Luke Chapter 1:1-4 - Answers

1. (:1-4) Who writes this book of the Bible, to whom is he sending it, and why has he written it? (Just read the verses – the answers are right there.)

   • Who writes it?

The answer to this question is in the title of the Book: Luke wrote this. Who is Luke?

1. First, who he’s not: He’s not one of the 12 apostles. (Matthew 10:2-4).
2. And, he’s not Jewish: In Colossians 4:10-14, Paul names 6 fellow servants of Jesus who are with him. Three of those men are Jewish (:10-11), and three are not Jewish (:12-14). Luke is named as one of those who are gentiles – not Jewish.
5. Luke was a physician. (Colossians 4:14)
6. Luke was a beloved and valuable companion of Paul’s as he spread the Gospel message throughout the world. (2nd Timothy 4:11)
7. And Luke was most probably the last person to see Paul alive. He alone was with him at the end of his life. (2nd Timothy 4:11)

   • Who is he sending it to?

He’s sending it to someone named Theophilus. We don’t know any more about Theophilus, but from the warm and kind words Luke addresses to him at the beginning of Luke and at the beginning of Acts, we can assume that Theophilus is someone well-known to Luke and very cared-for by him.
Why has he written it?

I have thought that maybe Theophilus is Luke’s son or son-in-law or grandson. From these first few verses in Luke it looks like Theophilus is a believer in Jesus, and I wonder if he has had personal instruction about the whole Jesus story from Luke himself.

Perhaps Luke’s major incentive for writing this true account of the life of Jesus is to make sure that Theophilus will grow in His faith in Jesus and not ever have reason to doubt that all he heard about Him is true.

Luke knew that others had also taken up the task of writing the story of Jesus. He says he has a “perfect” understanding of all things from the very beginning, The word “perfect” also means “complete”. So Luke knew he had all the facts of Jesus life in a complete form.

What kind of boldness would it take to make this claim? “I have a complete understanding”. I think the Holy Spirit Himself was urging and pushing Luke to accumulate all the stories of Jesus, confidently organize them into a written document, and pass the whole thing on to not only Theophilus, but also to all the believers in Jesus to come over the next 2,000+ years..

God – The Holy Spirit – Jesus….They all decided Luke was one of the 4 men who would write an account of the life, death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus.

That in itself is a bold comment – so here’s why I think we can be very sure that every word in our Holy Bibles is from God Himself:

I believe God has spoken. And I believe the Bible is what He has spoken. Here’s what I mean:

- Dual Authorship - God spoke through men. He used their personalities and experiences and used their very hands to write out His words, but those words are, word-for-word, His very words.-

- Inspired – God inspired men to write the words He wanted them to write. They were not their own thoughts. They are totally trustworthy to be directly from God. Therefore, they apply directly to our lives today, even though they may have been written 6,000 years ago. And not only were the words inspired, but also the men who decided which books would make up the Bible were inspired, too. They were led by God to determine, in a logical and normal way, which letters and writings to include in the canon of the Bible, and which to exclude.
Sola Scriptura — There is no other book like this one. There is no other authority which competes with this one. The Book of Mormon does not. The Koran does not. There is no other word from God which would negate anything in the Bible. If you ask a Catholic educated in their own belief system, if they believe in Sola Scriptura, they will tell you no. They believe that the Bible is the Words of God, yes. But they also believe that the writings and proclamations of the Church Fathers of the past carry more weight than the Bible. They believe church fathers decided what books should be in the Bible, therefore church fathers have more authority than the Bible.

My favorite Bible passages on which I stake this faith:

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:16&17

“No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2nd Peter 1:20

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.” Psalm 19:7-11

Therefore, this is what I do because of what I believe about the Bible:

- Learn about it.
- Go to a church where it is preached every Sunday, verse-by-verse.
- Teach it myself.
- Read it, every day.
- Live it…I try.
- Memorize it.
- Speak it.
2. Can you write an orderly account of the things you know about Jesus, and when and how you came to know them?

If Luke wrote an orderly account to Theophilus, then maybe you and I could do our best to write our orderly accounts – of what we know about Jesus – so that we can do the same thing Luke did…share it.

Here are 6 questions you can use to get your orderly account going. Think of being interviewed, and someone is asking you each of these 6 questions. Write out what your answer would be. In your own words. Just be honest and just be you.

1. Where are you spiritually right now?
2. When did you first start learning things about Jesus?
3. Where did you learn those things?
4. What are some of the things you have learned?
5. As you learned about Him, how did this affect you - your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?
6. In this process of learning about Him, have you ever wanted Jesus to be more real to you…Have you ever wanted to just give your life to Him and let Him be the center of your life? (If you have, make this a part of your orderly account)

I wrote out my answers just a few days before I wrote this Bible study. Here’s my orderly account:

1. Where are you spiritually right now?

At 66, I’m a little overwhelmed at the idea that I have been a believer in Jesus for just about 50 years. How could it have been that long? I know He’s with me all the time - and that He’s been taking care of me for my whole life. I would like to know Him better and better as I walk into my last 20 or so years, and I’m really anxious to finally see Him when I die.

2. When did you first start learning things about Jesus?
3. Where did you learn those things?
4. What are some of the things you have learned?
Our family attended first the Catholic church, and then the Presbyterian church when I was a little girl, and then into my teens. The name of Jesus was familiar to me, and of course I believed that God existed. But that was about it – I knew a few facts.

5. As you learned about Him, how did this affect you - your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?

But at 17 I finally began to know more than facts. I actually felt like He was communicating with me through the preaching at church and through what I read in the Bible. My few facts suddenly were not enough – I wanted to know more about Him. At that time I remember thanking Him for dying for me, and asking Him if He wanted my life. I told Him I knew it probably wasn’t worth much, but I would love to serve Him.

6. In this process of learning about Him, have you ever wanted Jesus to be more real to you…Have you ever wanted to just give your life to Him and let Him be the center of your life? (If you have, make this a part of your orderly account)

In Tucson, Arizona, 1965, in a church service, sitting in the audience, I gave my life to Jesus when I realized He had given His life for me. That’s when I became a Christian. Before that I would have told you I was a Christian because I went to church, but I wasn’t.

Over the years, as I’ve read my Bible, I’ve learned much more of His life and death and resurrection, and I’ve learned that He lives in me because I believed in Him. I’ve learned that He loves faith most of all, and that He has a whole bunch of people in the world whom He loves but they haven’t had faith in Him yet. He yearns for them to hear of Him and have faith in Him. So, because that’s what He wants so much, it’s what I want, too

3. Who would you send this to if you wrote this account? (make a list)

Facebook
To individual people I know, perhaps in a letter or e-mail, where it would be appropriate
I would like to challenge you to write out your orderly account and post it on Facebook, or send it in a letter or email to people in your life who may not know Jesus.

Let’s join Luke in putting it out there for all the world to see – so they can decide whether or not to bow their knee to the Lord of the Universe who died and rose again so that all who believe in Him can live forever.

If I could just ask God a question….

1. Is the Bible really word-for-word from You?

These first 4 verses in Luke’s Gospel are a pretty good jumping off place for this question. After all, Luke felt compelled to write an orderly account of all that Jesus said and did. He felt it was important to get it all down on paper for the sake of all who were coming after him who would need to hear the story as it actually happened. God inspired Luke to care about the facts, gather the facts, organize the facts, compare the facts to the facts, and then record the facts, and send this record to someone who would keep it safe and help pass it on.

That’s a pretty simple picture of what God has done with all of Scripture. He has inspired and compelled ordinary men to write down what happened and what was said so that all who would come after would have a true account to read and think about.

The Bible claims to be inspired by God. Accepting that means I have the very Words of God Himself in my hands when I open my Bible. I can’t ignore any of it, or minimalize any of it. And not accepting what the Bible says about itself means I can’t trust anything in the Bible to be true. After all, if the Bible lies about itself in one place, who am I to decide what else might be a lie?
2. Why would anyone want to hear my story?

Luke told his story because he knew his story would help change lives. Not everyone wanted to hear his story, and not everyone believed his story. But he just kept working on it and writing it down because he was convinced Theophilus and other believers needed to know the certainty of what they had learned about Jesus.

The same is true for you. You may not have a riveting story, but that’s ok. People don’t need to hear your story. The story they need to hear is His story. Talk about yourself in order to get the ball rolling, but tell the story of Jesus.

**Bonus Section:**

*A Little Quiz about the Bible*

*Here are the answers…what are the questions?*

66  
40  
1500  
1189  
33,173  
39  
27  
1  
4,000  
100  
1455AD  
6 Billion  
2,000  
Christ

*Answer Key on back*
**Answers:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>books in the Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>years to write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1189</td>
<td>chapters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33,173</td>
<td>verses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Old Testament Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>New Testament Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bible author who was not Jewish (Luke)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>Time period covered by Old Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Time period covered by New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1455AD</td>
<td>Invention of Printing Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Billion</td>
<td>Copies of the Bible since then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Different languages the Bible is published in today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ</td>
<td>The theme of the whole Bible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>