

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a blue button-down shirt. The Bible is open to a page with text. The lighting is warm and soft. The text is overlaid on the image.

NEW TESTAMENT

in a year - August

Daily Bible Reading Plan

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

DONE

This Gospel is proved by its style and language to have been written by a Greek doctor, who was identical with the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, and, as the latter book shows, was a companion of Paul. Only Luke, 'the beloved physician', fits these conditions, and as he was not a man of note, there would have been no inducement to attribute the Gospel to him had he not actually been the author.

The most probable explanation of the abrupt ending to Acts is that Luke brought that book up to date, and that Paul was still in his first imprisonment at Rome when Acts was finished. This would give a date of about AD 62 for Acts, and a year or two earlier as the latest date for the Gospel.

This Gospel lays a special emphasis on the human nature of the Lord Jesus, though witnessing also with certain voice to his deity (see, e.g., 10:21, 22; 24:26, 49). His sympathy with the suffering and bereaved, the despised and the outcast, is brought into clear view, and the universal nature of the gospel, intended for Samaritan and heathen as well as the Jew, is strongly emphasized. The free offer of salvation and the impossibility of acquiring merit come out again and again (e.g., 15:11-32; 17:7-10; 18:9-14; 23:39-43).

This book can be outlined as follows:

- 1:1-2:52 The birth and childhood of Jesus and John the Baptist.
- 3:1-4:13 The preaching of John; the baptism and temptation of the Lord.
- 4:14-9:50 The ministry in Galilee.
- 9:51-19:28 Journeying towards Jerusalem.
- 19:29-21:38 Last days of public teaching.
- 22:1-24:53 The last supper, the arrest, trial, death and resurrection of the Lord.

AUG 1 LUKE 1:1-25

DONE

1. What was the mission assigned to John the Baptist? What was to be the nature of his greatness (verse 15)? Cf. verses 76, 77.
2. What was the cause of Zechariah's punishment (verse 20)? What made him hesitate to believe the angel's message? What similar temptations to unbelief do you face? Why ought Zechariah to have believed, and why ought we to believe?
3. Verses 1-4. What do these verses tell us of: (a) the sources of Luke's information, (b) the importance that he attached to giving a truthful record, and (c) his purpose in writing the Gospel?

AUG 2

LUKE 1:26-38

DONE

1. Verses 31-33, 35. How many features of the person and mission of the promised child can be discerned in the words of the angel? Make a list of them.
2. Contrast Mary's reception of the angel's message with that of Zechariah (see previous study, Question 2). Cf. verse 45. What did Mary's response involve? Are you prepared similarly to ask the Lord to fulfill his word in you? Note. Verse 31. 'Jesus' is the Greek form of Joshua, which means 'God saves'. Cf. Matt. 1"21.

AUG 3

LUKE 1:39-56

DONE

1. What does Mary's song reveal about: (a) the character of God (see especially verses 49, 50), and (b) His way of working among men (verses 51-53)? How were these facts demonstrated in the manner of the Savior's coming?
2. What features in Mary's character are revealed in this song? What can we learn from her example?

AUG 4

LUKE 1:57-80

DONE

The song of Zechariah may be divided thus: verses 68-70, thanks to God for the coming of the Messiah; verses 71-75, the purpose of the Messiah's coming; verses 76, 77, the mission of John; verses 78, 79, a further picture of the Messiah's coming.

1. Trace in the song of Zechariah the successive stages in the unfolding of God's plan of salvation through the Old Testament and up to the coming of the Messiah. How does it reveal the unity of the Old and New Testaments?
2. What, according to this song, is the purpose of salvation? Is this your experience?

AUG 5

LUKE 2:1-20

DONE

1. What may we learn from the circumstances of our Savior's birth, and the stares of his first worshippers?
2. What do the angel's message and the rejoicing of the heavenly host teach us of the importance of the birth of Jesus? How is the shepherds' response to this message an example to us?
3. Verses 1-7. How do these verses illustrate that God controls all human affairs, bringing

about his own purposes through the free actions of men? Cf. with verse 4, Mic. 5:2.

AUG 6 LUKE 2:21-52

DONE

1. Verses 34, 35. What was to be the effect of Jesus' coming on different classes of people? What would be the cause of men's falling and rising? Cf. 1 Pet. 2:6-8.
2. Verse 49. What was the consequence in his life of Jesus' unique relationship to God? In what way does this truth apply to us, as sons of God? Cf. John 14:31.
3. How does the story illustrate the truths of verses 40 and 52?

AUG 7 LUKE 3:1-22

DONE

1. What, according to the preaching of John, are the cause (verses 7-9, 16, 17), nature (verses 8, 10-14), and outcome (verses 3, 15-17) of repentance?
2. What did Jesus' baptism, and the voice from heaven, mean: (a) to Jesus himself, and (b) to the others present? Cf. John 1:32-34.
3. Consider the fearless honesty of John. Note also its result (verses 19, 20).

AUG 8 LUKE 3:23-4:13

DONE

1. Notice the time of the temptation, immediately after the revelation of 3:22, and at the start of Jesus' ministry. What light does this throw on the devil's challenge, 'if you are the Son of God' (4:3, 9)?
2. Consider the special subtlety of each temptation, and the means by which Jesus in each case countered them. Cf. Eph. 6:17. What does this teach us for our own defense against temptation?
3. What can we learn from this passage about the nature of temptation? Note, e.g., at what times temptation may come, what sort of circumstances the tempter may use (4:2; cf. Mark 14:38), etc. How does the passage show that temptation is not sin?

AUG 9 LUKE 4:14-44

DONE

1. Verses 16-21. Jesus speaks to the people of Nazareth, his own home town. What does his use of Is. 61:1-2 teach them of his mission? Why is the claim of verse 21 so startling?

2. Verses 22-30. The people were moved but not convinced (verse 22). How did Jesus interpret to them their unspoken thoughts (verse 23), and what did he go on to imply (verses 25-27)? What made them so angry?
3. Note the testimony of the demons (verses 34, 41). Why did Jesus silence this?
4. This passage illustrates the busyness and urgency of Jesus' mission (see especially verse 43). Why then did he retire to a lonely place (verse 42)? Cf., in this Gospel, 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 11:1; etc. What can we learn from this example?

AUG 10 **LUKE 5:1-26**

DONE

1. Put yourself in the place of Simon. Trace the development of his attitude to Jesus in the successive phases of the story. In what ways is he an example to us?
2. Jesus needed fellow-workers. How and where did he find them? What marked out Simon and his colleagues as suitable? What were, for them, the conditions of being used?
3. Compare the faith of the leper with that of the friends of the paralytic. Of what was the former uncertain? And how did the latter display their faith? What can we learn from these miracles about prayer?

AUG 11 **LUKE 5:27-6:11**

DONE

1. These verses record four encounters with the scribes and Pharisees. What were the grounds of their growing opposition to Jesus? And what were the truths and the principles that (as his answers reveal) determined the actions of Jesus?
2. 5:36-39. What happens when formal religion encounters the new life that Jesus brings? How do the incidents in today's passage illustrate the truth of these verses? Cf. 1 Sam. 15:22; Heb. 10:8, 9.

AUG 12 **LUKE 5:12-36**

DONE

1. Verses 20-26. Contrast Jesus' picture of a blessed life with the world's idea of happiness. Why is a Christian happy in such circumstances? What makes the difference?
2. Verses 27-36. A picture of unselfish love. What should be the source and pattern of our love (verses 35, 36)? Think of practical cases in your own situation to which the principles laid down in these verses apply.
3. Verses 12-19. Note the increasing pressures on Jesus (verses 17-19; cf. verse 11). What two special actions did he take?

AUG 13 LUKE6:37-49

DONE

1. Verses 37-42. What sort of attitude towards the faults of others does Jesus prescribe, and why? What positive actions are commanded here?
2. Verses 43-49. On what does effectiveness and stability in the Christian life depend? What is the remedy for a weak or inconsistent Christian life?

AUG 14 LUKE 7:1-17

DONE

1. Verses 1-10. What are the characteristics of the centurion's approach to Jesus? What can he teach us about a right attitude in prayer?
2. What do we see in these two stories of the character of Jesus concerning: (a) his appreciation of, and love for, people, and (b) his unique authority? Cf. John 5:24.

AUG 15 LUKE 7:18-35

DONE

1. Verses 18-23. What exactly was the doubt in John's mind? Do you find a clue to this perplexity in 3:16, 17? What is the significance of Jesus' reply? Cf. Is. 35:5, 6; 61-1.
2. Verses 24-35. How had the Jews gone wrong in their reaction to John's preaching? What had they failed to see? What does Jesus' estimate of John teach us concerning the greatness of our privilege? Cf. 10:23, 24.

AUG 16 LUKE 7:38-8:3

DONE

1. Compare the Pharisee's attitude to Jesus with that of the woman. How did Jesus answer the Pharisee's criticisms of Verse 39? How did the parable of verses 41, 42 apply to him?
2. What made the woman act as she did? Cf. 8:2, 3. Have you a similar incentive? How can it be expressed?

AUG 17 LUKE 8:4-21

DONE

1. Verses 4-15. What sorts of people do the four kinds of soil represent? What experience have you of the truth of this parable in yourself and in others?
2. Verses 16-21. What do these verses teach about: (a) the responsibilities and (b) the

privileges of Jesus' followers?

3. Why did Jesus now adopt the method of teaching by parables (verses 9, 10)? Do verses 4 and 18 provide a clue?

AUG 18 LUKE 8:22-39

DONE

1. Verses 22-25. 'Where is your faith?' In what way was their faith defective? What did they learn from the incident?

2. Verses 26-39. Compare the man's condition before and after he met Jesus. What evidence can you find of the reality of the change? What can we learn from this about Jesus' power to save?

3. Verses 35-39. What caused the different reactions to Jesus of the cured man and his fellow countrymen? Why did Jesus grant the request of those who wanted to be rid of him, and refuse that of the man he had saved?

AUG 19 LUKE 8:40-56

DONE

1. Verses 43-48. Try to enter into the woman's hopes and fears. What made her touch different from that of the rest of the crowd? Do you have any experiences or a testimony similar to hers?

2. What do these two stories teach us about the importance and nature of faith, and the need to continue in faith? Cf. Heb. 3:14.

AUG 20 LUKE 9:1-36

DONE

1. Verses 10-17. What light do these verses throw on the unselfish love of Jesus, and on his concern for both physical and spiritual needs? Putting yourself in the place of the disciples, what would you have learned from the incident?

2. Verses 18-27. Trace the connection between the three sections" verses 18-20; 21, 22; 23-27. What does this teach us concerning: (a) the goals that Jesus was out to reach, and (b) the demands he makes on those who would follow him?

3. Verses 28-36. What lessons would the disciples learn from this experience about the real character and mission of Jesus? Can you find any connections with the truths they had been taught the previous week (verses 20-27)?

AUG 21 **LUKE 9:37-56**

DONE

1. Verses 37-43. Note the disciples' failure (verse 40). Do you find any significance in the fact that this followed a week of new revelations (verses 22-27)? What ought we to learn from this?

2. Verses 43-56. Further failures of the disciples. Why did they find it so hard to understand Jesus' teaching or to practice it? Do you find the same difficulties? How are they overcome? Cf. Phil. 2:3-8.

AUG 22 **LUKE 9:57-10:12**

DONE

1. 9:57-62. How would you describe the three different types of people referred to here? Why was Jesus not satisfied with their response to his summons to follow him? Contrast Jesus' own attitude (verse 51).

2. 10:1-12. How do these verses show the urgency both in Jesus' own concern for evangelism, and in the work he gives to his disciples? What is the reason for this urgency? In what activities ought it to make us engage?

AUG 23 **LUKE 10:13-42**

DONE

1. What do these verses show of the greatness of our privileges in Christ? In how many of them are you sharing?

2. Verses 21, 22. What caused this outburst of joy? What does this prayer teach us of: (a) the Father's method of working, (b) Jesus' unique relationship to the Father?

3. Verses 38-42. Martha and Mary were concerned about different things. Which did Jesus consider the more important, and how did he solve the tension between them?

AUG 24 **LUKE 11:1-13**

DONE

1. Verses 2-4. This abbreviated version of the Lord's Prayer gives, as it were, the 'iron rations' of prayer. Consider what aspects and themes of prayer are selected as the most essential. How does your prayer measure up to this pattern?

2. Verses 5-13. What attitude in prayer is commended in these verses? What results may such prayer expect? What reasons are we given for confidence in prayer?

AUG 25 **LUKE 11:14-36**

DONE

In verses 15 and 16 two attacks on Jesus are recorded: a charge of collusion with Satan, and a demand for a sign to authenticate his mission. The first is answered in verses 17-26, the second in verses 29-32.

1. How does Jesus show the falsity of the charge that he cast out demons by demonic power? What, on the contrary, do his exorcisms prove about Him?
2. What is the sign of Jonah? Cf. Matt 12:40. Why should the generation to whom Jesus preached stand condemned at the judgment? What was their sin?

AUG 26 **LUKE 11:37-52**

DONE

1. Verses 37-44. How would you summarize the faults of the Pharisees? Translate them into terms of modern life. What attitude and action does Jesus recommend?
2. Verses 45-52. What three charges does Jesus level against the lawyers? Translate these, too, into modern terms. Who may still be guilty in this way? How can such sins be avoided?

AUG 27 **LUKE 11:53-12:12**

DONE

1. In a context of growing opposition and publicity, what does Jesus teach about the security of his people, and of the help God gives in time of need?
2. What, then, should be the disciple's reaction to persecution, both in his outward response and in his inner attitude?

AUG 28 **LUKE 12:13-34**

DONE

1. Was the rich man wrong to make provision for the future? Where did he go wrong? In what does a man's life consist (verse 15)?
2. What should be the central motive in the life of a Christian? If this is taken seriously, what does Jesus here promise with regard to material needs? How could this apply practically in your own situation?

AUG 29 **LUKE 12:35-59**

DONE

1. Verses 35-48. What reasons do these verses give us for being alert? In what ways can we be ready for our Master's return? Against what dangers are we warned here?
2. Verses 49-59. Jesus addresses first his disciples (verses 49-53), and then the crowds (verses 54-59). What warnings does he give to each group about the effects of his coming?

AUG 30 **LUKE 13:1-35**

DONE

1. Trace the connection of thought between verses 1-5 and the parable of verses 6-9. In the light of the parable, what is meant by 'repent' (verses 3, 5)? Cf. 3:8a.
2. Verses 23-30. What is Jesus' answer to the question of verse 23? What determines whether a person is saved or not? What inadequate grounds of confidence are exposed here?
3. Verses 31-35. With what attitude and emotions does Jesus meet the opposition and unbelief of men. What can we learn from him in this?
4. Verses 18-21. What do these similes teach about the expansion of the kingdom of God? Cf. Mark 14:9. What is the relevance of this to evangelism?

AUG 31 **LUKE 14:1-35**

DONE

1. Verses 7-14. How does Jesus' teaching in these verses run counter to the ways of the world? How did his own life exemplify this teaching?
2. Verses 15-24. How is Jesus' parable related to the remark of verse 15? What is it that keeps people out of the kingdom, and who will in fact get there?
3. Note the reason for this stern teaching (verse 25). What, according to verses 26, 27, does discipleship involve? Was this teaching for that time only, or does it apply still?