

# Luke's Gospel Prologue

## Luke 1:1-4

- 1) Who? **Luke**: physician-historian-Gentile (Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11; Phln 24)
  - a) Early Church witnesses & MSS:
    - i) P-75 (late 2<sup>nd</sup>) calls it "Gospel according to Luke"
    - ii) Muratorian canon (170-180): "Third...Gospel: According to Luke... a Physician."
    - iii) Justin Martyr (165), Irenaeus (ca. 185), Tertullian (200)
    - iv) Marcion—(ca. 150) included only Luke in his canon
  - b) Internal evidences: "we" with Paul (cf. 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16)
- 2) What? A history of Christ and early church
  - a) After "things accomplished" events spread orally (Matt 28:19-20)
  - b) Epistles to churches were written
  - c) Gospels written as apostles died
  - d) Numerous historical facts verified
  - e) 12 historical names in chaps 1-3; verified by non-Christian writers
  - f) Miracles listed among history (13:11; 14:8; 16:18; 19:11-20; 20:9-10; 28:8-9)
- 3) When? AD 60-62
  - a) Paul quotes from Luke 10:7 in 1 Tim 5:18
  - b) Hence, Matthew & Mark already in existence; not legends
- 4) To Whom? one man—Theophilus (Gr. "friend of God")
- 5) Why? To encourage knowledge & obedience
- 6) Challenge-Application
  - a) Concentrate on depth; God will take care of breadth
  - b) True love is an endeavor to give Truth
  - c) Verification of facts is part of evangelism & equipping
  - d) Ink on paper propagates God
  - e) Gospels written from eyewitness accounts
  - f) One never knows how powerful their written/spoken words will be