LUKE

APOSTLE OF JESUS

WHO WAS LUKE?

- Was a Gentile, believed to be of Greek origin
- Referred to as "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14) and a companion of Paul (Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4)
- Had a compassionate narrative style with great attention to detail (i.e. the Good Samaritan parable)
- Committed to thorough research (demonstrated in the prologue of his Gospel)
- Traveled with Paul on some of his missionary journeys and went with him to Rome

LUKE'S LEGACY

- His writings leave us with meticulous documentation of accounts from those who directly interacted with Jesus and the early apostles
- Taught deep lessons of compassion and social inclusivity by emphasizing the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21-22; Acts 2), prayer (Luke 6:12-16), and God's grace (Luke 15:11-32), along with his focus on the marginalized—including women (Luke 10:38-42; Luke 8:43-48), the poor (Luke 6:20-21), and Samaritans (Luke 10:25-37)
- Helped influence Christian thought and practice, helping believers understand Jesus' teachings and the early Christian church's role in the divine plan
- Connects the dots from the Jewish expectation of a savior in the line of David to the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Wrote the Gospel of Luke
  - Dedicated to Theophilus
  - Characterized by its thoroughness and attention to detail
  - Aimed at providing a well-researched account of Jesus' life and ministry
  - Includes the famous nativity story, highlighting themes of joy, salvation, and God's favor towards the marginalized
  - Portrays Jesus as the Son of God, a savior for Jews and Gentiles alike, emphasizing the inclusivity of the Gospel
  - Writes about detailed parables, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, which are not found in the other synoptic Gospels
    - These stories, rich in mercy and forgiveness, underscore the universal message of the Gospel and Jesus' role as the Christ, bringing the good news of the kingdom of God to all

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (BOOK OF ACTS)

- Chronicles the early church's growth from Jerusalem to the Roman Empire
  - This account is pivotal in understanding the spread of Christianity and the role of key figures like Peter, James, and Paul in this expansion
- It details the missionary journeys of Paul, Luke's travels with him, and the pivotal moments of the early Christian community
- Emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit in guiding and empowering believers.
- Vividly illustrates the transition of Christianity from its Jewish origins to a faith embracing the Gentile world (Acts 10)
- The book concludes with Paul's arrival in Rome, the center of the Gentile world, where he continues to preach the Gospel without hindrance
  - This journey from Jerusalem to Rome symbolizes the inclusivity of the Christian faith and the fulfillment of Jesus' commission to take the Gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20)