

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GENEVA
BIBLE SCHOOL



WHO WAS LUKE?

Luke the Evangelist, is widely regarded as the author of both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

Luke wasn't an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry, but he lived during the first century, and according to his own writings, he "carefully investigated everything from the beginning" (Luke 1:1–4). As a traveling companion of Paul, he also likely had direct access to the apostles and other accounts of Jesus' life and ministry (such as the Gospel of Mark).

Paul mentions Luke in passing in Colossians 4:14, but from that mention, we learn that he was a doctor: **"Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings."** His methodical, detailed writings give us the only thorough record of what happened after Jesus ascended to heaven. Without his account in Acts, it would be hard to imagine how Christianity grew from a small, fragile movement within Judaism to what would eventually become the largest religion in the world.



LUKE, EVANGELIST

Like Mark, Luke was a companion of Paul, and like Matthew, he is barely mentioned in the New Testament, even though he wrote the longest of the four gospels as well as the Acts of the Apostles.

The Acts of the Apostles makes it clear that Luke traveled extensively with Paul, and tradition lists him as a coauthor of the Letter to the Hebrews, which is traditionally ascribed to Paul. After Paul's martyrdom in Rome, Luke, according to tradition, was himself martyred, but the details of his martyrdom are not known.

In addition to being the longest of the four gospels, Luke's gospel is extraordinarily vivid and rich. Many details of Christ's life, especially His infancy, are found only in Luke's gospel. Many medieval and Renaissance artists drew their inspiration for works of art concerning the life of Christ from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke is traditionally regarded as one of the 72 disciples sent by Christ in Luke 10:1-20 "to every town and place he intended to visit" to prepare the people for the reception of His preaching.



LUKE'S SYMBOL

An ox

In art, Luke is shown with a winged ox or bull – a figure of sacrifice, service, and strength, because his Gospel begins with Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, offering sacrifice in the temple at Jerusalem. Sometimes he is shown painting an icon of Mary and Jesus.

This gospel **focuses on the sacrificial character of Christ's death, and the ox has always been a sacrificial animal par excellence**, both for Judaism and Roman paganism. In Luke's depiction of the Nativity, the ox, with the donkey, bears witness to the birth of the Messiah.

The ox signifies that Christians should be prepared to sacrifice themselves in following Christ.

Luke's account begins with the duties of Zechariah in the temple; it represents Jesus's sacrifice in His Passion and Crucifixion, as well as Christ being High priest (this also represents Mary's obedience)



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Jesus in detail

Luke tells Jesus' story in extensive detail, more so than any other Gospel. Luke records miracles, sermons, conversations, and personal feelings (Lk 2:19). The writer is a thorough historian who researched everything (Lk 1:3). Luke not only is his the longest of the four gospels, but it's also the the longest book of the New Testament.

The book of Luke shows us Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost (Lk 19:10). We learn all about the God-man in whom we've placed our faith. We see how He lived, how He died, and how He rose again.

Luke's Gospel is written in ways that Jewish and non-Jewish people can understand and appreciate. In Luke, Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah; He is also the savior of the nations (Lk 2:30–32). Luke charts His lineage all the way back to Adam (Lk 3:38). This isn't surprising — after all, Luke spent a great deal of time with the apostle Paul, who shared the good news with both Jewish and Gentile audiences.

Theme verse of Mark:
“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Lk 19:10)



WHY LUKE WAS WRITTEN

Luke states his purpose right away: **this book is meant to give believers an accurate, chronological understanding of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection.**

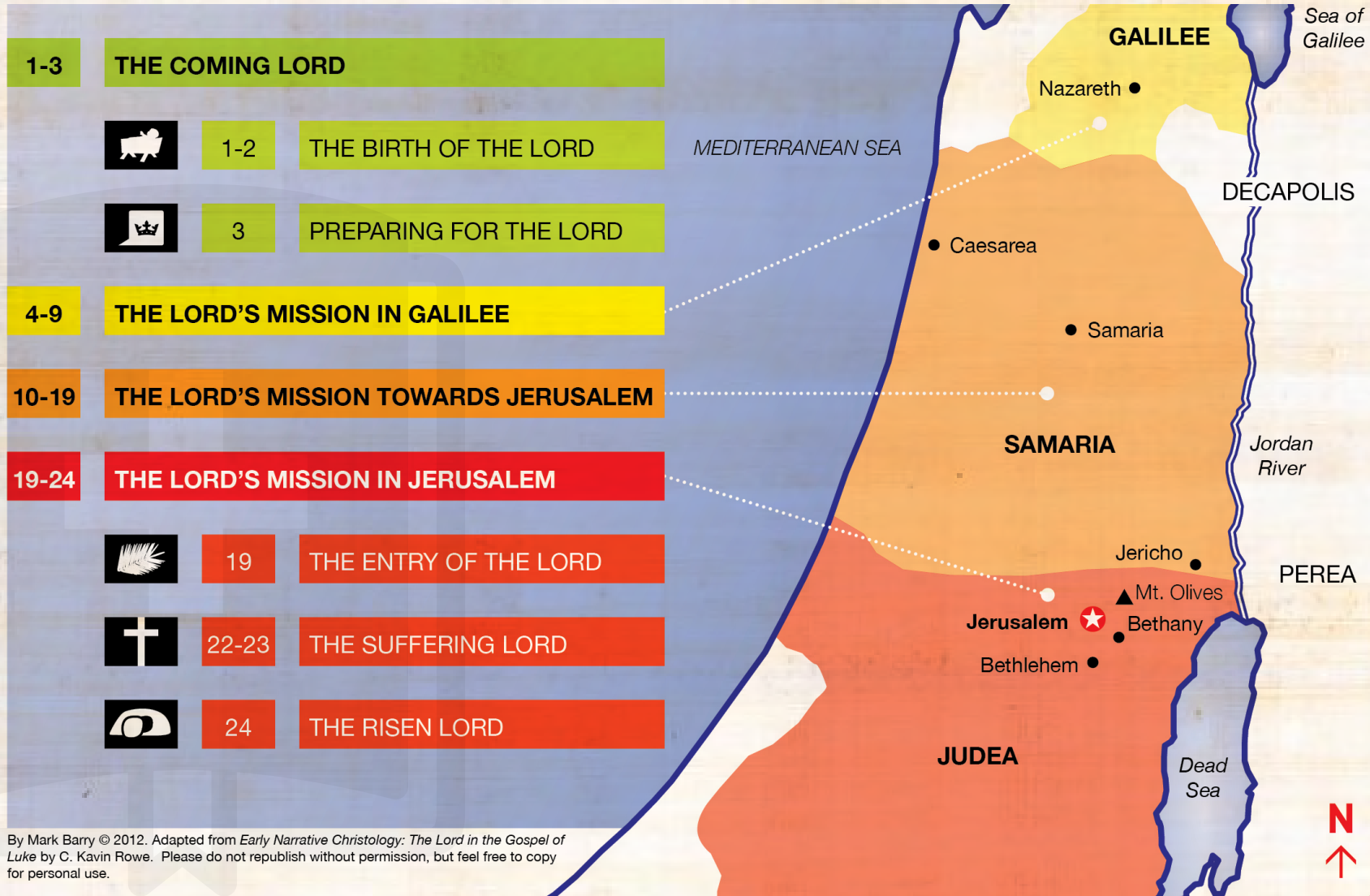
Luke investigated the events of Jesus' life by speaking with eyewitnesses (Lk 1:2), giving Theophilus (and us) a thorough record of the things Jesus did and said.

Luke is written to a Christian with little education in the life of Christ, making this book a terrific starting point for believers interested in studying His life today.

It is the only gospel which records the parables of the Good Samaritan and of the Prodigal Son. It is also the only gospel with a sequel, with the NT book of Acts picking up where the Gospel finishes.



THE STRUCTURE OF LUKE



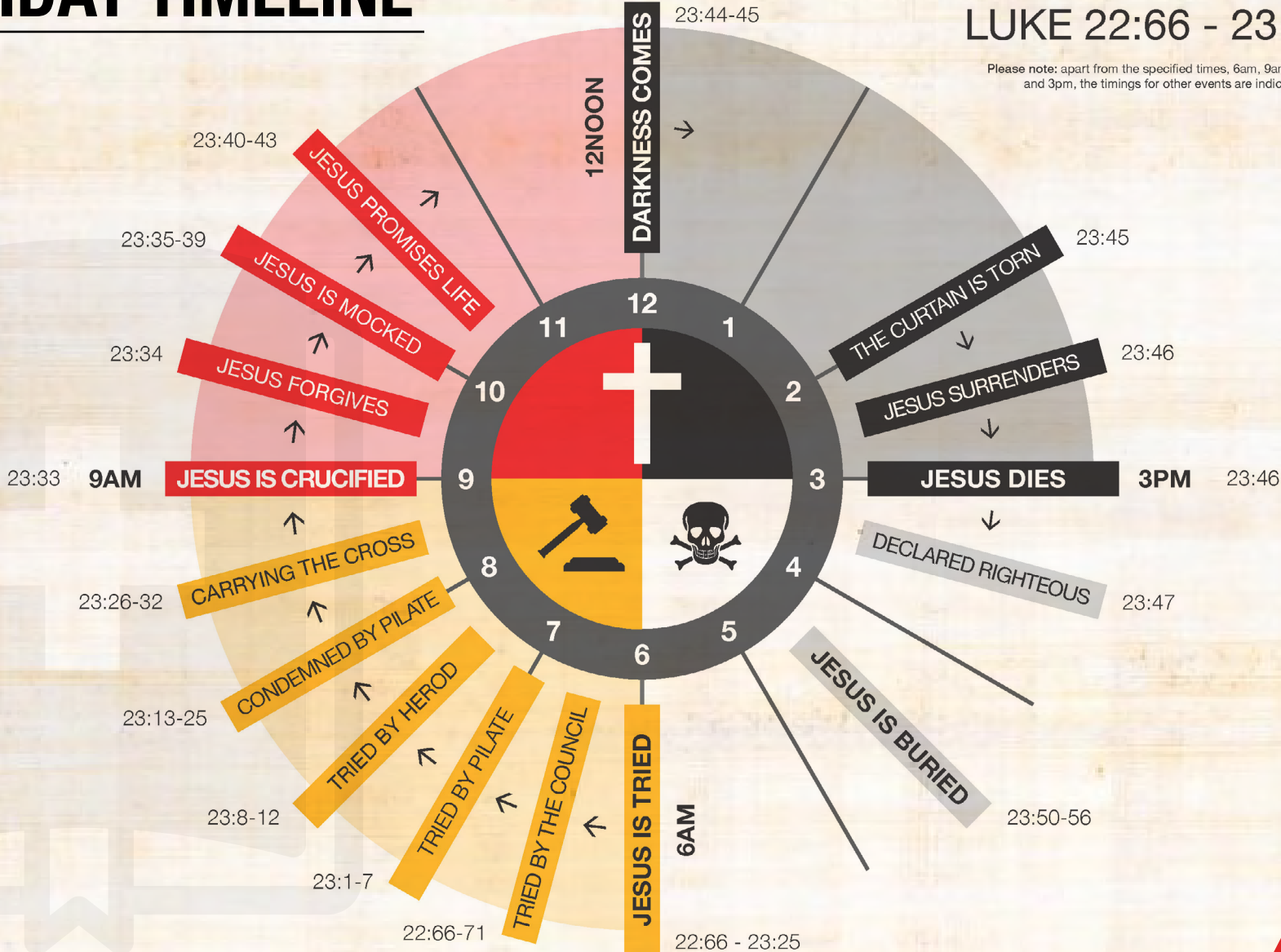
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GOOD FRIDAY TIMELINE

LUKE 22:66 - 23:56

Please note: apart from the specified times, 6am, 9am, 12noon and 3pm, the timings for other events are indicative only.



OUTLINE OF LUKE

1. Jesus' humble origins (Lk 1-3)

2. Jesus brings hope to the oppressed and challenges those in power (Lk 4-9:17)

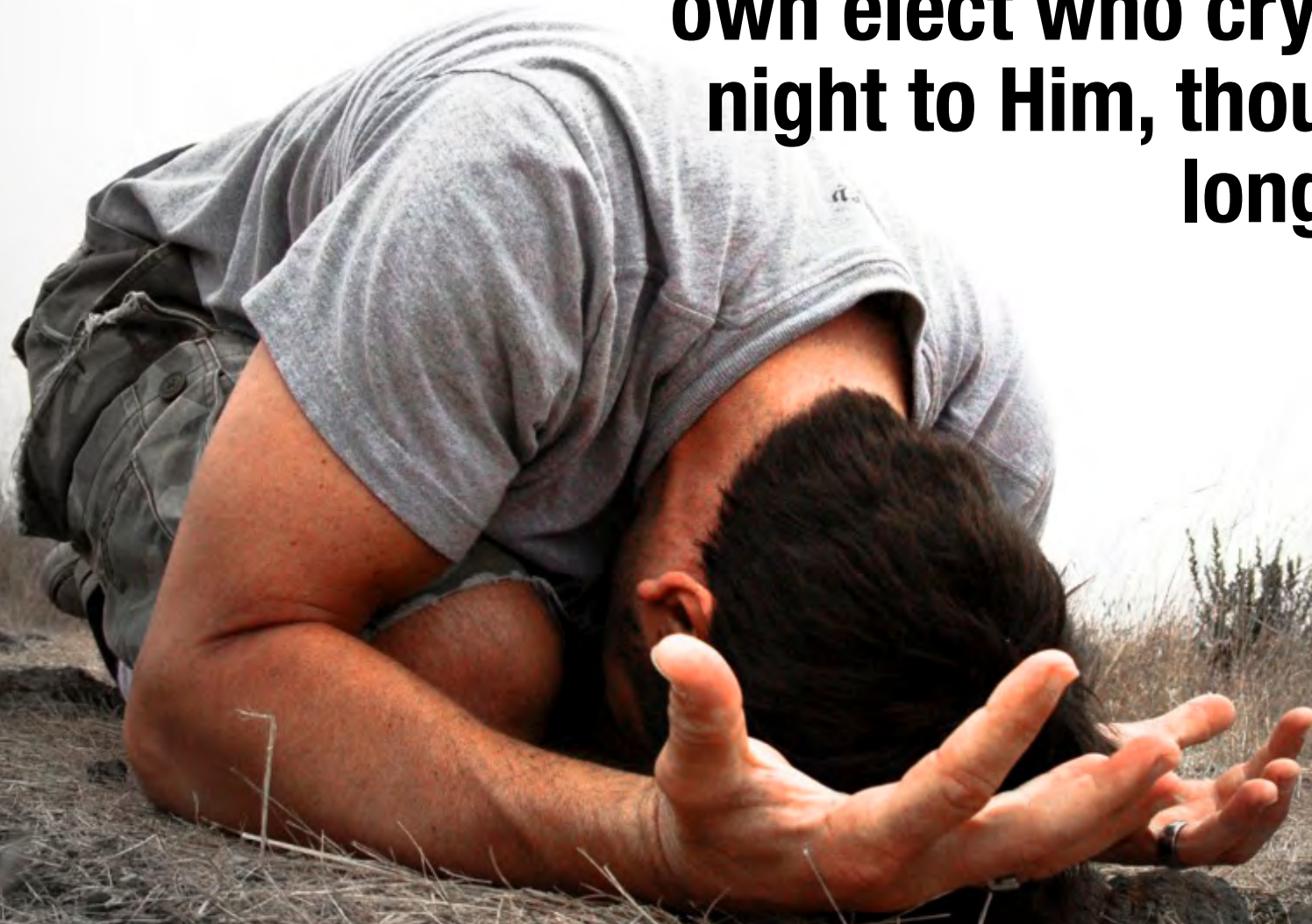
3. Jesus teaches how his kingdom is different than the world (Lk 9:18-19:27)

4. Jesus is killed, practicing what he preached (Lk 19:28-23:56)

5. Jesus rises from the dead, validating his claims (Lk 24)

**And shall God not avenge His
own elect who cry out day and
night to Him, though He bears
long with them?**

Luke 18:7



Thank you!

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