



## The Gospel of Luke

The Savior of the World/The Christ of the Marginalized

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Ehrman's Approach to the Gospel of Luke

- Ehrman uses what he calls a "comparative method"
  - Similar to redaction criticism, but does not attempt to determine sources
- Major foci that Ehrman finds in Luke
  - Centrality of the Temple – heart of Judaism
  - Jesus as a prophet whose message starts with Judaism, but is intended to include Gentile
- We'll approach the gospel more thematically

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Historical World of Luke

- Written around 85 CE
- First part of a two volume work concluding with Acts (see Acts 1)
- "Luke" a companion of Paul? — Gentile Christian, possibly from Ephesus, writing for Gentile Christian Audience (1:1 ff.)
  - Unfamiliar with Palestinian geography
  - Wrote in Greek style of historical writing
  - Indebted to witness of others
  - Historical inaccuracies (see 118)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Literary World

- “Apology” or defense of Christianity? (116)
- “Salvation History” -- Age of Father; Age of Son; Age of Holy Spirit
- Gospel organized around Jesus’ journeys
  - Journey through Galilee
  - Journey from Galilee to Jerusalem
  - Good Samaritan
  - Road to Emmaus
  - Acts of the Apostles — from Jerusalem to Rome

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Jesus’ Birth Matthew vs. Luke

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ focus on Joseph<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Virgin birth fulfills Isaiah</li></ul></li><li>○ Herod the Great</li><li>○ Action around a house in Bethlehem</li><li>○ visit of magi</li><li>○ flight to Egypt</li><li>○ move to Nazareth because of fear of Herod’s son in Judea</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ focus on Mary<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Virgin birth parallels that of great Gentiles</li></ul></li><li>○ Caesar Augustus</li><li>○ Census takes Mary &amp; Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● born in stable? in Bethlehem</li></ul></li><li>○ visit of shepherds</li><li>○ visit to Temple Jerusalem before</li><li>○ returning to Nazareth<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Scene in Temple when 12</li></ul></li></ul> |
|---|---|

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Theological Meaning

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Matthew<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Why Jesus became known as Nazarene</li><li>● Jesus new Moses and Wisdom Teacher</li><li>● Jewishness of Jesus – son of David</li></ul></li><li>○ John<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Jesus the eternal Logos/Wisdom of God</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Luke<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How Jesus was born in Bethlehem</li><li>● Jesus for poor and outcast</li><li>● Universality of Jesus- for Gentiles and Jews – son of God</li></ul></li><li>○ Mark<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Jesus <i>adopted</i> by God as son</li></ul></li></ul> |
|---|---|

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Universalism

- Context of Augustus Caesar 2:1 rather than Herod
- Genealogy (3:23-38) - son of Adam, son of God
- First Sermon in 4:24-27 — Gentile mission prefigured in Elijah and Elisha
- Acts of Apostles

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Social Justice for the Oppressed

- Mary's Song (1:46-55)
- Jesus' First Sermon (4:16-30)
  - Jubilee in Isaiah 61
- Beatitudes (6:20-26) compare parallel in Matt. 5:1-12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Compassion for Outcasts

- Role of shepherds in Jesus' birth
- Parable of Good Samaritan (10:25-37)
- Parable of Father and Two Sons (15:11-32)
- Acceptance of crucified criminal into paradise (23:39-43)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Central Role of Women

- Focus of action on Elizabeth and Mary at beginning
- Women are listed as followers with the disciples and provide for Jesus and disciples out of their own resources (8:1-3)
- Women travel with Jesus and disciples, even encouraged to study like men (10:38-42)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Theological Concerns

- Role of Holy Spirit in Jesus' birth, baptism and ministry
- Beginning of Jesus' ministry parallels beginning of church in Acts
- Role of Holy Spirit associated with prayer, e.g., baptism of Jesus and Pentecost

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---