

Contents

The Book of Luke

1. The Coming of Jesus— <i>March 28–April 3</i>	4
2. Baptism and the Temptations— <i>April 4–10</i>	11
3. Who Is Jesus Christ?— <i>April 11–17</i>	18
4. The Call to Discipleship— <i>April 18–24</i>	25
5. Christ as the Lord of the Sabbath— <i>April 25–May 1</i>	32
6. Women in the Ministry (Work) of Jesus— <i>May 2–8</i>	39
7. Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Prayer— <i>May 9–15</i>	46
8. The Mission of Jesus— <i>May 16–22</i>	53
9. Jesus, the Master Teacher— <i>May 23–29</i>	60
10. Following Jesus in Everyday Life— <i>May 30–June 5</i>	67
11. The Kingdom of God— <i>June 6–12</i>	74
12. Jesus in Jerusalem— <i>June 13–19</i>	81
13. Crucified (Put to Death on the Cross) and Risen— <i>June 20–26</i>	88

Editorial Office: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

Come visit us at our Web site: <http://www.absg.adventist.org>

Printing and Circulation Office: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193

Principal Contributor	John M. Fowler
Editor	Soraya Homayouni
Contributing Editors	George Belser, Esther Doss
Publication Manager	Lea Alexander Greve
Editorial Assistant	Sharon Thomas-Crews
Art and Design	Lars Justinen
Line Drawings	Jon Gilbertson
Pacific Press® Coordinator	Wendy Marcum
E. G. White Estate Consultant	Ivan Leigh Warden



The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, the members of which serve as consulting editors. The published Bible study guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s). The Easy Reading Edition is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide in cooperation with Three Angels Deaf Ministries, P.O. Box 1946, Greenbelt, MD 20768; <http://www.deafadventist.org>.

© 2015 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (Easy Reading Edition) may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (Easy Reading Edition), under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. "Seventh-day Adventist," "Adventist," and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference.



The Book of Luke

So he got up and went to his father. While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20, NIV).

We know that verse. It comes from one of the world’s most well-known and beloved stories. But we would never have heard it if a simple missionary doctor had not included that story in a letter he wrote to his friend Theophilus.¹

The doctor’s name is Luke. He was a Gentile (non-Jew) believer. And the letter is known to us as The Gospel According to Luke. Luke also wrote the book of Acts. He was a travel companion of Paul; so, he was a careful watcher and student of the great Jesus movement spreading all around the Roman Empire. Being close to Paul helped Luke understand the deep meaning of the Christian church. It also helped Luke learn more deeply from other people about the Man behind it all: Jesus Christ. So, with the Holy Spirit’s leading, Luke wrote a two-volume work (Luke and Acts) on what also might be named “The Origin [Beginning] and History of the Christian Church.”

Part 1 of this work is the Gospel of Luke, written and delivered to Theophilus before Acts was written (Acts 1:1). Many careful scholars date Luke’s Gospel to about A.D. 61–63.

Theophilus was a Greek believer. By writing the letter to Theophilus, Luke was writing his Gospel to the Greek and Gentile believers. But Luke did not forget the Jewish roots of Jesus. Matthew wrote his Gospel for the Jews; so, he points to Jesus as the Messiah (Chosen One). Mark wrote to the Romans. And so, in his Gospel we see Jesus marching across the land with the news about the kingdom. John’s Gospel describes Jesus as the Word, the Creator, the Son of God. But Luke writes for the Gentiles. To them he presents Jesus, the Son of man, as the Savior of the world and Friend of man. Salvation is for all people in Luke’s Gospel. So, in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus’ family history goes all the way to Adam and connects Him to God. But Matthew’s family history of Jesus stops

1. Theophilus—Luke’s Greek friend to whom the books of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles were sent.

with Abraham, the father of the Jews (Luke 3:23–38; compare² with Matthew 1:1–17).

By Greek word count, Luke’s Gospel is the longest book in the New Testament. Some miracles appear only in Luke. Examples are the raising of the widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11–17) and the healing of Malchus (Luke 22:50, 51). (For other miracles, read Luke 5:4–11; Luke 13:11–17; Luke 14:1–6; Luke 17:11–19.) Many parables³ are only Luke’s, including several famous ones such as the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–37), the rich foolish man (Luke 12:16–21), the prodigal son (Luke 15:11–32), the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31), and the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:10–14). The Zacchaeus story (Luke 19:1–10) is also Luke’s special contribution.

With the Holy Spirit’s leading, Luke claims to have studied the historical materials and interviewed the eye-witnesses (Luke 1:2). Then, when he understood everything, he wrote an orderly (careful) report so that his readers might know that everything about Jesus and His good news was true. (Read verses 3 and 4.)

A well-known religious thinker, James Denney, was asked, “What would be a good biography of Jesus?” He answered, “Have you tried the one that Luke wrote?”

Good idea. Let’s try it together, as a world church, this quarter.

**While the son
was still a long
way off, his father
ran to him.**

*John M. Fowler has served the church for 53 years as pastor, theology⁴ and philosophy⁵ teacher, editor, and educational administrator. As author of many articles and books, Dr. Fowler has written two previously published Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guides: *The Cosmic⁶ Conflict Between Christ and Satan* (2002) and *Ephesians: The Gospel of Relationships* (2005).*

2. compare—show how two or more things are the same or different.

3. parables—stories in the Bible that teach a lesson.

4. theology—the study about God.

5. philosophy—the study of truth.

6. cosmic—relating to spiritual matters; very large or important.