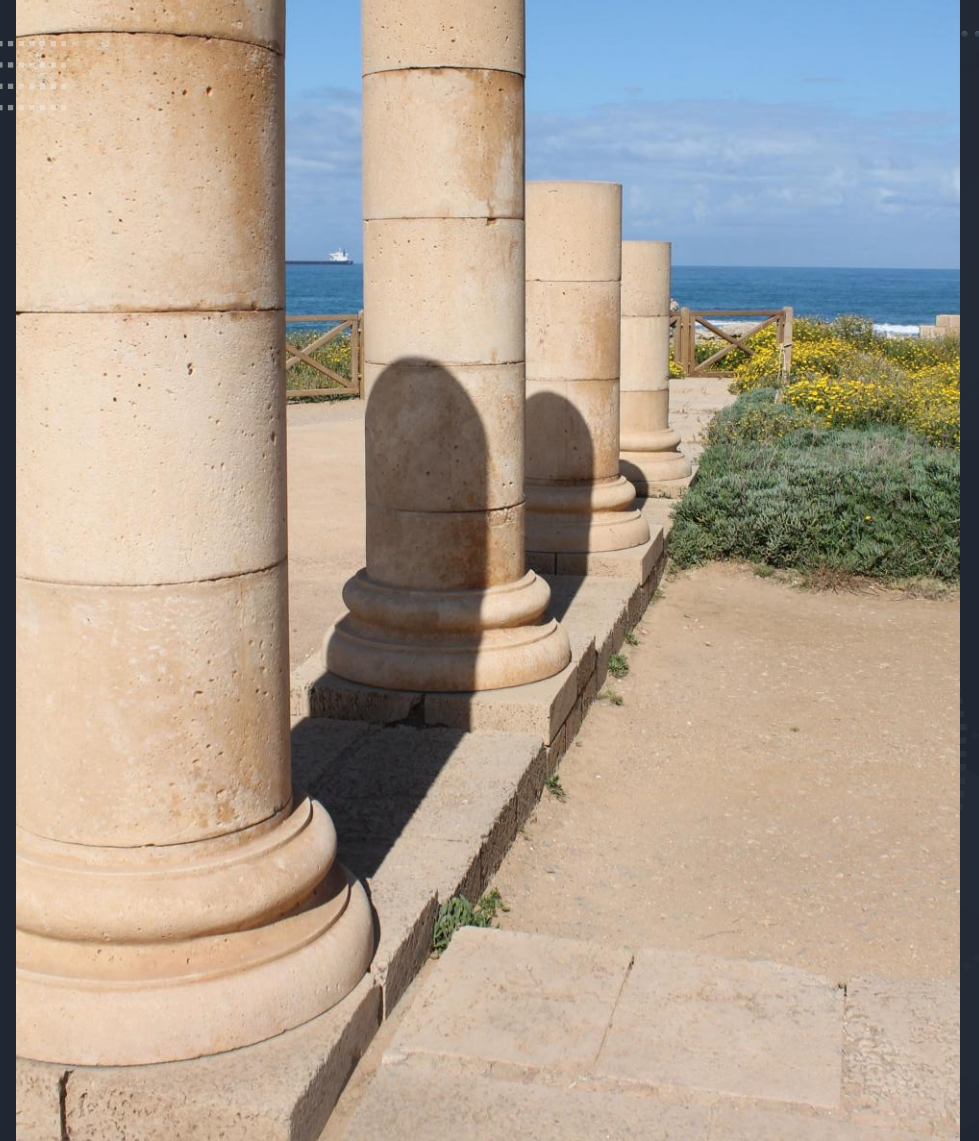


New Testament Survey

Lecture 2b

The Gospels & Acts (part 2)



Introduction

- We are continuing to look at the historical books of the New Testament.
- Today we will consider the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

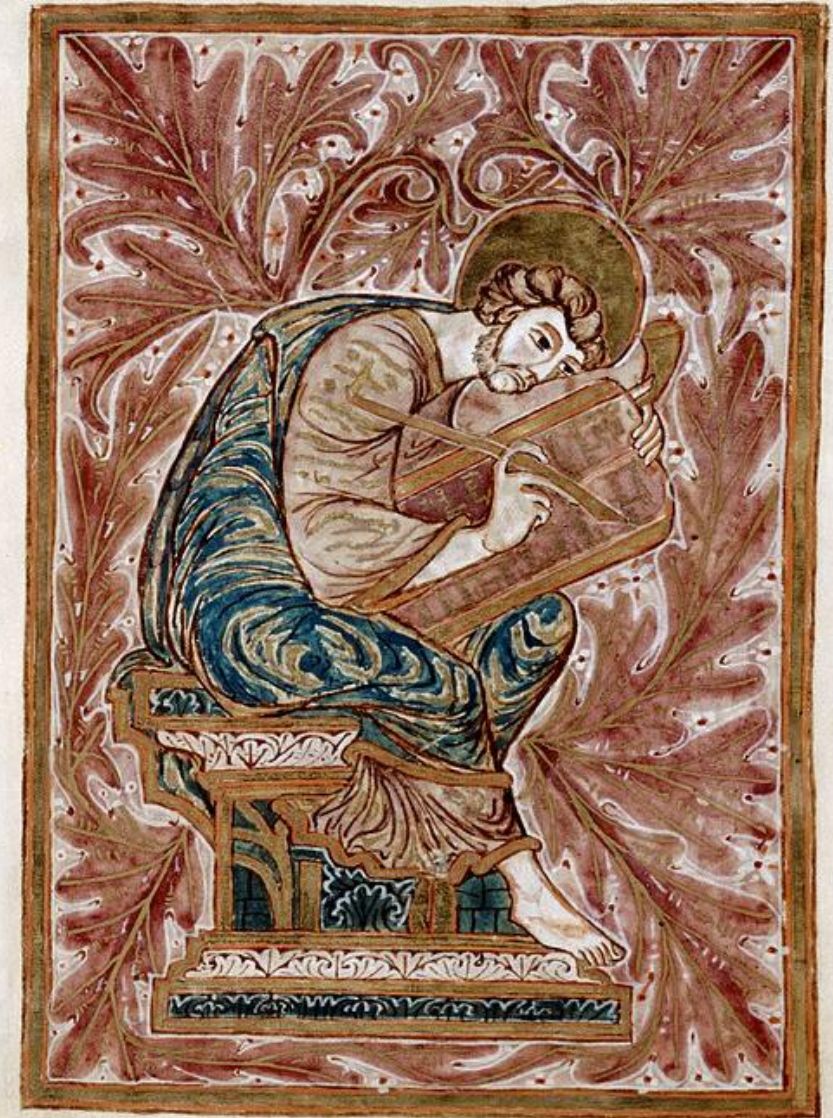
Introduction to Luke and Acts

- The Content and Character of Luke-Acts
 - Together they form two volumes of a single historical work.
 - The content of Luke-Acts together is greater than any other NT writer.
 - Luke wrote 27.5% of the NT.
- The Author of Luke-Acts



Luke

- A physician (Col. 4:14)
- A Gentile (Col. 4:10-14)
- Paul's companion in travel (Acts 16:10)
 - Note the “we” passages in Acts
 - Present with Paul during his final imprisonment (2 Tim. 4:11)
- Medical terminology in Luke and Acts



Introduction to Luke and Acts

- Probable Date of Writing
 - AD 56-59
 - Paul's Caesarean imprisonment extended from AD 56-58.
 - Paul's Roman imprisonment extended from AD 58-60.
 - Acts was written just prior to Paul's release (AD 60).
 - The Gospel of Luke was probably written a year earlier.



Introduction to Luke and Acts

- Audience
 - Written to Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1)
 - Luke writes as a Gentile to Gentiles (Greeks)



The Gospel of Luke

- Purpose and Themes
 - Purpose: Luke presents Jesus as the perfect man
 - Emphases:
 - Full humanity and deity of Christ
 - The human birth, growth, and development of Jesus
 - Includes many songs or poems
 - The role of women in Jesus' life and ministry
 - Christ's prayers as an aspect of his perfect humanity
 - The role and work of the Holy Spirit
 - 19/35 parables are unique to Luke
 - 6 miracles are unique to Luke

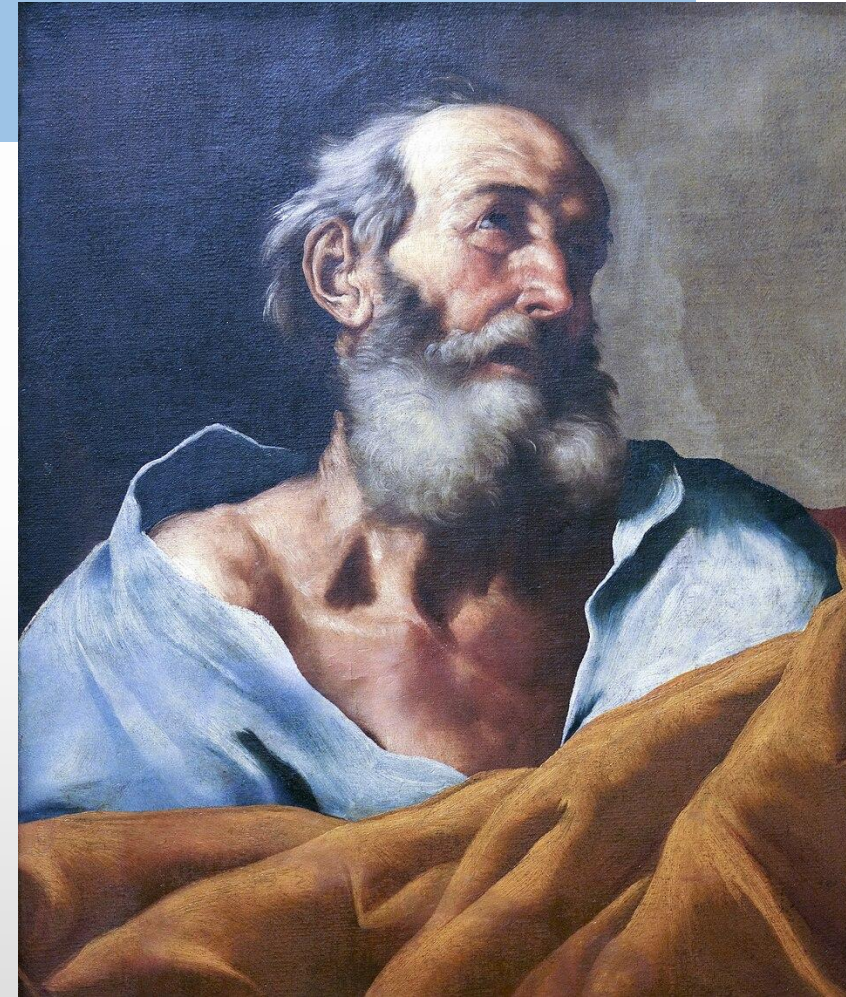


Image: St. Luke the Evangelist – by Pacecco de Rosa

The Gospel of Luke

- Structure of the Book
 - Most commentators note the significance of 9:51 as a structural marker.
 - It introduces a new movement in the story describing Jesus' "Journey to Jerusalem."

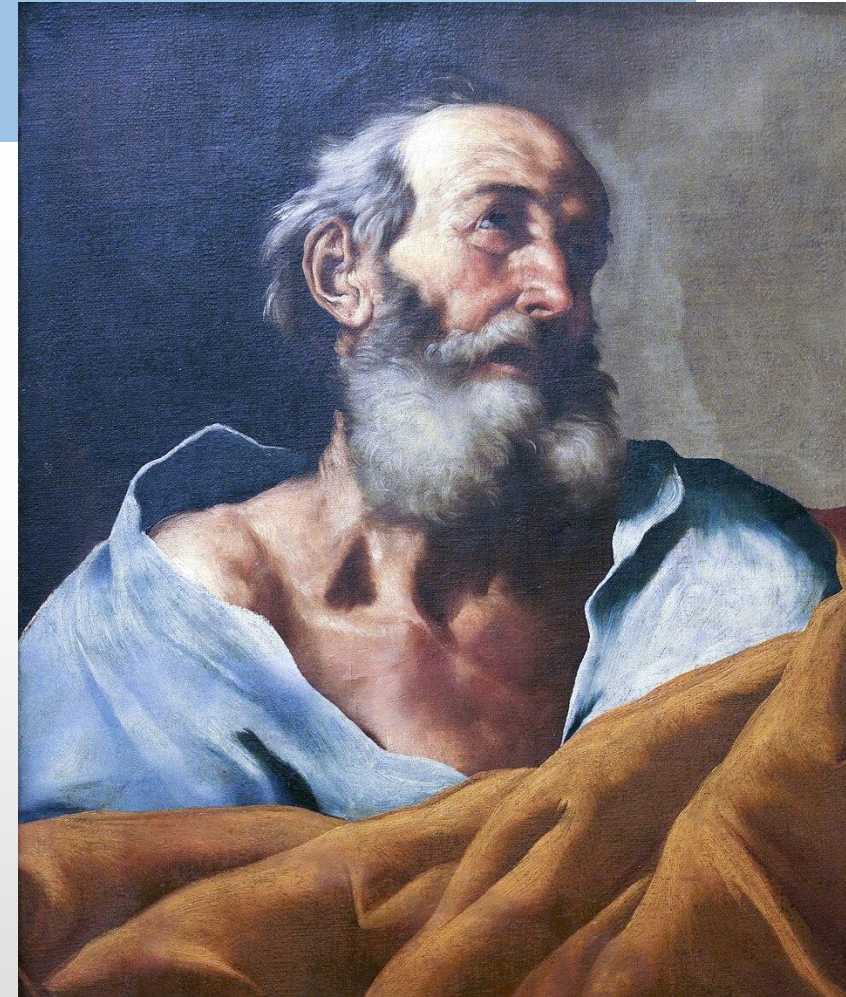


Image: St. Luke the Evangelist – by Pavecco de Rosa

The Gospel of Luke

1. Prologue of the Book (1:1-4)
2. The Preparation of the Son of Man (1:5 - 2:52)
3. The Introduction of the Son of Man (3:1 - 4:13)
4. The Ministry of the Son of Man (4:14 – 9:50)
5. The Journey of the Son of Man (9:51 – 19:28)
6. The Presentation of the Son of Man (19:29-48)
7. The Rejection of the Son of Man (20:1 – 21:4)
8. The Prophecy of the Son of Man (21:5-38)
9. The Passion of the Son of Man (22:1 – 23:56)
10. The Resurrection of the Son of Man (24:1-53)

The Acts of the Apostles

- The Stated Purpose of Acts (1:1)
 - Luke – The record of the life and earthly ministry of Christ: What Jesus “began” to do.
 - Acts – The record of the history and expansion of the early church: What Jesus continued to do through his apostles.

The Acts of the Apostles

- Other Purposes and Themes:
 - Its original purpose was to instruct Theophilus about the lives of the apostles and the expansion of the early church through their ministry.
 - NOTE: only the ministries of Peter and Paul are described in any detail.
 - FOCUS: Demonstrate the expansion of the Christian message and church from Jerusalem to Rome
 - KEY VERSE: Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Acts of the Apostles

- Other Purposes and Themes:
 - Acts describes three of Paul's missionary tours.
 - Acts has an apologetic purpose to show that Christianity was not a political threat to Rome.
 - KEY CONCEPT: The Holy Spirit is mentioned more than 50X
 - It could be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit."
 - Pentecost (chapter 2) is the defining event of the NT age.

The Acts of the Apostles

- Other Purposes and Themes
 - The role and importance of prayer
 - The commission, role, and means of the church's witness to Christ
 - Multiple important sermons
 - By Peter
 - By Paul
 - By Stephen
 - By James
 - Miracles performed by the apostles

The Acts of the Apostles

- Other Purposes and Themes
 - The reception of the Holy Spirit by different groups in the expansion of the church
 - By the Jews (ch. 2)
 - By the Samaritans (ch. 8)
 - By the Gentiles (ch. 10)
 - By the disciples of John the Baptist (ch. 19)
 - Acts provides the historical background of the Epistles.

Structure of Acts

Missionary	Base	Mission	Chapters in Acts
Peter	Jerusalem	To the Jews	1-12
Paul	Antioch	To the Gentiles	13-14 (1 st journey) 15-18 (2 nd journey) 18-21 (3 rd journey) 21-28 (1 st imprisonment)

Outline of Acts

1. The Witness in Jerusalem (1-7)
2. The Witness in Samaria (8-12)
3. The Witness to the Uttermost Part (13-28)
 1. Paul's first missionary journey (13-14)
 2. The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)
 3. Paul's second missionary journey (15:36 – 18:22)
 4. Paul's third missionary journey (18:23 – 21:17)
 5. Paul's imprisonment (21:18 – 28:31)