

## Luke-Acts Primer (Originally one scroll, our bible split the scroll into 2)

### Who was Luke:

- Gentile
- From Antioch (in present day Syria) equivalent to Los Angeles/New York City (busy, cosmopolitan)
- Family doctor (he used medical terminology in Luke and Acts (high fever, dysentery))
- Traveled with Paul
- Most likely Luke and Acts are a DEFENSE BRIEF on behalf of Paul, as he is about to go on trial in Rome. Luke addresses Theophilus as “Most Excellent”, a title that suggests he was a lawyer or judge and used elsewhere with governors Felix and Festus.

### Luke had an interest in certain groups of people:

- Samaritans (outcasts by the Jews): Most Jews avoided neighborhoods where these people lived.
  - Luke highlights the one leper who returned to say “thank you” to Jesus after being healed. The other 9 were Jews.
  - Luke records how James and John wanted to call fire down from heaven to destroy some Samaritans because of how they treated Jesus, but in Acts he records how a different type of fire DID fall from heaven---the Holy Spirit and this group of outcasts received the gift of the Holy Spirit
  - The story of the “Good Samaritan”: Luke knew this would be offensive to call any Samaritan “good”
- Gentiles
  - As Dr. Luke is a Gentile himself, he records Simeon calling Jesus “a light to the Gentiles”
- Outcasts
  - Tax collectors, prostitutes, shepherds
- Women
  - Dr. Luke includes 10 women who were not mentioned anywhere else in the 3 gospels
  - Dr. Luke highlights how rich, powerful women helped to financially support Jesus’ ministry
- Poor
  - The only one to record Mary and Joseph bringing pigeons to the temple for sacrifice (which was the animal poor people purchased for sacrifice)
  - Matthew says ‘blessed are the poor in spirit’ but Luke says “blessed are you who are poor” and ‘woe to you who are rich’
  - Parables: 1) Rich man (who has a begging man outside of his home and ignores him) and Lazarus 2) Great banquet party (go out and invite the poor, blind and lame)
- Sinners
  - In those days, Jews termed people who have given up on trying to keep the law, as sinners. A large proportion of the population had given up on following the 613 laws. Jesus mixed with people who were not keeping the laws.

### Luke has an emphasis on the supernatural (a doctor who believes in the supernatural!)

- Angels
- Holy Spirit
- Prayer

### Structure and Outline of Acts in 6 Sections

- I. 1-6:7 Jews in Jerusalem
- II. 6:8-9: 31 Hellenist (Greek speaking Jews) and Samaritans
- III. 9:32-12:24 Gentiles and Antioch
- IV. 12:25-16:5 Asia Minor
- V. 16:6-19:20 Europe
- VI. 19:21-28:31 Rome