

Luke chapter An Introduction

A Summary of Michael Card's Introductory Material

The Writer:

- A companion of the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:10), fellow worker (Philemon 1:24), & dear friend (Col 4:14)
- NOT an eyewitness to what he's describing (Luke 1:2)
- A physician (concern for the marginalized, shared compassion with Paul for the Gentiles.
- Possibly of slave
- A Gentile

Major Themes of his Gospel:

- Amazement as conveyed by the accounts of the eyewitnesses
- Those who should recognize who Jesus is don't (e.g. religious leaders) and those who shouldn't do (e.g. sinners and tax collectors).
- Persuasive use of parables with the identification they draw from the hearer / reader and their lack of closure.
- The unorthodoxy of Jesus
- *Hesed* (grace / mercy) – “When a person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.”
- Travel narrative – the journey to Jerusalem
- A bridge between the Gospels and the NT Epistles

1:1-4 Luke's Prologue – An Amazing Undertaking

- An educated writer skilled in the Greek language (uses 700 words not found in the rest of the NT)
- Other accounts of the life of Jesus had apparently been written and circulated, and he apparently read them and digested them.
- He collected eyewitness accounts (e.g. Mary – the nativity account, the secret things she pondered and treasured in her heart.
- An ordered account – he has collected the material and grouped them together in meaningful ways
- Theophilus (lover of God) – real person or imaginary (Master if Luke was a slave, wealthy patron, pseudo person, a Roman official involved in Paul's trial)

3:23-38 An Amazing Genealogy

Luke

Longer back to Adam
Mary (thought to be the Son of Joseph)
The word (*son*) is not in the text

Matthew

Shorter back to Abraham
Joseph (the husband of Mary)
“was born”
As Joseph's adopted Son he becomes his legal heir

Some hold that both lists refer to Joseph with Matthew giving the legal descendants of David to establish our Lord's claim to the Davidic throne, while Luke gives the particular line to which Joseph actually belongs. But the far simpler solution, and in all probability the true one, is that since every individual has two genealogies – one through his father and another through his mother – so Matthew presents Joseph's genealogy (the Lord's foster or legal father, not the actual father), whereas Luke presents Mary's genealogy. Scofield

We will see parallel accounts of two amazing births in Luke. For John the Baptist, Luke points out that both his mother and father were of priestly descent (1:5). Since Luke's account makes it very clear that Joseph was not Jesus' physical father through conception, it would seem reasonable that Luke would want to show Jesus' claim to the throne of David through his physical mother, Mary. R3

Other Introductory Material to Consider:

- Walk Thru the Bible
- Life Application Bible

becomes emperor 14
 begins 26
 ministry 26-27
 twelve disciples 28
 5,000 29
 and ascends 30

THE BLUEPRINT

A. BIRTH AND PREPARATION OF JESUS, THE SAVIOR (1:1-4:13)

From an infant who could do nothing on his own, Jesus grew to become completely able to fulfill his mission on earth. He was fully human, developing in all ways like us. Yet he remained fully God. He took no shortcuts and was not isolated from the pressures and temptations of life. There are no shortcuts for us either as we prepare for a life of service to God.

B. MESSAGE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS, THE SAVIOR (4:14-21:38)

Jesus taught great crowds of people, especially through parables, which are stories with great truths. But only those with ears to hear will understand. We should pray that God's Spirit would help us understand the implications of these truths for our lives so we can become more and more like Jesus.

C. DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS, THE SAVIOR (22:1-24:53)

The Savior of the world was arrested and executed. But death could not destroy him, and Jesus came back to life and ascended to heaven. In Luke's careful, historical account, we receive the facts about Jesus' resurrection. We must not only believe that these facts are true, but we must also trust Christ as our Savior. It is shortsighted to neglect the facts, but how sad it is to accept the facts and neglect the forgiveness that Jesus offers to each of us.

MEGATHEMES

THEME

Jesus, Christ, the Savior

EXPLANATION

Luke describes how God's Son entered human history. Jesus lived as the perfect example of a human. After a perfect ministry, he provided a perfect sacrifice for our sin so we could be saved.

IMPORTANCE

Jesus is our perfect leader and Savior. He offers forgiveness to all who will accept him as Lord of their lives and believe that what he says is true.

History

Luke was a medical doctor and historian. He put great emphasis on dates and details, connecting Jesus to events and people in history.

Luke gives details so we can believe in the reliability of the history of Jesus' life. Even more important, we can believe with certainty that Jesus is God.

People

Jesus was deeply interested in people and relationships. He showed warm concern for his followers and friends—men, women, and children.

Jesus' love for people is good news for everyone. His message is for all people in every nation. Each one of us has an opportunity to respond to him in faith.

Compassion

As a perfect human, Jesus showed tender sympathy to the poor, the despised, the hurt, and the sinful. No one was rejected or ignored by him.

Jesus is more than an idea or teacher—he cares for you. Only this kind of deep love can satisfy your need.

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was present at Jesus' birth, baptism, ministry, and resurrection. As a perfect example for us, Jesus lived in dependence on the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was sent by God as confirmation of Jesus' authority. The Holy Spirit is given to enable people to live for Christ. By faith we can have the Holy Spirit's presence and power to witness and to serve.

begins 37 B.C.
 to fulfill 37 B.C.
 5:4 B.C.
 dies 4 B.C.
 as a boy A.D. 67

VITAL STATISTICS

PURPOSE: To present an accurate account of the life of Christ and to present Christ as the perfect human and Savior.

AUTHOR: Luke—a doctor (Colossians 4:14), a Greek and Gentile Christian. He is the only known Gentile author in the New Testament. Luke was a close friend and companion of Paul. He also wrote Acts, and the two books go together.

TO WHOM WRITTEN:

Theophilus ("one who loves God"), Gentiles, and people everywhere.

DATE WRITTEN:

About A.D. 60

SETTING:

Luke wrote from Rome or possibly from Caesarea.

KEY VERSES:

"Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.'" (19:9, 10).

KEY PEOPLE:

Jesus, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, Mary, the disciples, Herod the Great, Pilate, Mary Magdalene

KEY PLACES:

Bethlehem, Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem

SPECIAL FEATURES:

This is the first comprehensive Gospel. The general vocabulary and diction show that the author was educated. He makes frequent references to illnesses and diagnoses. Luke stresses Jesus' relationships with people; emphasizes prayer, miracles, and angels; records inspired hymns of praise; and gives a mourning place to women. Most of 9:51-10:35 is not found in any other Gospel.



EVERY birth is a miracle, and every child is a gift from God. But nearly 20 centuries ago, there was the miracle of miracles. A baby was born, but he was the Son of God. The Gospels tell of his birth, but Dr. Luke, as though he were the attending physician, provides most of the details surrounding this awesome occasion. With divine father and human mother, Jesus entered history—God in the flesh.

Luke affirms Jesus' divinity, but the real emphasis of his book is to show Jesus' humanity—Jesus, the Son of God, is also the Son of Man. As a doctor, Luke was a man of science, and as a Greek, he was a man of detail. It is not surprising, then, that he begins by outlining his extensive research and explaining that he is reporting the facts (1:1-4). Luke also was a close friend and traveling companion of Paul, so he could interview the other disciples, had access to other historical accounts, and was an eyewitness to the birth and growth of the early church. His Gospel and book of Acts are reliable, historical documents.

Luke's story begins with angels appearing to Zechariah and then to Mary, telling them of the upcoming births of their sons. From Zechariah and Elizabeth would come John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for Christ. And Mary would conceive by the Holy Spirit and bear Jesus, the Son of God. Soon after John's birth, Caesar Augustus declared a census, and so Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, the town of David, their ancient ancestor. There the child was born. Angels announced the joyous event to shepherds, who rushed to the manger. When the shepherds left, they were praising God and spreading the news. Eight days later, Jesus was circumcised and then dedicated to God in the temple, where Simeon and Anna confirmed Jesus' identity as the Savior, their Messiah.

Luke gives us a glimpse of Jesus at age 12—discussing theology with the teachers of the law at the temple (2:41-52). The next event occurred 18 years later, when we read of John the Baptist preaching in the desert. Jesus came to John to be baptized, his public ministry (3:1-38). At this point, Luke traces Jesus' genealogy on his stepfather Joseph's side through David and Abraham back to Adam, underscoring Jesus' identity as the Son of Man.

After the temptation (4:1-13), Jesus returned to Galilee to preach, teach, and heal (4:14-21:38). During this time, he began gathering his group of 12 disciples (5:1-10, 27-29). Later Jesus commissioned the disciples and sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God. When they returned, Jesus revealed to them his mission, his true identity, and what it means to be his disciple (9:18-62). His mission would take him to Jerusalem (9:51-53), where he would be rejected, tried, and crucified.

While Jesus carried his own cross to Golgotha, some women in Jerusalem wept for him, but Jesus told them to weep for themselves and for their children (23:28). But Luke's Gospel does not end in sadness. It concludes with the thrilling account of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, his appearance to the disciples, and his promise to send the Holy Spirit (24:1-53). Read Luke's beautifully written and accurate account of the life of Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God. Then praise God for sending the Savior for all people—our risen and triumphant Lord.

Luke 1:5 – 3:22 Amazing Births

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card’s Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

Who do you most identify with in this section? _____

What is clearer from Michael Card's book and your reading this chapter? _____

What is most striking to you in this section? _____

Luke chapter 4-5 Amazing Claims & Actions

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

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DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

Significance of the "40" Days: _____

4:18-28 Imagine yourself having grown up with Jesus in Nazareth and hearing him in the synagogue. How would you have reacted?

Do this Gospels prove / substantiate Jesus' claim? _____

Chapter 5 – What do you see that is unexpected & unorthodox? _____

What should have been obvious to the religious leaders? _____

Luke chapter 6-7 Amazing Expectations

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

6:1-11 Sabbath Lessons _____

6:17-36 New Expectations _____

7:1-10 What Amazes Jesus? _____

7:18-30 What do you think of Jesus' Credentials? _____

7:11-17; 36-50 Jesus' Compassion for the Oppressed _____

Luke chapter 8-9 Amazing Encounters

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

8:4-21 What is the significance of the parable of the sower? _____

9:1-6 Lesson(s) to be learned _____

9:10-17 Lesson(s) to be learned _____

9:28-36 Purpose of the encounter _____

Do you agree with Michael Card's observations that this fulfills Jesus promise in 9:27? _____

9:51-62 React to Michael Card's observations on these closing verses: _____

8:25 "Who is this man?" and 9:18-27. How do these chapters answer this question? What do these chapters tell us of Jesus' abilities? What is your proper response?

Luke chapter 10 Amazing Sowers, Samaritan & Sisters

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

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DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

70 Sent Out v1-20. Michael Card sees this section as emphasizing the universality of the Good News (for Jew and Gentile alike). How do you react to this?

Good Samaritan v25-37

What is the central question / what is issue Jesus is addressing in this parable?

What key lesson do you think the expert in the law should have learned?

For you, what is the takeaway from this parable?

Comment on Michael Card's observations.

Mary & Martha v38-42

Who do you identify with in this account and why?

Who do you sympathize with and why?

Per Michael Card, what is so radical about what's described and Jesus' statement?

Luke chapter 11 Amazing Prayer & Rejection

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card’s Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

v1-13 Insights to be gained on Prayer:

v14-28 Think about the process by which we come to wrong conclusions

v37-54 Think about the wake up call Jesus gave the religious leaders and how they reacted. How are you / we very typical in our reactions?

What do you think Jesus would say to us today if He came to CBC?

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

V1-12

What are the warnings to learn from what Jesus has to say regarding the hypocrisy of the Pharisees?

What is the unforgivable sin in v8-10? _____

On pages 156-158 of Michael's book – which of the maxims listed to you particularly identify with?

V13-33 What lessons do our SELFs need to learn concerning greed?

V35-48 React to the passage and Michael's comments about possible parallels to Christ's 2nd Coming.

V49-59 The fire, the baptism, the divisions, reading and reacting to the signs. What is Jesus getting at here?

Luke chapter 13-14 Amazing Outcomes

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

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DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

13:1-5 What is the central point? _____

13:1-21 How does Michael Card's comments affect your understanding of the "Job Equation?"

Parables of the Mustard Seed and Barren Tree – how does Michael help clarify your understanding?

13:22-30 What caution should we take based on Jesus response to the question, "Will only a few be saved?"

What similar answers do / will people give today? _____

13:31-35 What is the sad commentary here not just on Jerusalem, but the world? _____

14:1-14 Life Lessons from the dinner: _____

14:15-24 What do we need to understand regarding "the invited" and the desires of the Father?

14:25-35 What does it mean to you to "count the cost?" _____

Luke chapter 15 Amazing Love for the Lost

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

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DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

Using your “biblical imagination” and insight gained from Michael Card’s comments; note your thoughts and observations regarding:

v1-7 The Lost Sheep: _____

v8-10 The Lost Coin: _____

v11-32 The Lost Son: _____

Luke chapter 16 Amazing Direction Regarding Money / Wealth

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

v1-13 What do you think of Michael Card's comments? _____

What's your take on the actions of the unjust servant? _____

What lessons can we learn about money from this account? _____

v14-18 What truth did Jesus want all to understand, including the Pharisees? _____

What is it about the Law that we need to understand? _____

What is it about divorce and adultery we need to understand? _____

v19-31 What observations concerning what happens after death can be made from this parable?

Why didn't / doesn't the truth / reality of the resurrection of Jesus change everything?

Luke chapter 17 Amazing Feats of Faith

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

Takeaway from:

v1-10 _____

v11-19 _____

v20-37 _____

What's the sad reality about mankind revealed here? _____

Luke chapter 18-19 Amazing Persistence

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

18:1-8 What does the parable of the persistent widow teach us about prayer? _____

18:9-17 What does the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector teach us about prayer? _____

18:18-34 What should we learn from the question of the ruler? _____

What do you hold too tightly onto? _____

18:35-43 What does the persistent blind man teach us about prayer? _____

After considering Luke and Michael Card's comments, what is your idea of the perfect prayer?

19:1-10 Reflect on the character of Zacchaeus and Jesus' choice to spend time with him. _____

If we're honest, we probably identify with the crowd's reaction. What would be a modern day example of a Zacchaeus in your life? _____

19:11-27 How does this parable also deal with the matter of persistence? _____

19:28-44 How does this account echo all of the biblical history of mankind? _____

19:45-48 Do Michael's comments help you to better understand Jesus' reason for cleansing the temple area?

Luke chapter 20-21 Amazing Questions

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

20:1-2 Entrapment attempt #1 – by now should the answer to their question been apparent to them? Why?

20:3-8 Jesus counters #1 – what can be learned from Jesus' example? _____

20:9-19 Jesus' rebuttal – Consider Jesus' references to Isaiah 5:1-7 & Psalm 118:22. How does Jesus use what they regarded as Scripture to get His point across? _____

20:20-26 Entrapment attempt #2 – how does Jesus handle this attempt? Also, note your thoughts on Michael Card's observation concerning the point Jesus was making. _____

20:27-40 Entrapment attempt #3 – Once again how does Jesus respond and what can we learn?

20:41-47 What are your thoughts on the observations Jesus makes? _____

21:1-4 Considering the imagery Michael Card gives of temple and the metal trumpet shaped receptacles for the monetary gifts how do you visualize this teaching moment and the lesson given?

21:12-19 What application can we make? _____

21:32 What do you make of Jesus statement and Michael Card's comments? _____

Luke chapter 22 Amazing Perseverance

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

Consider the implications of a contextual importance of this being at Passover _____

Spend some time thinking about and note thoughts on communion. _____

How is Jesus' example the complete opposite of disciples and us as his followers sometimes? (22:24-27) _____

Consider and note lessons from 22:31-32 _____

What do we learn from Jesus in the garden? _____

Luke chapter 23 Amazing Love

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

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DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

List examples of how amazing the love of Jesus is for us (what is love? See 1 John 3:16) _____

Notes on and challenges from the example of Jesus' forgiveness (see also Eph. 4:31-32) _____

In the first paragraph of p.256 Michael Card talks about how hate can blind us. How do you react to what he is saying? Do you see the truth of this? _____

Note the trust of Jesus in the plan of the father _____

Luke chapter 24 Simply Amazing

REFLECT (on the Text / Re-Read)

Key Word (s) / Thought (s) _____

Key Verse(s) / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained, etc., in this chapter)

Verse

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

What did you find **AMAZING** from Michael Card's Comments? _____

DISCUSSION (what can we learn / observe together)

AMAZING / BIBLICAL IMAGINATION points from the account: _____

After all they saw and went through, what would the people have been thinking coming to the grave that day?

Why do you think they didn't recognize him? _____

Why does it seem it was so tough for the people to hear, understand and accept the words of Jesus regarding his death and resurrection? Do we have similar problems today?

How do we and will we respond to the resurrected and ascended Christ who will come again? _____

Luke – the Amazing Gospel

A Look Back

REFLECT

Key Words / Thoughts _____

Key Verses / Why? _____

EXPLORE (note thoughts, observations, insight gained)

Ref ***What is new, fresh, challenging, exciting for you this time thru the Gospel?***

APPLICATION (knowing / understanding this should result in...)

Note 3 areas of Application you want to concentrate on from the study

What did you find AMAZING from Michael Card's Comments that has impacted your understanding of Luke's Gospel?

Any suggestions for next time we study this Gospel?
