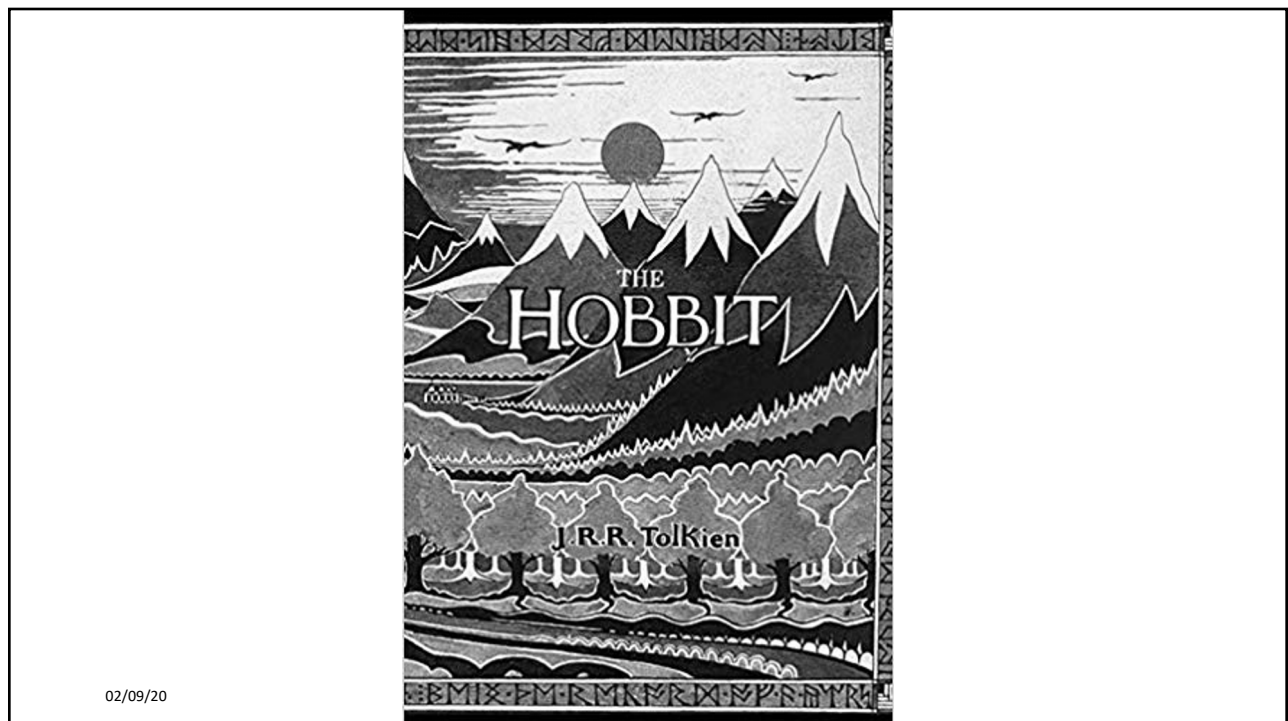




1



2

The Gospel of Luke

- Greatest story ever told
- Good news of Jesus Christ
- Salvation of all mankind
- Is it true? Is it just a myth or legend or fantasy world like Middle Earth or Narnia or Oz?
- Is there any evidence for **faith** in the crucified and resurrected Christ? Can the Bible be trusted?
- What about doubt?

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3

Luke

- Physician (Colossians 4:14)
- Gentile (Colossians 4:10-11)
- Loyal companion of Paul (2 Timothy 4:9-16)
- Author of one third of the New Testament (Luke and Acts)
- Humble servant of God
- Scholar / Historian

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4

Luke 1:1-4

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

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5

Prologue

- The first four verses form a prologue found in other scholarly works of medicine and history of the period
- They are written in a different form of Greek (classical vs. common)
- Luke writes a scholarly work to be placed on the shelf with other great books of truth

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6

Luke 1:1

“1 **Many** have undertaken **to draw up** an account of the things that have been **fulfilled among us...**”

- “Many” – there were many written accounts
- “Draw up” – arrange in a row, orderly
- “Fulfilled among us” – things Jesus accomplished

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7

Luke 1:2

“2 just as they were **handed down** to us by those who **from the first were eyewitnesses** and servants of the word...”

- How do you determine what happened in history if you were not there?
- “Eyewitnesses” – Autoptes (autopsy)
- How many witnesses were there?

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8

1 Corinthians 15

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

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9

Luke 1:3

³ “With this in mind, since I myself have **carefully investigated everything from the beginning**, I too decided to write an **orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus...”

- "having traced the course of all things from the beginning in the minutest detail." (Kenneth Wuest)
- Carefully – Akribos (acrobat)
- “Theophilus” (Also in Acts 1)
- “Orderly account” – Consecutive order

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10

Luke

⁴ "so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

- Theophilus could have assurance (confidence) concerning the Gospel he believed

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11

Luke's Prologue

- The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus were witnessed and written about by many at the time Luke wrote his Gospel
- Luke carefully investigated the events using eyewitness testimonies (Paul, Matthew, Mark, Mary)
- He organized them and set them in consecutive order
- His Gospel is the longest and most comprehensive history ever written about Jesus

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12

Historical Claims

- Historical claims are strong when supported by multiple, independent sources (11)
- Historical claims which are also attested to by enemies are more likely to be authentic since enemies are unsympathetic, and often hostile, witnesses
- Historical claims which include embarrassing admissions reflect honest reporting rather than creative storytelling

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13

Historical Claims

- Historical claims are strong when supported by eyewitness testimony
- Historical claims which are supported by early testimony are more reliable and less likely to be the result of legendary development

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14

Alexander The Great

- 356 – 323 B.C.
- Basically 5 main sources
- The earliest is 300 years after his life
- Does anyone doubt that Alexander existed?



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15

Luke

Jesus
Death
30 A.D.

Mark
50-60
A.D.

John
90 A.D.

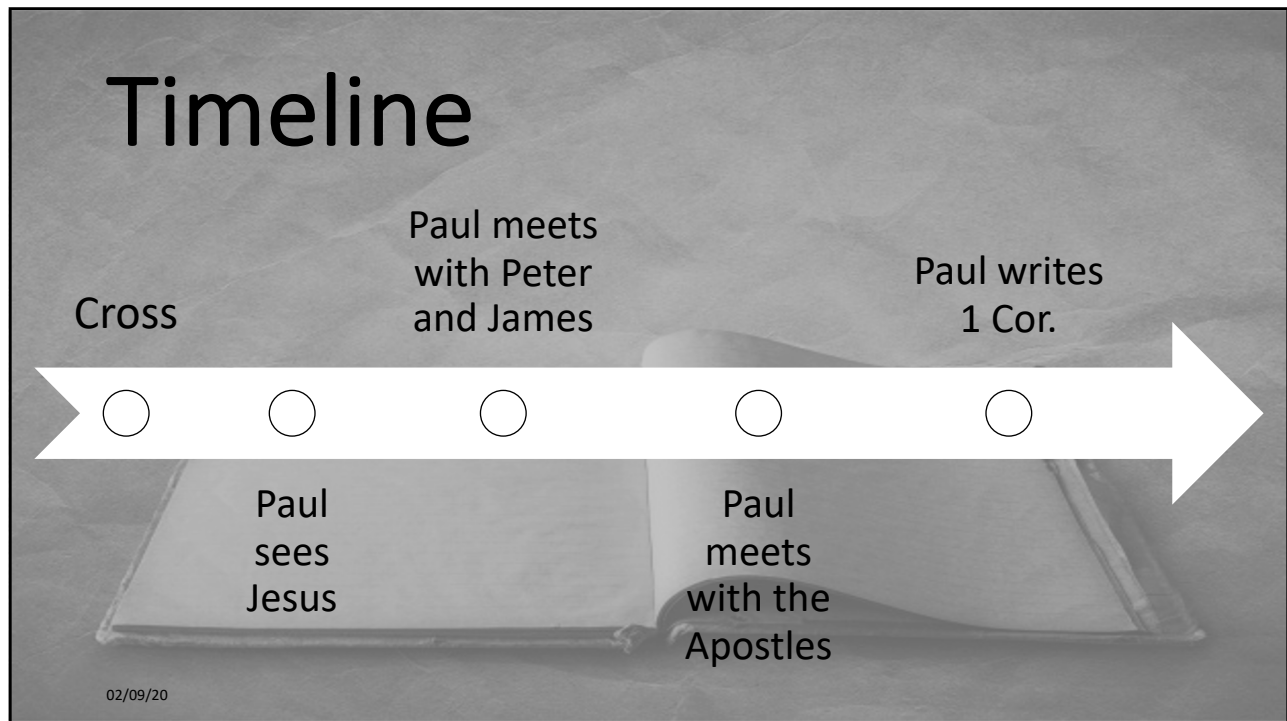


Matthew
50-60 A.D.

Luke
60 A.D.

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16



17

Galatians 1-2

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to **get acquainted with** Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

² Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ² I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles...they added nothing to my message.

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18

1 Corinthians 15

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

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19

Modern Day Scholars

- Seventy-five percent of scholars and historians today accept as fact that Jesus' disciples believed that they saw the resurrected Jesus
- Most are not believers

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20

Minimal Facts Argument

- Jesus died by crucifixion
- The disciples had experiences that they believed were appearances of the risen Jesus
- As a result, their lives were transformed, even to the point of being willing to die for the risen Christ
- They proclaimed the message of the resurrection very, very early

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21

Alternatives

- Swoon
- They lied
- They hallucinated
- Conspiracy

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22

