

252-Important Info about Luke-Five Questions-04-29-11

Learn all you can about Luke. This will give you a firm grip on your knowledge, perception and reasoning in the New Testament. You will need this anchor because the only book in the Bible that contains early church history is Acts. Anchor your soul in the Book of Acts. God's choice was to position Luke's books in the Bible so that all churches must go to the book of Acts to find their beginning. There is no Roman's road to salvation. Luke confirms Salvation is in Acts. Here are some questions and answers about him.

Question No. 1: Who was Luke?

Luke was a Gentile. He was a Greek physician who by nature sought after wisdom. This became a valuable mind-set for when he became a Christian. Seeking after wisdom is part of the hunger of a new Christian. Luke studied medicine. Paul referred to him as "the beloved physician" in Colossians 4:14. About five hundred years before Luke, the Greek Hippocrates became the father of modern medicine. Before that time they used spooky things to cast out disease. Hippocrates taught healing was in medicine. He formulated the oath: Do thy patients no harm. This oath is still used in our day. The knowledge of medicine was an asset to Luke's ministry. Luke understood that the Word of God was like a medicine that discerned the bad in a man's life and changed his thinking for the good. As the life of the flesh is in the blood, so the life of the spirit is in the Word. God used this Gentile to write two books in His Bible. All the other writers were Jews. Luke was not there when the story of Jesus took place. The Book of Luke and part of the Book of Acts were revealed to Luke by God through eyewitnesses. Luke was an eyewitness to the latter part of the Book of Acts. All other church history Luke obtained through eyewitnesses.

Question No. 2: When did Luke appear?

God does things for infinite reasons, most of which are known only to Him. Why He chose Luke to write the early church history is an interesting question. Gentile believers were in Jerusalem and God could have chosen one of these Gentiles to write His message to the Gentiles, but He didn't. One reason could be that it was not necessary to be converted to Judaism before becoming a Christian. Luke appeared in the city of Troas; God sent Paul to Troas in 51 AD. Paul came to Luke's city of Troas with the message he preached everywhere in every church. Luke was transformed by this message earlier also. He became a firm believer in Jesus. His Greek mind had been taught to seek after wisdom. He was now set in motion by his revelation of Jesus Christ. He became a student of the Bible as well as a pursuer of truth. Paul, who sat at the feet of Gamaliel, Acts 22:3, had now opened to him a store of knowledge and wisdom beyond his wildest imagination.

Question No. 3: What was his calling?

Luke was called to be an evangelist. His first spiritual adventure took him with Paul to Philippi. This happened in Acts 16:10 "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord called us for to preach the gospel unto them." This started Luke on a journey that would eventually take him to Jerusalem. Here he would become a friend of the family of Jesus as well as a friend to many other eyewitnesses.

It is interesting to note that in A.D. 56 Paul wrote his first book to the Corinthians from Philippi, at the same time Luke was there. An important verse in that book is: I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. Notice: "The greater part remain unto this present. Luke picked up on that. There were eyewitnesses in Jerusalem in 56 A.D.

Question No. 4: When did he perform?

Luke was in Jerusalem with Paul in 58-60 A.D. when Jerusalem was a seedbed of eyewitnesses. The greater part of the eyewitnesses of Jesus were still alive. It had been sixty-two years since Jesus was born. He was the first-born. All His brothers and sisters were younger than sixty-two and alive. God sent Luke to the Jerusalem eyewitnesses to obtain His truth. In doing this God made every eyewitness an "oath for confirmation" that He would perform what He promised. One eyewitness would speak it, another eyewitness would confirm it, God would anoint it and Luke would write it. Luke's greatest performance was his writing the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

Question No. 5: How could he do it?

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were **eyewitnesses**, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

How did Luke do it? I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. Luke went to Jerusalem with Paul in 58-60AD where the eyewitnesses remained. The eyewitnesses said it. God confirmed it with His Oath. Luke finalized it in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. I obeyed it. It works. Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.