

## Luke 1:1-4 – Introduction to the Harmony of the Gospels

### Introduction

Aim of this Series: To behold the life, ministry, teachings, death, and resurrection of our Savior leading us to glorify Him

**Primary Focus: Our faith is strengthened and assured when we are confident that the written record of redemptive historical events concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ was carefully investigated by faithful, honest men such as Luke, who were led by the Holy Spirit of God to accurately record what was seen and heard by eyewitness accounts.**

### Why Begin with Luke's Prologue?

1. The Foundation for Trusting Christ, is the building of Faith through hearing God's Word concerning His Son
2. The Bible, both OT and NT concerns the Son of God
3. The Gospels declare the fulfillment of God's OT promises
4. We must begin with what has been written about Jesus in order to believe in Him

### Biblical Skepticism

1. Liberal Scholars deny the miraculous and demythologize the Bible – no virgin birth, no resurrection from the dead
2. Skeptical Scholars Look for the Authentic, Historical, True Jesus behind the miracles described in the Gospels
3. They do not believe what the Church has historically believed for over two millennia according to the Gospels
4. Who will we trust? Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, or will we trust the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> cent. skeptical, biblical scholars?

### The Trustworthiness and Reliability of the Gospels

1. Five Phases of the Transmission of Scripture from God to You, the Reader
2. Phase 1: Historical Events Occurred in Palestine (v 1)
  - a. These Events are Crucial in History
  - b. These Events concerned Jesus, the Son of God (His life, substitutionary & atoning death, & resurrection)
  - c. These events were not random, but *accomplished* (fulfillment of God's design and plan in the fullness of time (**Galatians 4:4**))
  - d. Would it be reasonable to believe that if God set out to accomplish historical redemptive events in His Son, He would have them recorded and interpreted for us?

3. Phase 2: We received the Word through Eyewitnesses (vv 1-2)
  - a. God provided that His message would be passed on by competent witness who would testify to its historical accuracy
  - b. Who are the eyewitnesses? The Disciples of Jesus Christ – they were there from *the beginning*
  - c. The disciples saw and heard Jesus and delivered His Word
4. Phase 3: Luke Carefully Investigated the Historical Events (v 3)
  - a. Luke spoke specifically to the Disciples, Eyewitnesses, Jesus' mother Mary
  - b. Divine Inspiration: Not incompatible with human research
  - c. God works through *natural* means to achieve *supernatural* ends
  - d. God chose the human instrument, Luke, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to research and record the redemptive events
5. Phase 4: We receive the Gospel because Those who Received Divine Revelation from God Wrote it Down (vv 1, 3)
  - a. God superintended the writing of Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
  - b. Many, besides Luke, were writing down these historical events (The Gospel was not spread just by word of Mouth)
6. Phase 5: We receive the Gospel of Christ by Certain, Assured Faith (vv 3-4)
  - a. The purpose of God ordaining written records of His Son is to evangelize and redeem His sheep, and persuade and strengthen the assurance of faith within the church
  - b. Luke's Purpose: Edify Theophilus in what he was taught
  - c. Luke wants people to Know the Truth: How will they know unless there is someone who tells them the truth (**Rom 10**)

### Why We Can Trust Luke, as well as the Other NT Writers

1. They were devoutly committed to truth: lies = an abomination
2. They were companions of Jesus who hated hypocrisy
3. They were friends of Jesus who spoke truth, promising it would set them free
4. They were impartial about their own faults and failures
5. They were inspired by God, the Holy Spirit
6. The veracity of Scripture can be trusted! (**Hebrews 11:1**)
7. Our Goal: Be utterly Convinced Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior
8. We are like Luke, for we were not witnesses to the historicity of Jesus, so we rely on eyewitness accounts (**1 Pet 1:8-9**)