

Luke – Introduction (part two)

Luke's Credentials

1. Historian

- a. Luke had investigated (1:3-4)
 - i. Everything
 - ii. From beginning
 - iii. Carefully
 - iv. To write an orderly account
- b. Demonstrated truthfulness of his record by connecting to:
 - i. Universal history
 - ii. Well-known events concerning his writing
 1. Luke 24:18 – *“Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”*
 2. Acts 26:26 – *“For the king (King Herod Agrippa II) knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.”*
 3. Luke 1:1 – *“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us.”*
- c. Luke was not countering skeptics, but confirming the things already known and believed

2. Eyewitnesses

- a. Luke begins recognizing eyewitness in Luke 1:2:
*“...just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word have delivered them to us.”*
- b. Luke concludes the book of Luke with a reference to eyewitnesses in Luke 24:46-48:
Jesus said to them, *“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are **witnesses** of these things.”*
- c. Acts begins with Jesus commissioning the disciples to be witnesses Acts 1:8:
*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- d. One of the requirements of the man who would replace of Judas was to be a witness of all from the beginning in Acts 1:21-22:
*“So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a **witness** to his resurrection.”*

3. Proof from Fulfilled Prophecy

- a. The things that had happened concerning Jesus, the Jews, the church, the Gentiles, the expansion into the nations were all prophesied and part of God's plan.
- b. Luke has the most references and allusions to Jesus' fulfilling OT prophecy. (Even more than Matthew!)
- c. The OT predicted Jesus' crucifixion and the Jewish nation's rejection of the message:

- i. *Isaiah 40:3-5* – “A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
1. *Luke 3:3-7* – “And he (John) went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”
He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”
- ii. *Isaiah 61:1-2* – “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.”
Isaiah 58:6 – “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”
1. *Luke 4:16-21* – “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”
And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
- iii. *Isaiah 29:18* – “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.”
Isaiah 35:5-6 – “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.”
Isaiah 42:18 – “Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!”
Isaiah 26:19 – “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.”

Isaiah 61:1 – *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”*

1. Luke 7:22-23 – *“And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers[e] are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”*
- iv. Malachi 3:1 – *“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”*
 1. Luke 7:27 – *“This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ”*
- v. Psalms 118:22 – *“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”*

Isaiah 28:16 – *“Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ ”*

 1. Luke 20:16-18 – *“He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”*

When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!”

But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”
- vi. Isaiah 53:12 – *“Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”*
 1. Luke 22:36-38 – *“He said to them, “But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.”*

And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.”

And he said to them, “It is enough.”
- vii. Joel 2:28-32 – *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood,

before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.”

1. Acts 2:14-21 – *“But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:*

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

- viii. Psalms 16:8-11 – *“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

1. Acts 2:22-32 – *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him,*

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”

- ix. Psalms 110:1 – *“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ”*

1. Acts 2:34-36 – *“For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,
“The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”
Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*
- x. Deuteronomy 18:15-19 – *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”*
 1. Acts 3:18-26 – *“But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”*
- xi. Genesis 12:3 – “
Genesis 18:18 – “
Genesis 22:18 – “
Genesis 26:4 – “
 1. Acts 3:25 – “
- xii. Psalm 2:1-2 – “
 1. Acts 4:25-26 – “
- xiii. Psalm 2:7 – “
 1. Acts 13:33 – “
- xiv. Isaiah 55:3 – “
 1. Acts 13:34 – “
- xv. Psalm 16:10 – “
 1. Acts 13:35 – “
- xvi. Jeremiah 12:15 – “
Amos 9:11-12 – “
 1. Acts 15:16-17 – “

- xvii. Isaiah 6:9-10 – “
1. Acts 28:26-27 – “
- d. Judaism had to reject Jesus Christ’s fulfillment of the OT Scripture because the plan of God was to expand outside the restraints of the Jewish people’s understanding of the OT. The OT itself prophesied Israel’s rejection of the fulfillment of “The CHOSEN NATION that would Bless ALL Nations!”
- e. Those who heard and understood came to these conclusions in Luke’s writing:
- i. Rejection by Israel would happen:
 1. Luke 9:21-22 – *“And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”*
 2. Luke 13:32-34 – *“And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”*
 3. Luke 17:25 – *“But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.”*
 4. Luke 18:31 – *“And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.”*
 5. Luke 24:6-7 – *“He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”*
 - ii. Jesus would be delivered to the Gentiles for death:
 1. Luke 9:43-45 – *“But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.”*
 2. Luke 18:31-34 – *“And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.”*
 - iii. Jesus would be resurrected:
 1. (Luke 9:22 – *“and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”*)

2. Luke 11:29-30 – *“When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.”*
 3. (Luke 18:33 – *“And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”*)
 4. (Luke 24:7 – *“the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”*)
- iv. The Holy Spirit would come:
1. Luke 24:49 – *“And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*
 2. Acts 1:4-5, 8 – “
 3. Acts 11:16 – “
- v. Jerusalem would be destroyed:
1. Luke 11:49-51 – *“Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.”*
 2. Luke 13:4-5, 35 – *“Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”... Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”*
 3. Luke 19:27 – *“But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.”*
 4. Luke 19:43-44 – *“And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*
 5. Luke 21:5-24 – *“And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” (21:5-6)...” when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.” (21:20)...”They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (21:24)*
 6. Luke 23:28-31 – *“But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your*

children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

- vi. Prophecy and confirmation (like the eyewitnesses) also came from:
 - 1. Angels:
 - a. Luke 1:14-17 – “
 - b. Luke 1:20 – “
 - c. Luke 1:31-33 – “
 - d. Luke 2:11-12 – “
 - e. Acts 27:23-24 – “
 - 2. Prophets:
 - a. Luke 2:35 – “
 - b. Luke 3:16 – “
 - c. Acts 11:27-28 – “
 - d. Acts 21:10-11 – “
 - 3. God himself:
 - a. Luke 2:26 – “
 - b. Acts 9:15-16 – “
 - c. Acts 18:9-10 – “
- f. Miracles:
 - i. Jesus used miracles as proof:
“” (Luke 7:18-23)
 - ii. Apostles used miracles as proof:
 - 1. “” (Acts 3:2-16)
 - 2. “” (Acts 4:30)
- g. Proof from the growth of the Church. This proved the Christian message was true. Christianity and the message of the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures did not advance by sword or force, but by proclaiming the truth. The hearts of men turning to the Lord was in itself a testimony of the truthfulness of the message.
 - i. Acts 1:15 – where 120 people believed
 - ii. Acts 2:41 – where 3,000 people believed on the Day of Pentecost
 - iii. Acts 2:47 – where the church added to their number daily
 - iv. Acts 4:4 – where 5,000 were added
 - v. Acts 6:7 – In Jerusalem growth increased rapidly
 - vi. Acts 9:31 – the church expanded throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria
 - vii. Acts 11:21, 24 – Great number turned to the Lord in Antioch, Syria
 - viii. Acts 12:24 – Increase in number and the spread of the Word
 - ix. Acts 14:1 – Great number in Iconium
 - x. Acts 14:21 – Large number in Derbe
 - xi. Acts 16:5 – Churches began in the Greek world
 - xii. Acts 19:20 – Word of God spread widely
 - xiii. Acts 28:14-31 – WHERE PAUL MEETS WITH THE JEWS AND READS THE OT SCRIPTURE TO THEM PROCLAIMING THEY WILL REJECT THE MESSAGE, BUT THE GENTILES WILL LISTEN. Paul then taught the**

believers in Rome for two years “proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 28:28-31)

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A NEW RELIGION.

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A REVISED JUDAISM.

CHRISTIANITY IS THE FULFILLED EXPRESSION OF ABRAHAM’S RELIGION DURING THIS CURRENT AGE.

1. The Apostolic message aligns with the OT.

It was the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The message of the prophets was fulfilled:

- a. Acts 2:16-21 – “
- b. Acts 3:13 – “
- c. Acts 3:24-26 – “
- d. Acts 7:2-53 – “
- e. Acts 13:16-41 – “
- f. Acts 13:32-33 – “
- g. Acts 26:6 – “
- h. Acts 28:20 – “

2. Luke records Israel’s rejection of the fulfilled promise THREE times:

- a. Acts 13:46-47 – *“And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.””*
- b. Acts 18:5-7 – *“When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.”*
- c. Acts 28:28 – *“Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”*

3. LUKE-ACTS two volumes of the same single writing of Luke:

- a. Explains how salvation could come to the Gentiles.
- b. Tells how the Jews who had been given the promise could reject the promise once it was fulfilled and offered to them.
- c. Tells how the Jews could persecute the Gentiles who understood the promise fulfillment.
- d. Tells how the Gentiles would end up proclaiming the promise made to the Jews to the Jews.
- e. Teaches how the church did not separate from Israel because the church simply continued to proclaim the Jewish promise to the Jews. As a result the Jews drove the church out. The church continued the faith of Abraham, but the Jews refused to continue in the faith of Abraham.

- f. **Luke is reassuring Theophilus concerning:**
 - i. The promises that had been made to Israel had been fulfilled in Jesus
 - ii. Israel's prophesied rejection of Jesus
 - iii. The new form of fulfilled prophecy after the resurrection
 - iv. The sharing of Israel's promise with the Gentiles
 - v. The rejection of the believers (either Jewish or Gentile) by Israel
- g. The Law and the Prophets foretold the promise and explained how it would be fulfilled, but it was not fully revealed. So, in this way it could not fully be understood.
 - i. Jesus' own disciples did not fully understand during Jesus' ministry:
 1. Luke 9:34-36 (Transfiguration) – *“As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.”*
 2. Luke 9:43-45 – *“But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.”*
 3. Luke 18:31-34 – *“And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.”*
 4. Luke 24:44-47 – *“Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”*
- h. Parallels in Luke and Acts:
 - i. Jesus heals/Peter heals
 - ii. Jesus must go to Jerusalem/Paul must go to Rome
 - iii. Jesus is slain/Stephen is slain
 - iv. Luke ends with Ascension/Acts begins with Ascension