

LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Luke; Book of Acts

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Gospel (Luke is the third of four gospels.)
The Book of Acts is the only historical book in the New Testament.

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

60-61 AD



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Luke was born in Antioch, which is in Syria. He was a physician; and most ancient historians think that painting was his hobby.

After the Resurrection, Luke spent a great deal of his time with Apostle Paul, whom he accompanied on parts of his journeys around the known world. They became very close, such that Paul called him “the beloved physician.”

Luke also preached the gospel when not traveling with Paul. He traveled into Egypt and Greece. His preaching outraged the idolatrous priests. After he finished both the Book of Luke and the Book of Acts, they put him to death by hanging him on the branch of an olive tree. (The cross is often thought to have been made of olive-tree wood.)



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

The author is thought to have written the Gospel of Luke in part while traveling with Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. In fact, he may have written the Book of Acts in Rome, when Apostle Paul was under house arrest and busy writing the epistles.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Luke was endeared to the stories about Jesus. His gospel contains more stories than any other. It is also thought that he was heavily influenced by John Mark and his Gospel of Mark, which had been written a few years earlier.