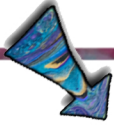


The VideoBook of Luke

Script by Ivy Brog



Luke

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF LUKE?

Luke's name actually never appears in this gospel, but ancient Christian tradition almost unanimously ascribes the book to him, and we have to kind of listen to that. There's a very clear reason that that's the case. One ancient prologue written to introduce the gospel describes Luke as Assyrian from Antioch. With this piece of information essentially we can deduce that Luke was probably not a Jew.

Paul listed him with the other Gentiles in his greetings to the Colossians in Colossians 4, and this ancient prologue goes on to state that Luke eventually settles in the Greek city of Thebes where he ends up dying at age 84.

WHERE ARE WE?

Where are we on the timeline of history here? A lot of the dating of the book of Luke depends honestly on the dating of Acts. Luke's second volume cuts off with Paul imprisoned in Rome before Paul's death in AD 68, and even before the persecution of Christians broke out under Nero in AD 64. So it just makes sense that the book of Luke was completed before the book of Acts, but when is the question?

In Acts chapter 21, Luke says that he accompanied Paul on the apostles final visit to Jerusalem, which was a visit that occurred in AD 57 and 58. Eventually the Jews had Paul arrested in the temple, a two-year ordeal that ends with Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea. Luke likely used this time, apart from Paul, to begin gathering information for writing the gospel from primary sources, those people who had actually witnessed the ministry, the death, the resurrection and appearances of Jesus. So if Luke took to writing his gospel pretty soon after the information was gathered, then it would have been completed probably around AD 60, after Paul was being transferred from or to a Roman prison.

WHY IS THE BOOK OF LUKE SO IMPORTANT?

His interest in people is so evident as you read through this gospel. A lot of the material is unique to Luke's gospel involving Jesus' interaction with individuals. Many of them on the fringes of unacceptable society, sinners, women, children, the list goes on and on. Like Matthew and Mark, Luke definitely records the innocent, the incident of a woman coming to pour perfume on Jesus' feet. But Luke was the only gospel writer to point out the fact known to everyone, that she

