



Luke

THE MAN * THE BOOK * THE YEAR

DR. JOHN BERGSMA
JBERGSMA@FRANCISCAN.EDU

740-317-7178

Year C: Luke's Gospel

- ▶ **Basic Facts:**
- ▶ 1. Longest book of the NT;
- ▶ 2. Most elegant of the Gospels;
- ▶ 3. Most unique parables (Good Samaritan; Prodigal Son)
- ▶ 4. Most about Jesus' childhood;
- ▶ 5. Most about the Blessed Mother, by far most recorded words;
- ▶ 6. All of the Joyful Mysteries; No Luke, No Joy!
- ▶ 7. All of the Canticles of the Office

Respected Luke!

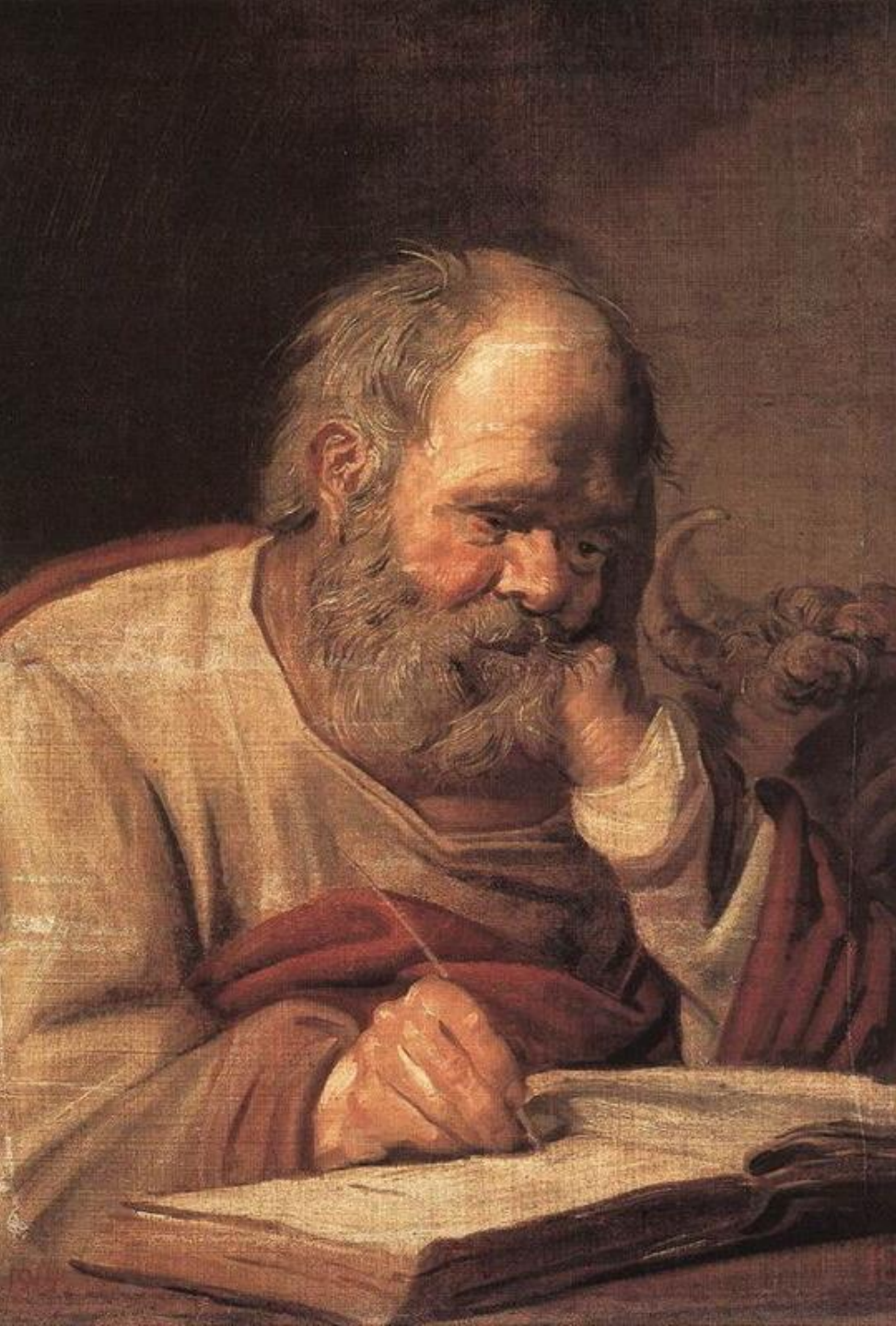
- ▶ Even Marcion would not reject his Gospel
- ▶ Heavily read in the Liturgy, especially in Advent in Christmas
- ▶ Cyril of Alexandria, Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory the Great all wrote commentaries or homily series





Who was Luke?

- ▶ "Luke the Beloved Physician" (Col 4:14), companion of Paul
- ▶ "Luke was an **Antiochene** Syrian, a doctor by profession ... He never had a wife, never fathered children, died at eighty-four in Boetia ... wrote down this Gospel in ... Achaia (Greece proper)..." Anti-Marcionite Prologue (AD 150-250)



Who was Luke?

- ▶ Muratorian Fragment (AD 170, Rome):
“The third book of the Gospel is that according to Luke. Luke, the well-known physician, after the ascension of Christ, when Paul had taken him with him as one zealous for the law, composed it in his own name, according to [the general] belief. Yet he himself had not seen the Lord in the flesh; and therefore, as he was able to ascertain events, so indeed he begins to tell the story from the birth of John.”

Luke, Jew or Gentile?

- ▶ **Col. 4:10** "Aristarchus ..., and Mark the cousin of Barnabas ...¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus ... These are the only men "of the circumcision" among my fellow workers ...¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you ... "
- ▶ Therefore not a Jew, not "of the circumcision"?
- ▶ "Of the circumcision" *ek peritomēs* almost always means "of the circumcision party" (Acts 10:45[?]; 11:2; Gal 2:12; Tit 1:10)
- ▶ **Gal. 2:12** For before certain men came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew ... fearing *the circumcision party* (RSV; *tous ek peritomēs*; lit. 'those of the circumcision')

Luke, Jew or Gentile?

- ▶ **Acts 13:1** Now in the church at **Antioch** there were prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius (*Loukios*) of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul (Paul)...
- ▶ **Rom. 16:21** Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius (*Loukios*) and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

Luke's Biography in Scripture

- ▶ **The “We” passages: Acts 16:10–17; 20:5–15; 21:1–18; 27:1–28:16.**
- ▶ **Acts 16:9 The Macedonia Mission** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing beseeching him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when he had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. ¹¹ Setting sail therefore from Troas, **we** made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia, and a Roman colony. **We** remained in this city some days ... ¹⁷ [The slave girl] followed Paul *and us*, crying, “These men are servants of the Most High God ... [Paul’s imprisonment and further missionary journey]



Some Jews cause uproar & attack Jason's House seeking for Paul & Silas

Paul called to preach in Macedonia

Paul forbidden by the Spirit to preach in Asia & Bithynia

Bereans receive the Word

Paul speaks at the Areopagus

Paul meets Aquila & Priscilla Paul brought before Gallio

Lydia & her household believe Paul & Silas beaten & thrown in jail Jailer and his household believe

Macedonian Mission Acts 16:10-17

Luke's Biography in Scripture

- ▶ **The “We” passages: Acts 20:5–15, The Ionia Mission**

- ▶ **Acts 20:5** These went on and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days ... [Eutychus Episode] **13** But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there; for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. ¹⁵ And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we came to Miletus ... [Farewell to the Ephesian Elders]

Luke's Biography in Scripture

- ▶ **The “We” passages: Acts 21:1-18, The Journey to Jerusalem**
- ▶ **Acts 21:1** And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ² And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard ... ³ When we had come in sight of Cyprus ... we sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre ⁴ ... we stayed there for seven days.... [Beach Farewell] ⁷ When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais ... and stayed with the brethren for one day. ⁸ On the morrow we departed and came to Caesarea ... [Philip, his daughters, and Agabus]
- ▶ **Acts 21:15** After these days we made ready and went up to Jerusalem ... ¹⁷ the brethren received us gladly. ¹⁸ On the following day Paul went in with us to James; and all the elders were present ... [vows that lead to lynching]



MACEDONIA **THRACE**

Philippi
Thessalonica
Amphipolis
Berea
Apollonia
Neapolis
THASOS
SAMOTHRACE

Paul restores life to young Eutychus

LEMNOS
EUBOEA
Corinth
Athens
Cenchreae
Sparta

ACHAIA
John's disciples believe in Jesus
Jewish exorcists fail to reproduce Paul's miracles
Magic books burnt
Demetrius & craftsmen of Diana cause uproar against the Way

ASIA
MYSIA
Troas
Assos
LESBOS
Mitylene
CHIOS
Samos
PATMOS
COS
CARIA
Ephesus
Miletus
Smyrna
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Hierapolis
Laodicea
Colossae
LYCIA
Patara
RHODES

Paul exhorts Ephesian elders & says tribulations & chains await him in Jerusalem
Elders weep because they won't see Paul anymore

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS
GALATIA
CAPPADOCIA
CILICIA
PAMPHYLIA
Attalia
Perga
Derbe
Iconium
Lystra

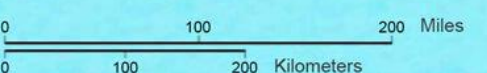
CYPRUS
Salamis
Paphos

PHOENICIA
Sidon
Tyre
Ptolemais (Acco)
Caesarea Maritima
Jerusalem

Disciples warn Paul on the Journey to Jerusalem
Paul determined to do the will of the Lord and go to Jerusalem

Paul arrested in the Temple
Paul defends himself & witnesses to the Jews in Jerusalem

SYRIA
Aleppo
Antioch
Seleucia Pieria
Tarsus
ABILENE
Damascus
NABATEA
JORDAN RIVER
DEAD SEA
EGYPT



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 19:1 - 21:14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- Paul's Route

ConformingToJesus.com

Luke's Biography in Scripture

- ▶ **The “We” passages: 27:1–28:16, The Journey To Rome**
- ▶ **Acts 26:32** And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.” **Acts 27:1** And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul ... to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort, named Julius. ² And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea ... [Epic sea voyage, washed up on Malta after a storm] ... **Acts 28:11** After three months we set sail in a ship which had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the Twin Brothers as figurehead ... ¹⁶ And when **we** came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him ... ³⁰ And he lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly and unhindered.



Paul preaches the Gospel for 2 yrs under house arrest as he awaits for his appeal to Caesar

Paul meets fellow believers and is encouraged

Paul bitten by a viper suffers no harm Many come to faith and are healed

Ship lost in storm All aboard swim safely to shore

Ship caught in storm 14 days tempest-tossed Hope to be saved given up Paul encourages all aboard saying only ship will be lost

Paul's warning about the dangers of the voyage ignored

Change to a grain ship sailing to Italy

Paul boards a ship Sent to Rome to appeal to Caesar

MAP OF PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

Acts 27 & 28

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches"
- ← Paul's Itinerary



The "We" Passages: Fictions?

- ▶ Made up or a "literary device"?
- ▶ Unobtrusive
- ▶ Not dictated by theological rationale
- ▶ Level of detail jumps up considerably in the we passages—large amounts of trivial data
- ▶ Difficult to establish that "we" was a literary device in antiquity

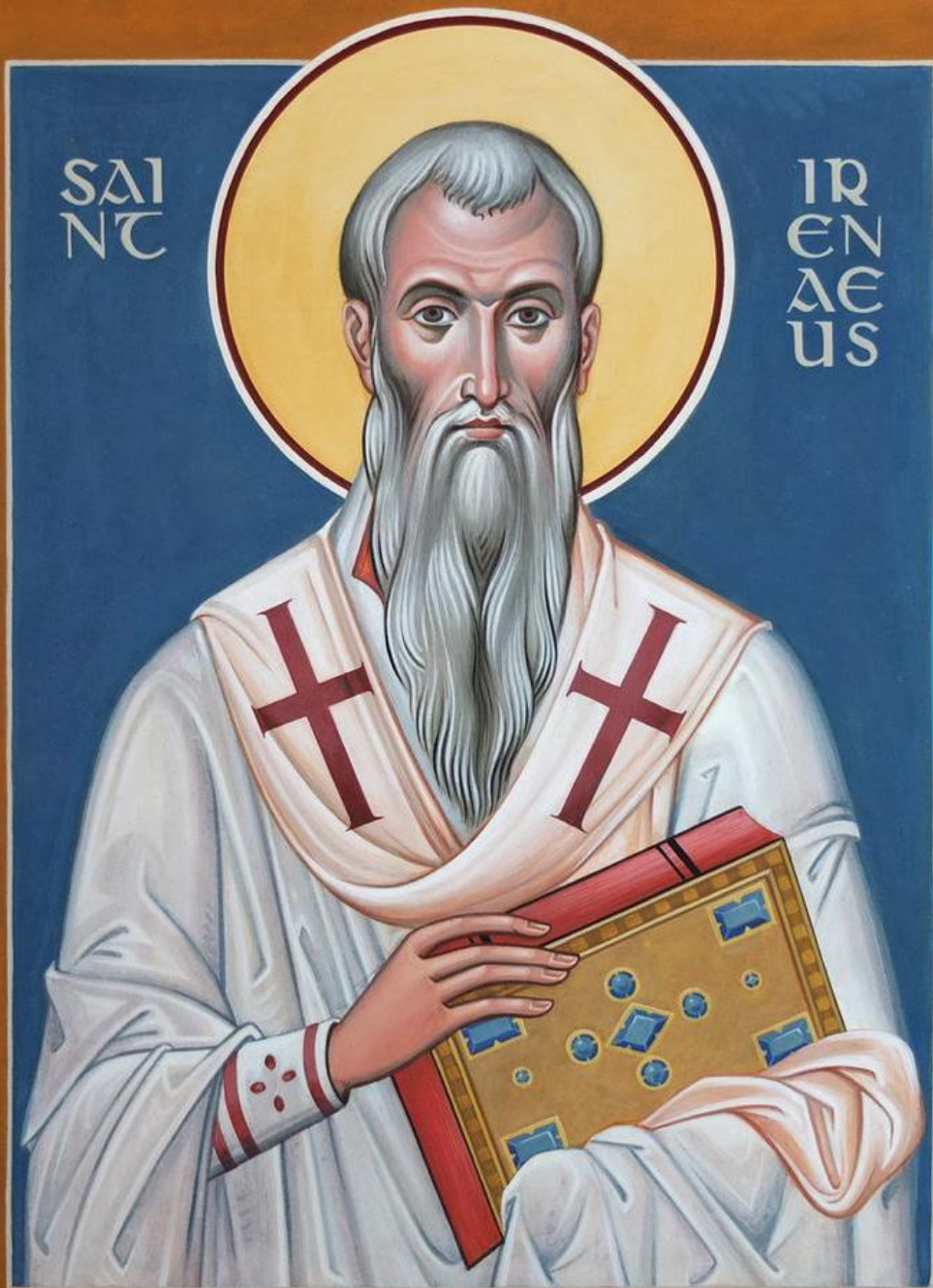
SAINT

LUKE



Luke's Biography in the Epistles

- ▶ **Philem. 23** Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and **Luke**, my fellow workers.
- ▶ **Col. 4:12** Epaphras ...greet you ... ¹⁴ **Luke** the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.
- ▶ **2 Tim. 4:10** For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ *Luke alone is with me.* Get Mark ...



Testimony of the Fathers

- ▶ Irenaeus (AD 180): “But that this Luke was inseparable from Paul, and his fellow-labourer in the Gospel, he himself clearly evinces, not as a matter of boasting, but as bound to do so by the truth itself. For he says that when Barnabas, and John who was called Mark, had parted company from Paul, and sailed to Cyprus, "we came to Troas;" Acts 16:8, etc.” *Adv. Haer. Bk III, Ch. 14*

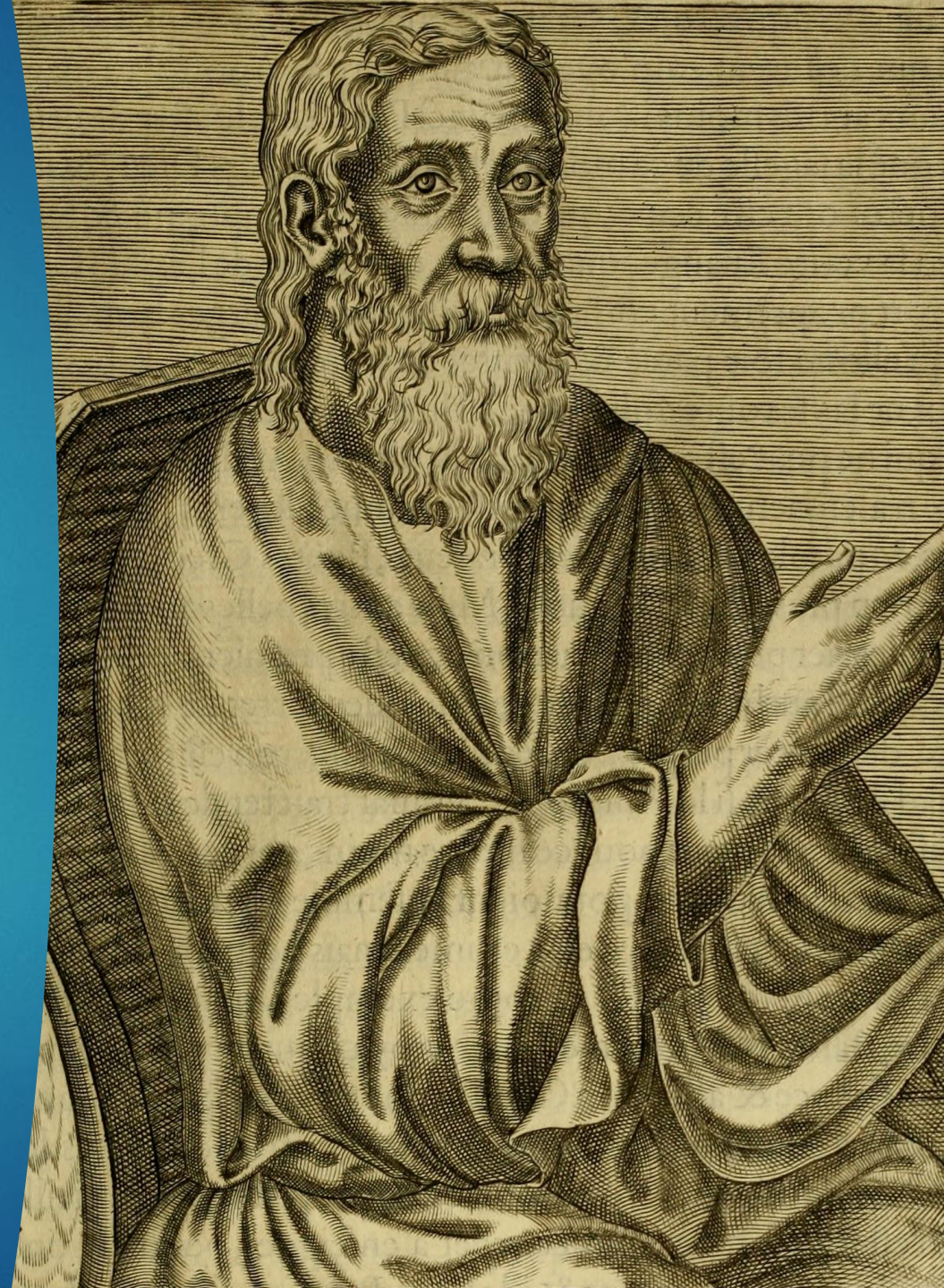


Testimony of the Fathers

- ▶ Tertullian (Against Marcion, Bk 4, Ch. 2, c. 200)
- ▶ “Of the apostles, therefore, John and Matthew first instil faith into us; while of apostolic men, Luke and Mark renew it afterwards. Marcion, on the other hand, you must know, ascribes no author to his Gospel, as if it could not be allowed him to affix a title to that from which it was no crime (in his eyes) to subvert the very body. And here I might now make a stand, and contend that a work ought not to be recognised, which holds not its head erect ... which gives no promise of credibility from the fullness of its title and the just profession of its author.”

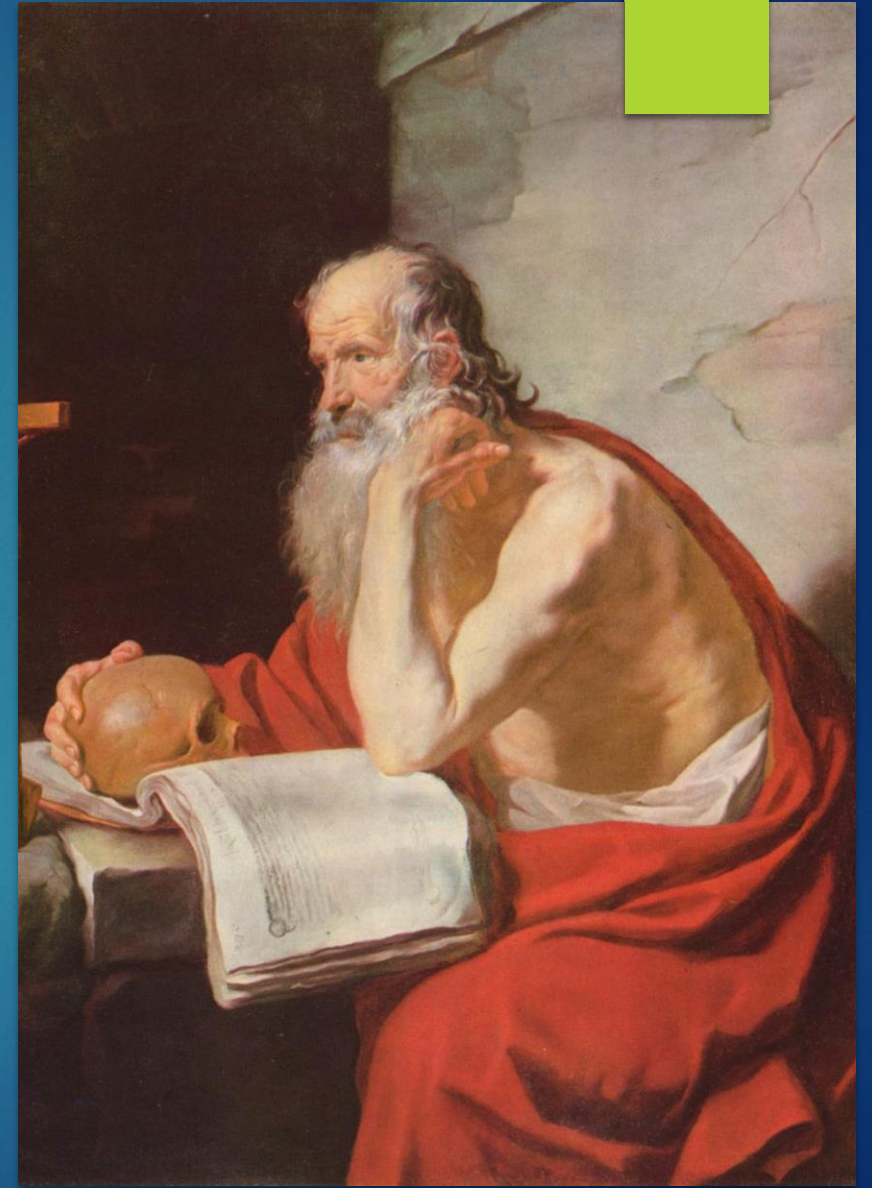
Testimony of the Fathers

- ▶ Origen (AD 250, Alexandria, Egypt): “And the third [Gospel is] by Luke, the Gospel commended by Paul, and composed for Gentile converts.
- ▶ (Quoted by Eusebius in *Church History* 6.25.4).



Testimony of Jerome, c. 395

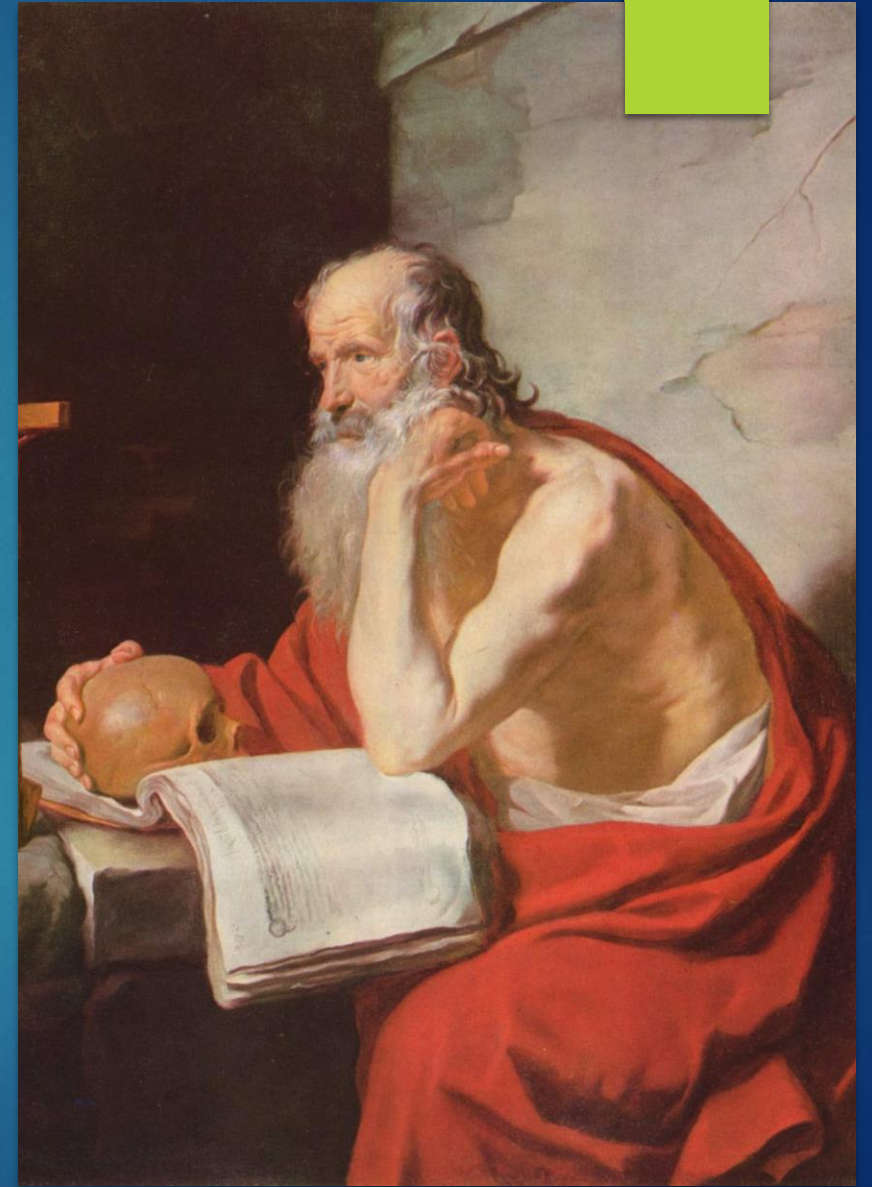
- ▶ LUKE a physician of Antioch, as his writings indicate, was not unskilled in the Greek language. An adherent of the apostle Paul, and companion of all his journeying, he wrote a Gospel, concerning which the same Paul says, “We send with him a brother who is praised throughout the churches for the Gospel” (2 Cor 8:18; AD 55-56)) and to the Colossians “Luke the beloved physician salutes you,” (Col 4:14) and to Timothy “Luke only is with me” (2 Tim 4:11). He also wrote another excellent volume to which he prefixed the title Acts of the Apostles, a history which extends to the second year of Paul's sojourn at Rome, that is to the fourth year of Nero, from which we learn that the book was composed in that same city.



Testimony of the Jerome

- ▶ Some suppose that whenever Paul in his epistle says “according to my gospel” he means the book of Luke and that Luke not only was taught the gospel history by the apostle Paul who was not with the Lord in the flesh, but also by other apostles. This he too at the beginning of his work declares, saying “Even as they delivered unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word.” So he wrote the gospel as he had heard it, but composed the Acts of the apostles as he himself had seen. He was buried at Constantinople to which city, in the twentieth year of Constantius, his bones together with the remains of Andrew the apostle were transferred."

~St. Jerome: [De Viris Illustribus](#) (On Illustrious Men), Chap. 7, c. AD 395





So What Do We Know about Luke?

- ▶ A physician, very loyal to Paul, with whom he spent a great deal of time
- ▶ Part of the educated class
- ▶ Either a very Hellenized Jew, or a very Judaized Greek
- ▶ Career in Antioch before joining Paul
- ▶ A very good author and historian
- ▶ Not personally acquainted with Jesus during his earthly ministry

Date and Place of Writing Luke ...

- ▶ Nothing in Luke or Acts reflects any events after AD 62, esp. not the destruction of the Temple (Luke 21:27)
- ▶ Theophilus the High Priest (AD 37-41) unlikely to have lived much past AD 70
- ▶ Philippi? **Caesarea**? Rome?



Relationship to the Other Gospels

- ▶ Longest (~19.5K words, vs. Mt 18K; M 11K; J 16K)
- ▶ Most Unique Terms (over 250 *hapax* vs. 80 in Mark)
- ▶ Best Greek Style (Luke 1:1-4)
- ▶ Exhibits different styles: Luke 1:1-4 high style; Infancy Narratives very Hebraic; Much of Gospel and Acts 1-12 Septuagintal; Acts 13 good standard Greek prose.

An Example of Luke's Style

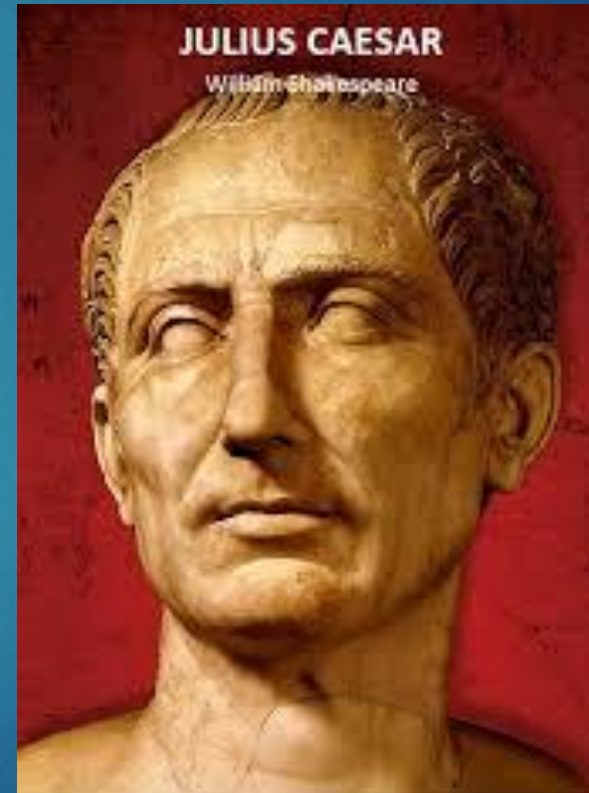
- ▶ **Luke 1:1** “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, ² just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the truth (*asphalēs*) concerning the things of which you have been informed (*katēchēthēs*).”
- ▶ Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C, “Sunday of the Word of God”

The Historicity of Luke and the NT

- ▶ What is the evidence for the wording of the NT?
- ▶ Has it been tampered with?
- ▶ Do we have reliable copies?
- ▶ How old are they?
- ▶ Let's first see what the situation is with comparable ancient documents.

Julius Caesar (100-44BC)

- ▶ Wrote *The Gallic War* 58-50 BC
- ▶ Only 10 good manuscripts of it exist
- ▶ Oldest is ~AD 750 (Charlemagne)
- ▶ Manuscripts: only *ten*
- ▶ Gap: *800 years ...*
- ▶ Does anyone doubt it's historical?



Tacitus (AD 56-120)

- ▶ Greatest historian of this time period
- ▶ Wrote 14-volume *Histories* ~AD 100 (death of John)
- ▶ Only 4 ½ volumes survive at all
- ▶ Only two manuscripts
- ▶ Oldest c. AD 850!
- ▶ Gap: 750 years!



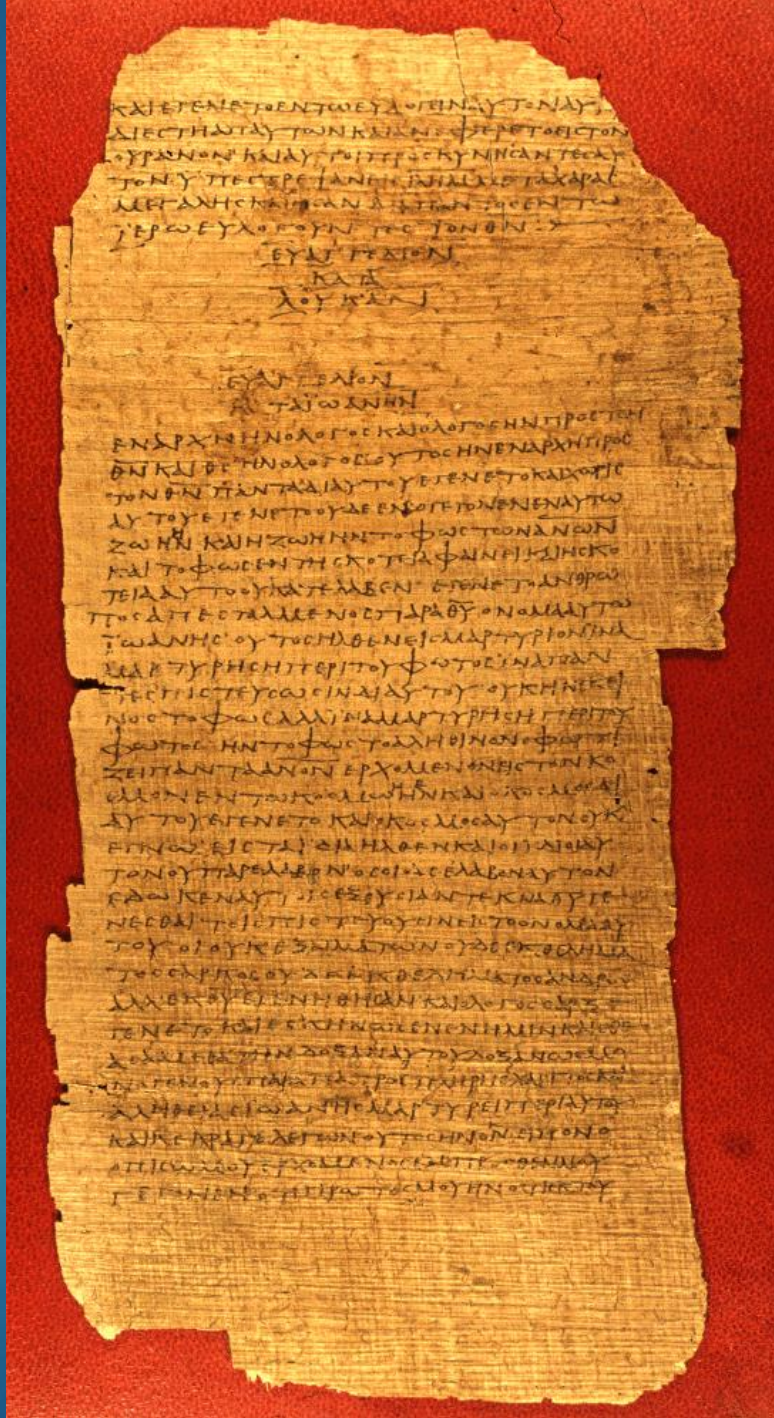
The New Testament

- ▶ Written AD 40-96
- ▶ 5,800 ancient and medieval manuscripts!
- ▶ Just Greek, not including translations!
- ▶ Oldest complete: c. AD 350
- ▶ Most of Luke, Paul & John c. AD 200
- ▶ Gap: between 100-250 years

Vaticanus: Best Text



Papyrus 75: Oldest Text of Luke

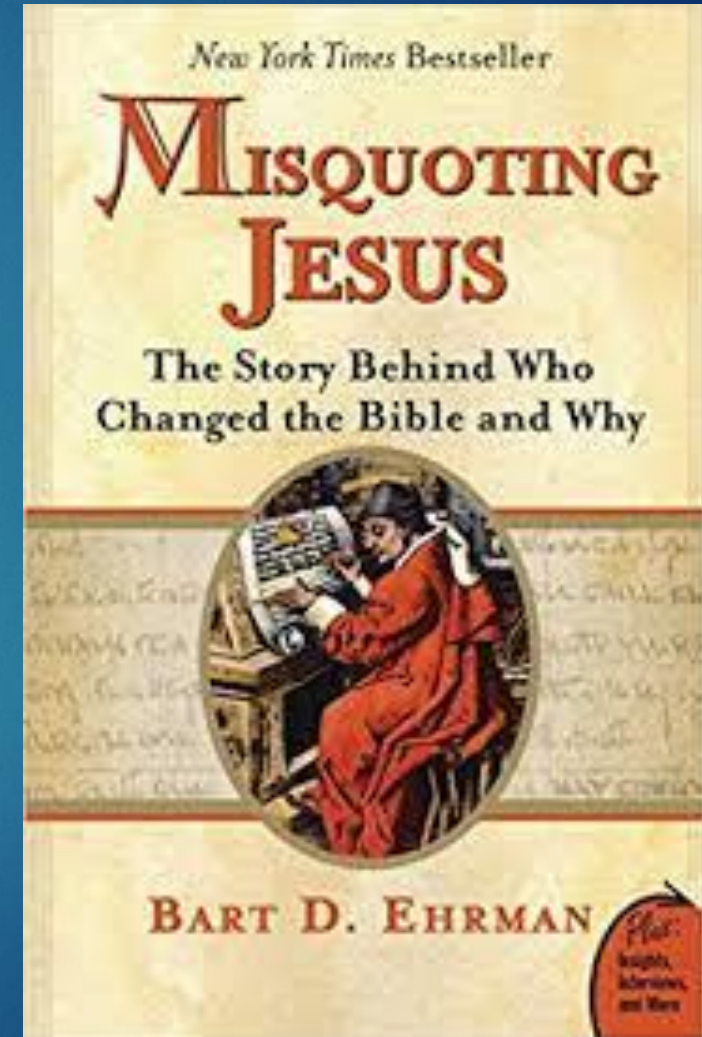


NT Manuscripts

- ▶ Thousands more manuscripts than other ancient docs
- ▶ Much smaller gap between composition and oldest copies
- ▶ Much, much greater confidence about the antiquity and authenticity of the text than classical works

Misleading Scholars

- Without actually lying, Ehrman completely misleads readers
- Focuses attention on scribal errors from the Middle Ages that affect <1% of the text of the New Testament
- Hides from his readers any fair comparison of the New Testament with other ancient works like Plato's dialogues or Cicero's speeches.
- Overzealous scribes sometimes clarified passages based on other parts of Scripture



Testimony of Luke

- ▶ Well-educated, classically trained physician (Col 4:14)
- ▶ Wrote ¼ of NT
- ▶ Excellent historiographer, rarely (or never) slips up
- ▶ Wrote biography of Jesus and history of early Church

Famous Persons in Luke

- ▶ Emperors (non-legendary):
 - ▶ Augustus (63 BC–AD 14) (Lk 2:1)
 - ▶ Tiberias (AD 14–37) (Luke 3:1)
 - ▶ Claudius (AD 41–54) (Acts 11:28, 18:2)
 - ▶ [Nero] (54–68)



Famous Persons in Luke

- ▶ Roman Governors:
 - ▶ Sulpicius Quirinius (51 BC–AD 21) of Syria (Jesus born)
 - ▶ Pontius Pilate (AD 26–36) of Judaea (Jesus tried)
 - ▶ Sergius Paulus (AD 41–44) of Cyprus (tries Paul Ac 13:7)
 - ▶ Junius Gallio (AD 51–52) of Achaea (tries Paul Ac 18:12–17)
 - ▶ Son of Seneca the Elder, brother of Seneca the Younger
 - ▶ Antonius Felix (AD 52–58) of Judaea (coin; tries Paul Ac 23–25)
 - ▶ Porcius Festus (AD 59–62) “” (sends Paul to Rome Ac 24–26)

Pilate Stone



Famous Persons in Luke

- ▶ Judaeian Royalty:
 - ▶ King Herod the Great (reign 37–4 BC)
 - ▶ Tetrarch Herod Antipas (r. 4 BC–AD 39)-> (Lk 3:1, 9:7-9, 23:7-15; interviews Jesus)
 - ▶ King Herod Agrippa I (r. 41-44 AD, Ac 12:1)
 - ▶ King Herod Agrippa II (r. 48–66 AD, Ac 25-26)
 - ▶ Princess Drusilla, wife of Felix, sister of Agrippa II (life 38–79 AD, Ac 24; Died in Pompeii)
 - ▶ Queen Berenice, Agrippa II's sister (life 28-81 AD, Ac 24-25)
 - ▶ “Marilyn Monroe” of antiquity, mistress of Emperor Titus



Famous Persons in Luke

- ▶ Jewish High Priests
 - ▶ Annas (AD 6–15, Lk 3:2)
 - ▶ Caiaphas (AD 18-36, Lk 3:2)
 - ▶ Ananias (AD 47-52, Ac 23)
- ▶ Historically Renown Rabbi
 - ▶ Gamaliel I (d. AD 50, Ac 22:3)
 - ▶ Greatest first-century Rabbi



Accurate Titles in Luke

- ▶ Sergius Paulus, Cyprian *proconsul* (*anthúpatos*, 13:7)
- ▶ Felix, *governor* of Judaea (*hegemon*, Acts 23:24)
- ▶ Claudius Lysias the *colonel* (*chiliarchos*, Acts 24:22)
- ▶ Herod the *tetrarch* (*tetrarchos*, Acts 13:1)
- ▶ The *asiarchs* of Ephesus (*asiarches*, Acts 19:31)
- ▶ The *generals* of Philippi (*strategoi*, Acts 16:22)
- ▶ The *politarchs* of Thessalonica (*politarches*, 17:6,9)*
- ▶ The “First Man” of Malta (*protos*, Acts 28:7)

Luke-Acts is History!

- ▶ Not “A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ...”!
- ▶ Luke’s events happened within the last thirty years, in the presence of famous people still alive ...
- ▶ End of Acts is ~AD 62

A long time ago
in a galaxy far, far away....

* It’s very hard to pull off a fiction or fraud when you are citing known, living public officials and court actions ...

Summing Up on Luke: His Virtues

- ▶ Total Abandonment to the Gospel: Celibate Lay Catechist his whole life
- ▶ Sanctification of his work: offered his prodigious literary/scholarly skills for the service of the Gospel (his five loaves and two fish)
- ▶ Loyalty: "Luke alone is with me" 2 Tim 4:11
- ▶ Perseverance
- ▶ Unrelenting supernatural perspective
- ▶ Incarnational