

Luke is the story of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. It tells of his origin, life, teachings, ministry and miracles. It tells of his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to heaven. Consequently, *Luke* may be the most informative book in the Bible.

The Luke Series is a set of narrations based on the Bible's book of *Luke*. Luke said that in writing his book that he investigated everything before writing *Luke*.¹ His investigation included examining written materials and talking to eyewitnesses. This series is meant to imitate some of the stories Luke might have heard, as well as explore their meaning and importance. This series is true to the Bible, but fills in story lines based on history, geography, and imagination. Think of this series as being similar to a movie based on the book of *Luke*.

This series presumes that the author of *Luke* is Luke, a doctor who was a good friend and companion of Paul. That presumption sets the stage for Luke being able to correctly assess the veracity of the birth accounts of both John the Baptist and Jesus, and to understand their importance, both physically and spiritually. Don't you imagine Luke, a doctor, was hesitant to write about miracles? But he believed in them to the point that he started his book with two miracle stories that could only be considered unlikely, if not outlandish.

As the series progresses, you may be able to spot some interesting trends. After Jesus moves away from his hometown, he has to establish a new base of operations. He chooses the town of Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Many of the episodes in this series will give you some reasons why he chose that place.

Shortly after he begins his ministry, Jesus starts choosing a group of men to be his close followers. These twelve men will be known as apostles. As the series continues, you will see that Jesus has an ulterior motive for choosing these men. He doesn't need their help while he is alive, but he does want to train them to spread his teachings after he is dead.

The teachings and miracles of Jesus soon draw the attention of the religious leaders of the Jews. One group, the Pharisees, soon become his enemies. They know that his teachings run counter to theirs, and that he will become a real threat to their leadership and their privileges. In fact, it doesn't take long before those religious leaders are plotting his murder, all under the guise of religion.

¹ Luke 1:3

Luke almost gives us the sense that Jesus and his followers are wandering aimlessly around the countryside doing healings and miracles, and teaching the people. But as you gain familiarity with the geography of Israel, you see that Jesus is always moving with a purpose. **Reference 1** shows a map of Israel in the time of Jesus. Toward the end of his life, he takes a long trip outside of Israel, and then moves resolutely toward Jerusalem and his death.

Luke is very purposeful in talking about the last week of Jesus' life and his resurrection. Part of his purpose is to make it clear that Jesus paved the way for all peoples to be saved through him. Another of Luke's purposes is to pave the way for his sequel, the book of *Acts*.

As you read through the book of *Luke* in the Bible, you will notice a few things compared to the other Gospels. Luke does not seem as intent as proving Old Testament Scriptures were fulfilled through Jesus. As a Greek, he probably wasn't as familiar with the Old Testament as the Jews were. Also, as a Greek, he was more intent with proving that any person of any ethnic group could be saved if they became a follower of Jesus.

As you watch the video narratives of this series, try to imagine Luke hearing stories about Jesus over a multi-decade time period and piecing them all together to end up with his magnificent gospel. Although *Luke* is the longest book in the New Testament, you will wish it is even longer.