)
- VI. The Rejection of the Son of Man (20:1-21:4)
- VII. The Prophecy of the Son of Man (21:5-38)
- VIII. The Passion of the Son of Man (22:1-23:56)
- IX. The Resurrection of the Son of Man (24:1-53)

### • **What is the message of the book in one sentence?**

The gospel of Luke shows us the life of Jesus as the Son of Man.

### • **What contribution does the book make to biblical theology (that is, how does this book relate to the rest of the Bible)?**

1. *Luke gives special attention to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life.*

[have group 3 share their findings]

(Luke 2:27) "And he came by the **Spirit** into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,"

(Luke 4:1) "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the **Spirit** into the wilderness,"

(Luke 4:14) "And Jesus returned in the power of the **Spirit** into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him

through all the region round about."

(Luke 4:18) "The **Spirit** of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

(Luke 11:13) "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy **Spirit** to them that ask him?"

Note: Luke will have much more to say about the Holy Spirit in Acts.

Discuss: What stands out to you about the ministry of the Spirit in Luke?

## 2. *Luke gives emphasis to the poor.*

Discuss: How can wealth be both a blessing and a curse, according to Luke?

See:

(Luke 4:18) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the **poor**; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

(Luke 6:20) "And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye **poor**: for yours is the kingdom of God."

(Luke 7:22) "Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the **poor** the gospel is preached."

(Luke 14:13) "But when thou makest a feast, call the **poor**, the maimed, the lame, the blind:"

(Luke 14:21) "So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the **poor**, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind."

(Luke 18:22) "Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the **poor**, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."

(Luke 19:8) "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the **poor**; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

(Luke 21:2) "And he saw also a certain **poor** widow casting in thither two mites."

(Luke 21:3) "And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this **poor** widow hath cast in more than they all:"

Discuss: What do we learn about the poor from Luke's account?

## 3. *Luke gives us valuable information about Mary.*

The Roman Catholic Church has exalted Mary as the mother of God. Often evangelicals have ignored her. How should she be regarded? Luke mentions the name of Mary more than a dozen times.

See: 1:27, 30, 34, 38, 41, 46, 56

See: 2:5, 16, 19, 34

Discuss: What other themes stand out in Luke's gospel?