

NEW TESTAMENT SYNTHESIS NOTES

by Dr. Fred Wittman

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What would you do if you were in bondage because of your own disobedience and disobedience of the people of your nation and your only hope of redemption, to be released from bondage, was suddenly shattered into hopelessness?
- B. Review:
 1. The Theme of The Bible: **The Coming of The Messiah, The King and His Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace.**
 2. The Purpose of The Bible: **To Teach The God's Plan of Redemption.**

PRESENTATION:

I. Facts to Be Noted

A. Pertinent Facts:

Author: Luke, the Beloved Physician Date Written: A.D. 55-58 Time Covered: 39 years Key Verse: 19:10
Written to: Greeks, specifically Theophilus Provenance: Probably from Philippi (see below)
Emphasis: The perfect humanity of Jesus Key Word: "(Hu)Man" Content: Jesus The Perfect Human
Provenance: Probably from Philippi (see below) Theme: Christ, The Son of Man
Purpose: To present Christ as The God's Perfect Servant, The Ideal Worker.

1. Authorship.
 - a. The name of Luke is not in the document.
 - b. Authorship must be considered with the authorship of Acts 1:1 cf. Luke 1:1-4. The introduction to both books indicates that the author is the same.
 - (1) Similarity of language in both books--precise medical language.
 - (2) Deduce that Luke is the author of Acts from "we" passages compared with "they" (Acts 16:10-17 cf. 20:6)
 - (3) Only Luke and Titus of Paul's companions are not mentioned in Acts. Luke is only mentioned three times in The New Testament (Col. 4: 14; Phile. 24; 2 Tim. 4:11).
 - d. External Evidence.
 - (1) Justin Martyr quoted from Luke.
 - (2) The Anti-Marcionite Prologue identifies Luke, the Beloved Physician, as the author of third Gospel (A.D. 170).
 - (3) The Muratorian Canon (A.D. 160-200) stated: The third Book of The Gospels, Luke compiled in his own name." This was the first full listing of canonical books.
 - (4) Irenaeus (A.D. 140-203) wrote: "Luke, the companion of Paul, put down in his Book The Gospel which Paul preached."
2. Characteristics of Luke.
 - a. Comprehensive historical work emphasizing the perfect humanity of Jesus.
 - b. Universality of Salvation: the 'all flesh' aspect of Isa.40:3-5 cf. 3:6; 'all people' (Lk. 19:10), 'light for Gentiles' (2:32), 'among all nations' (24:47).
 - c. The language is very Greek. The author was not a Jew, but a cultural Gentile and master of Greek style.
 - d. Emphasis is on the perfect humanity of Jesus:
 - (1) Genealogy is traced to Adam;
 - (2) The use of the Title, Son of Man;
 - (3) The Messianic connection (Dan. 9:13 cf. Lk. 21:20; Dan. 9:27 cf. Lk. 21:24).
 - e. Emphasis on Prayers and Praise. Luke is called The Gospel of Praise and Prayer. Jesus is recorded praying nineteen times in Luke. Luke 2 is the praise chapter: angels, shepherds, Sumeh-ōn, Annah.
 - f. Emphasis on The Holy Spirit.
 - g. Emphasis on the plan of The God and on the cross
 - h. The word δεῖ meaning 'it is absolutely necessary' is used persistently nineteen times.
 - i. Luke uses the word βουλή (boulá) meaning 'counsel' nine times out of the twelve times in New Testament.
 - j. A loving interest in people: more concern for individuals than other gospel writers with an emphasis on the domestic affairs of life.
3. Purpose
 - a. To give historical certainty and orderly arrangement to The Life and ministry of The Lord Jesus {what The God's Ideal Man began to do and teach (Lk. 1:1-4 cf. Acts 1:1,2)}.

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- b. To present Christ as Son of Man.
- 3. Purpose (cont.)
 - c. To present deity in the likeness of man--the ideal man.
- 4. Theme Son of Man
 - a. Genealogy to Adam (Ahdáhm) through David through Nahthán through Mary (3:23).
 - b. Savior born to all people.
- B. Scenes in Luke.
 - 1. Judaea in and near Jerusalem (1:1-80; 2:22-50).
 - 2. Nazareth (1:26-38; 2:39,51,52; 4:16-30).
 - 3. Bethlehem (2:1-21).
 - 4. Wilderness of Judaea (3:1-4:15).
 - 5. Capernaum and environs (4:31-7:10; 8:40-9:9).
 - 6. Nain (7:11-17).
 - 7. Galilee (7:18-50; 8:1-25; 9:28-51,57-10:37).
 - 8. Gadara (8:26-39).
 - 9. Bethsaida (9:10-27).
 - 10. Samaria (9:52-56).
 - 11. Bethany (10:38-42; 24:50-53).
 - 12. Judaea (11:1-17:10).
 - 13. Samaria (17:11-18:34).
 - 14. Jericho (18:35-19:27).
 - 15. Environs of Jerusalem (19:28-24:13,33-49).
 - 16. Emmaus (24:13-32).
- C. Characters in Luke.

Theophilus, Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, Caesar Augustus, Jesus Christ, the shepherds, the devil, Simon, Peter, the twelve: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas and Judas Iscariot, the Pharisees, Levi, the centurion, Simon the Pharisee, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, a diseased woman, Jairus, Pilate, Lazarus, the beggar, Zacchaeus, Judas Iscariot, Herod, Simon the Cyrenian, Joseph of Arimathaea, Mary the mother of James, and Cleopas.
- D. Outline of The Book I
 - I. Introduction (1:1-4).
 - II. Birth and Childhood of Jesus (1:5-2:52).
 - III. Beginning of Jesus' ministry (3:1-4:13).
 - IV. Public ministry of Jesus (4:14-21:38).
 - V. Passion of Jesus (22:1-23:56).
 - VI. Resurrection of Jesus (24:1-53).
- Outline II from Hebrews
 - I. The Man: "Made Like unto His Brethern" (1:1-3:38 cf. Heb. 2:17).
 - II. The Man: "Tempted Like as We Are" (4:1-13 cf. Heb. 4:15).
 - III. The Man: "Touched with the Feeling of Our Infirmities (4:14-19:27 cf. Heb. 4:15).
 - IV. The Man: "Perfect through sufferings" (19:28-23:56 cf. Heb. 2:10).
 - V. The Man in Resurrection and Ascension (24:1-53).
- E. Language.
 - 1. Prologue--classical style Greek (1:1-4).
 - 2. Chapters 1:5-2:18 are full of Semitisms.
 - 3. Chapters 3:1-24:53 is Hellenistic Greek, similar to the Septuagint.
 - 4. Language and style: Extensive vocabulary; 266 words found only in Luke and about 800 words in Luke and Acts are not found elsewhere in The New Testament
 - 5. Luke contains 28% of The New Testament.
 - 6. Luke (3:4-6) quotes Isaiah 40:3,4 "voice of one crying in the wilderness"
- F. Prophecies.
 - 1. Earthly Ministry in The Christ's life (Luke 4:17-21 cf. Isa.61:1,2).
 - 2. Numbered with transgressors in His Death (Luke 22:37; 23:33 cf. Isa.53:12).

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G. The Christ's Public Ministry

a. Ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:50).

Note Jesus prayed at His baptism (3:21), before choosing the twelve apostles (6:12-15), and before His Transfiguration (Lk. 9:28-31). Luke adds that while Jesus was praying, His disciples were sleeping. He talked with Moses and Elijah of His decease (exodus).

b. Ministry on way to Jerusalem (9:51-19:44). There were three journeys to Jerusalem (9:51; 13:22; 17:11, see APT Chronology, pp. 27,28).

Lessons on prayer (11:1-13).

Instructions to bondsman-disciples and Christ The Divider (12:22-53).

Galileans--Herod mixed their blood-with their sacrifices; treatment of fruitless fruit-bearing trees. Jesus lamented Jerusalem (13:1-35).

Instruction on Humility; Parable of the Great Supper; Requirements and counting the cost to be His Disciples (14:1-35).

Three Parables Unique to Luke (15:1-32).

Illustrations of stewardship and positive and negative eternal rewards (16:1-31).

Forgiveness, gratitude, and The Kingdom of The God (17:1-37).

Teaching on Prayer; on Riches and Eternal Life; and weeping over Jerusalem (18:1-43).

Events at Jericho and His Triumphant Entry (19:1-48).

c. Ministry in Jerusalem 19:45-21:38.

Eschatological discourse (21:5-36).

Peter and John were sent to prepare for the Passover then observed by the disciples (22:1-38)

Day of Crucifixion (22:39-23:56).

The Theme of Bible: The Coming of The Messiah: Luke gives great detail about the birth in the coming of The Messiah. Luke's emphasis is upon The Kingdom of The God from the Gentiles viewpoint since it was addressed to a Greek. Parables are limited to Kingdom of The God aspect of The Christ's return having to do with possessors of Faith and not professors of Faith. From the events described to His disciples by The Lord Jesus (Lk. 21:7-36), it is clear that The Kingdom of The God shall be established on Earth when Revelation of The Lord Jesus Christ and The Redemption of Tribulation saints will take place when He returns to Earth after that seven year period spoken of by Daniel the prophet (Dan. 9:26,27).

The Purpose of The Bible: To Teach The Plan of Redemption: Clearly the requisite for redemption is repentance, to change direction 180 degrees with no turning or looking back (Lk. 13:3,5; 9:62 cf. Gen. 19:17,24-26; Lk 14:33) but abandonment of the old life. Redemption involves stewardship and preparation for the Eternal Habitations (16:1-9-13). The final stage of Redemption for Tribulation saints and the whole world released from the bondage of the curse of Adam's Fall will take place at the Revelation of The Lord Jesus Christ when He returns to Earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom of righteousness and peace (21:6-36 cf. Isa. 11:1-12).

The Progressive Revelation of God: In Luke The Lord Jesus Christ is presented as The God's Human Son absolutely Perfect from birth through physical death. He performed all of The God's will perfectly and completely and without fault or being culpable of not one thing (23:4,14,15) in the eyes of two political ruling judges. The hope of Redemption, for which all faithful Jews had intensely anticipated, had disintegrated into hopelessness (24:19c-23a). But The Resurrected-ascended Christ expounded The Scriptures to two disciples and later met with ten (Thomas was missing, Jn. 20:24) disciples, renewed their hope, opened their understanding, and inspired them anew as His witnesses with the promise of The Holy Spirit (24:45-49).

DISCUSSION:

1. How does The Gospel According to Luke indicate the final stage of Redemption for True Israel (24:45-49 cf. 21:7-28)?
2. How can you demonstrate your appreciation, gratitude, thanks, and love to The Lord Jesus Christ for all that He did for you in providing the all inclusive Redemption from bondage to Sin and Satan?
3. What is the consequence for failing to appropriate this redemption followed by demonstrating such appreciation?

APPLICATION:

What will you do beginning today to demonstrate such appreciation for all He did for you which will continue

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throughout your lifetime and Eternity?