

The Gospel of Luke

Discovering Luke's Purpose Comes First from His Identity	
A Physician	<i>"Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings." (Col 4:14)</i>
Who Accompanied Paul According to the Book of Acts	<i>11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. (Acts 16:11-14)</i>
Who Was <u>Not</u> Jewish	<i>"Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me." (Col. 4:11)</i>
Who Wrote Two Books in the NT	The Gospel of Luke and The Book of Acts

Discovering Luke's Purpose Comes Second from His Primary Audience	
The Gospel of Luke is Addressed to <u>One Person</u>	<i>Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)</i>
The Book of Acts is Addressed to <u>One Person</u>	<i>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. (Acts 1:1-2)</i>
Theophilus Therefore Holds the Key	The name Theophilus comes from two Greek words that are joined together: <i>theos</i> (God) and <i>phileo</i> (love). Put them together and you have "lover of God." So Theophilus was a Gentile whose name implies that he was a lover of God familiar with the Jewish Scriptures. Luke wrote both books to tell him the Good News about the Jewish Messiah named Jesus.
How Luke Tells Theophilus About Jesus	<u>Luke</u> : starts Jesus' Ministry in Judea and Samaria and concludes with his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. <u>Acts</u> : starts with Jesus ascension in Jerusalem and concludes with the apostles ministry in Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth <u>Together</u> : The Gospel is a story about Jesus death and resurrection that must be shared to the ends of the earth; to Jews and Gentiles.
Luke's Purpose in a Nutshell	Jesus is the <u>Perfect Man/2nd Adam</u> . The first Adam brought sin into the <u>whole</u> world. The second Adam atoned for it.

Qualification One for the Perfect Man: Perfect in Origin	
An Important Genealogy	²³ Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi. . . the son of <u>David</u> , ³² the son of Jesse. . . ³⁴ the son of <u>Jacob</u> , the son of <u>Isaac</u> , the son of <u>Abraham</u> . . . ³⁸ the son of Enosh, the son of <u>Seth</u> , the son of <u>Adam</u> , the <u>son of God</u> (Luke 3:21-38).
Genealogy in Matthew	Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy to two important figures: David and Abraham. That makes sense because Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. Jesus fulfills the expectation of Messiah through God's promises of one through both of these important figures.
But the Genealogy in Luke goes further	Like Matthew, Luke connects Jesus to David and Abraham, but he goes further back. He goes back all the way to (1) the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden with Adam and (2) goes back all the way to Jesus preexistence (Son of God). Why? Because the 1 st Adam brought sin into the world and the 2 nd Adam removes it. The only one who could do that is the Son of God, perfect in origin.

Qualification Two for the Perfect Man: Perfect in Fulfilling the Jewish Promises of a Messiah	
Promise 1: You will have a miraculous Son	Abraham and Sarah: ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure? (Gen 18:12) Zechariah and Elizabeth (about In the Baptist): ¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." (Luke 1:18) Mary (about Jesus): ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34)
Promise 2: He will be called Son of the Most High	Melchizedek: ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of <u>God Most High</u> , ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by <u>God Most High</u> , Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And praise be to <u>God Most High</u> , who delivered your enemies into your hand." Angels Instructions to Mary: ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and <u>will be called the Son of the Most High</u> . (Luke 1:31-32)
Promise 3: He will reign on David's throne forever	Nathan to David: ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ^[b] ; your throne will be established forever. (2 Sam 7:16) Angels Instructions to Mary: The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:32-33).
Promise 4: He will be a greater than Moses.	Moses' Own Prophecy that Must Be Listened To ¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. <u>You must listen to him</u> . (Deut 18:15) Fulfilled in the New Law Giver: ²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:27-31)

Qualification Three for the Perfect Man: Perfect in Fulfilling the Hope for the Nations (Gentiles)	
People of God in OT Commanded to be the Hope for the Nations	⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you ^[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:5-6)
But they Produced no Fruit	My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. ⁷ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress. (Is 7:1; 7)
But Jesus Fulfills What Israel Was Supposed to Be in Luke	Jesus is what Israel wasn't: the hope for the Gentiles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Written to Theophilus (2) Simeon, the Righteous Jew Who Was Waiting for Jesus' Birth: ²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss^[d] your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² <u>a light for revelation to the Gentiles</u>, and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32) (3) Faith of the Centurion - ⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." (Luke 7:9) (4) Restores a Demon Possessed man from the Gerasenes (5) Zacchaeus - ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:9-10) (6) Jesus answers Pilate's question about being the King of the Jews in a way that is prophetic: ³ So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. ⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." (Luke 23:3-4) (7) Jesus' Appearance to the Disciples and Explanation of the Scriptures: ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:45-47)

