

Luke Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Do you think God was preparing Luke for his ministry long before he became a believer?

In your own life do you see how God put influences and opportunities into your past to prepare you for your present life?

Might there be future things you are already prepared for?

The profession of medicine has valued human life since Hippocrates but seems to be losing the underlying justification for that view. What have been the results of that shift in world view?

Paul describes an ailment he calls “a thorn in the flesh” but it is never named. Is there a reason God may not want to identify this problem?

Some critics say that because the Gospels came later than the epistles, they were not real history. Does it make sense that they were recorded because the apostles were getting older?

Luke says that he carefully investigated everything from the beginning (of Jesus’ ministry) so it makes sense that he interviewed many people and the things he records that are not in the other gospels were from his own reporting. Details of Gabriel’s visit to Mary and Zechariah must have come from Mary.

In the case of officials not available for interview might servants have filled in details about their masters and certain events?

There is a tradition that Pilate’s wife became a believer. If true, what would this have meant to the spread of the gospel?

There are also several varying accounts of Pilate, one that he committed suicide and another that he retired disgraced. How would these outcomes affect the general public and the believers?

How does a historical account based on primary sources distinguish itself from traditions?

Does God’s judgement on Ananias and Saphira surprise you? What was their sin? Why might it be important to deal harshly at that time? Are you glad church discipline has become rare?

How do you think the early accounts affected Luke and all the believers who had come to faith later?

What insight into the workings of the Holy Spirit were revealed by the martyrdom of Steven?

Conversion stories are always powerful evangelistic tools, whether coming out of a life of sin or simply being born again. Compare Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor, dramatically becoming Paul the Apostle with Cornelius the Gentile seeker, who was basically a good man, seeking the Lord with his whole family.

The canonical Scriptures do not contain detailed accounts of the childhood of Jesus. Why do you suppose the Holy Spirit chose to omit those stories?

It seems that the book of Acts ends abruptly and is actually incomplete. Are there things in your life that you wish could have continued longer? Is God likely to have been hindered by human decisions?

Will the spread of the gospel come to a conclusion some day? What should be our response to that possibility?