

4:10: *...Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;...* It seems that Demas may have been from Thessalonica, or at least was now calling Thessalonica home. We are never told in scripture when Demas came on board with Paul's teaching, but here in 2 TIMOTHY 4:10 we are told when he left. Demas had traded his preeminent love for Jesus by putting a love for this present world first. It is to those of a heart attitude like Demas that Jesus wrote the Ephesian church in REVELATION 2:4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* At one time Demas had shown his first love for Jesus in his ministering with the Apostle Paul. But apparently he chose a more "popular" path "of the people," and ended up forsaking Paul, having loved this present world. What a marker on his tombstone!

We mentioned this earlier in this study {see page 374 of these notes} where we reprinted the following poem in Sister Bodie's study book of DANIEL, (page 87), whose author is not mentioned, but obviously thought long and hard about Demas and his relationship with Paul after reading the above verse in 2 TIMOTHY 4, and having studied the life of Paul: **Demas at Thessalonica**

I love him still --- a noble soul --- this Paul;
But one must live, the part of wisdom choose.
What gain to Christ, were I to lose my all?
This Christ-mad man reck's not what I may lose.

I labored with him long and faithfully,
A fiery soul, whose zeal no words can tell.
His faith fails not; but yet, it seems to me,
His work is ended in that prison cell.

And so I left him and am home once more.
May follow trade and gain with none to let.
The bay, the streets are pleasant as of yore,
And all my friends are kind --- and yet, and yet---

That face like Luke's upon crowded way,
That glimpse of Jason's house I had today.

Luke

Number eight of the ten Saints we know Paul had eye to eye contact with during his two years of imprisonment here at Rome is Luke, whom Paul calls *...the beloved physician...* in COLOSSIANS 4:14, and *...Lucas, my fellowlabourer...* in PHILEMON 1:24. These two scriptures along with what Paul will later write to Timothy in 2 TIMOTHY 4:11 (*Only Luke is with me...*) is all we have written of Luke in scripture. Yet we have left for us in New Testament scripture 52 chapters of Holy Ghost inspired words penned by this very same precious Saint named Luke. He certainly seemed to maintain a low profile while following, and attending to the high profile man we know as the Apostle Paul. Yet Luke was very active in the ministry, and was used of the Lord to write two documentaries: (1) The Gospel According to Saint LUKE, and (2) The ACTS of the Apostles. In these two biographical works of Holy Ghost inspired scripture we have a unique perspective written from eyewitness accounts put together by Luke himself from numerous interviews he had with some key witnesses to the life of Christ as a man from the very beginning, which took him right up to the present time we are studying about where the Apostle Paul is being held prisoner here in Rome! We will talk more about all of this shortly.

Let's first define who Luke is. Luke's name is contracted from Latin *Lucanus*, and he is found also in scripture mentioned as *Lucas*. Luke and Lucas means: "light-giving," "luminous," "a light," and "white." This thought of "light-giving" is very

appropriate, for Luke shed light on many thoughts, and themes, and lives that we otherwise would know nothing about. Paul tells that Luke is a “fellowlabourer” in PHILEMON 1:24, which we learned previously comes from the same Greek word that also translates into our English as helper, fellowhelper, fellow worker, workfellow, labourer together with, and companion in labour. We mentioned that from this class of Christian followers of the Apostle Paul, who followed Paul as he followed Christ, will come those who will rule and reign with Christ, and who will be in the Bride of Christ. Certainly Luke followed Paul, but more importantly Luke put Jesus first in his own life, and thus was inspired by the Holy Ghost to put together the two books in scripture, which he wrote.

Probably one of the more enlightening things written in scripture about Luke is what Paul writes from his Roman cell in COLOSSIANS 4:14, where Paul calls *...Luke, the beloved physician,...* Of course we know that Paul knew Jesus to be the Great Physician, *...who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;...* (1 TIMOTHY 6:15), so there is no misunderstanding here of what Paul thought of Luke. To Paul Luke was “beloved,” which is to say esteemed dear unto Paul, and worthy of love because of Luke’s love of Christ. And, by the way, Paul is saying that not only is Luke “beloved,” but his credentials also include that of being a “physician.” So we see that Luke was a physician, beloved of Paul. And think of Paul at this time in his life having suffered all of the things recorded in 2 CORINTHIANS 11, including 195 stripes laid on him by the Jews, being stoned, and left for dead once, three times being beaten with rods, numerous perils, plus the many other things recorded in ACTS after the time frame in which 2 CORINTHIANS 11 was written. No doubt Paul was left scarred, and a hurting man until the day he died, and to have a beloved friend who was also a physician brought much comfort to the Apostle Paul. Luke was without a doubt a real blessing unto the Apostle Paul. On commentator notes that Luke was probably taught the science of medicine, which knowledge combined with faith in the Lord provided much aid and comfort to the Apostle Paul. For some of Paul’s health problems Luke became Paul’s medical advisor, and thus Luke earned the moniker “the beloved physician.” In one regard Luke was like a medical missionary, especially to Paul.

Now let’s go back an piece together where Luke most likely came from, and see how it was that he became associated with the Apostle Paul in the first place, and just as important, see how it was that he wrote 52 very informative chapters in the New Testament. We have actually discussed some of this as we have journeyed with Paul throughout this study. So by now we should be familiar with Paul’s missionary journeys, of which there were three main ones. The first was Paul’s missionary journey with Barnabas, and covers the times frame of ACTS 13 and 14. This journey began in Antioch, Syria, and ended in Antioch, Syria. It was at this church in Antioch, Syria where Paul (after he was saved) got his initial start as a teacher. ACTS 11:25 *Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.* Here we see that Barnabas had brought Paul to Antioch, Syria where he taught for a whole year. The church at Antioch, Syria sponsored Paul and Barnabas’ missionary journey. At the conclusion of this missionary journey we find Paul and Barnabas back in Antioch, Syria, and we read in ACTS 14:28 *And there they abode long time with the disciples.* Paul’s second and third missionary journeys also began at Antioch, Syria, and were also sponsored by this assembly. It was Paul’s intention to return to Antioch, Syria after his third missionary journey, but those plans got laid aside when Paul was arrested in Jerusalem back in ACTS 21. Ever since that time, up to this point in our lesson on the life of the Apostle Paul, Paul is still a prisoner of the Roman Empire, now awaiting trial in Rome. It has been seven or eight years since Paul had been to Antioch, Syria. The church who sponsored Paul’s missionary journeys must have wondered what happened to him. Certainly by now the church at Antioch, Syria had learned of Paul’s arrest, but hadn’t heard from him directly as far as we know. Perhaps this very subject came up in discussions between Paul, and Luke, and the Holy Ghost then inspired Luke to write a couple of letters of explanation concerning the events that have taken place since the birth of Christ. After all they were called Christians first at Antioch, Syria according to ACTS 11:26, and had some first hand knowledge and experience of Christ, and His

Apostles.

Luke is thought to be one of the Gentile Christian's who got saved in Antioch, Syria, possibly even a convert of Paul. Perhaps Antioch, Syria was also where Luke was educated in the science of medicine. We first read of Luke when he joined up with the Apostle Paul part way through his second missionary journey in ACTS 16:10 when Paul was at Troas. ACTS 16:10 reads: *And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.* Note the words "we" and "us" used in this verse. It shows the author of ACTS, Luke, had now joined up with Paul during his second missionary travels. Where would Luke know Paul from? The most logical and most probable answer is Antioch, Syria. Paul and Barnabas both had spent much time in Antioch, Syria. Paul was gladly received there, and allowed to teach and preach in Antioch for three prolonged periods of time before the time frame of ACTS 16:10. Study ACTS 11:26; 12:25 & 13:1; 14:26-28; and 15:30-35. ACTS 15:35 sums it up saying: *Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.* Antioch, Syria remained a focal point where people from all over Paul's world gathered, and the Christian assembly there continued strong in the Lord having many teachers from all over the world teaching and preaching the truth. Obviously Luke wrote about this, so he must of had first hand knowledge of these facts. Of course Paul himself could have relayed this same information to Luke. The point we need to note here in ACTS 16:10 is that this is where Luke begins writing a first person account in the book of ACTS. Apparently Luke stays with Paul until ACTS 16:17, where we no longer find the words "we" and "us" in reference to Luke used again until ACTS 20:5, as Paul sets sail for Jerusalem at the conclusion of his third missionary journey. Luke then travels with Paul until the end of Paul's life, making possibly a couple of side trips on his own during these years.

That was quiet a bit of quick information concerning Luke, and his history with Paul, so let's go back a do some catching up. It is obvious from Luke's writings that he knew a man named Theophilus, whom we also have come across before in this study of Paul's life. Theophilus was one of the most prominent men in the church at Antioch, worthy of the title *...most excellent Theophilus,...* and perhaps the Pastor of the church in Antioch, Syria. If so, Theophilus was then Luke's Pastor. Obviously Luke well respected Theophilus, and addressed his two documentaries unto *...most excellent Theophilus.* Luke also knew what Theophilus knew and taught about Christ, and wrote him a record of what took place as far as Luke was privileged to discover. So Luke writes in: LUKE 1:1-4 *Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.* Here is verse 3 we find that Luke declared he had a perfect, complete, understanding of the things which happened from the beginning of the birth of Christ, up to the events which happened unto the Apostles after Christ's death and resurrection that led to the conversion for those first called Christians up at Antioch, Syria. Luke was writing Theophilus the order in which those events took place, and *...the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*

Now think about this, for this was quite an undertaking, yet Luke being inspired by the Holy Ghost, knew he could put these events in order. How? By recording accounts from first hand witnesses, and ministers of the word, the things that they saw, which they told Luke about. So who did Luke interview, and when did he have the time to interview these people? Recall earlier in our study on the life of Paul that Paul was held prisoner for more than two years by governor Felix in Caesarea. {Study ACTS 24:23-27.} Caesarea was close enough to Jerusalem so that Luke could have easily traveled back and forth in a couple of days time. Thus Luke could interview the Kingdom Apostles there at Jerusalem, and ask them questions concerning their travels with Jesus. Additionally Luke obviously spent some time with Jesus Mother Mary during these two years, and got her first hand account of the angel Gabriel visiting her, and Zacharias

before her. No other authors of scripture record this! Luke got to hear from Mary herself the very things she so long pondered in her heart, and he wrote them down! {Study LUKE 2:19 and 2:51.} So we get a little hint of how Luke obtained the unique understanding he wrote Theophilus about. Luke had the time to get this information while Paul was being held in Felix's prison.

And thank God for Luke following the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to write down what he did, because we too learn so much more that we would know without his writings. For instance all we know of Theophilus come from the writings of Luke. Without Luke we wouldn't know who John the Baptist's parents were, (Zacharias and Elisabeth ...LUKE 1:11 & 12). Without Luke we wouldn't know the conversation that Mary the Mother of Jesus had with the angel Gabriel, who announced to her that she was to be the Mother of Jesus. Without Luke we wouldn't know that Jesus and John the Baptist were second cousins. Without Luke we wouldn't know Mary's prayer of rejoicing unto the Lord made in front of John the Baptist's Mother. Without Luke we wouldn't know that Mary the Mother of Jesus spent her first three months of pregnancy with John the Baptist's parents. Without Luke we wouldn't know the full story of John the Baptist's birth. Without Luke we wouldn't know the anointed prayer of John the Baptist's Father after his birth. Without the stories of Luke we wouldn't know how it was that Mary and Joseph came unto Bethlehem where Jesus was to be born. Without Luke we wouldn't know anything about the shepherds who had the angel of the Lord appearing unto them and telling them of the birth of Jesus, nor would we know anything about the heavenly host that appeared at the same time praising God. Without Luke we have no manger scene. Without Luke we wouldn't know about the circumcision of Jesus. Without Luke we wouldn't know the story and prophecy of Simeon, nor the prayer of Anna when Jesus was brought to the temple as a baby, nor would we know how really dirt poor his parents were. Without Luke we wouldn't know the story of Jesus as a twelve year old! Without Luke we wouldn't have the genealogy of Jesus traced through the line of His Mother all the way back to Adam. Without Luke we wouldn't have The Gospel According to LUKE, which portrays Jesus as THE MAN! Without Luke we would have the record of Jesus preaching from ISAIAH at the synagogue of Nazareth where He had been brought up. {LUKE 4:16-30.} Without Luke we wouldn't know the story of the two men traveling to Emmaus on the day of His resurrection. All of the above events are recorded by Luke in his first record called The Gospel According to St. LUKE.

Then Luke took it upon himself to pen another record on what took place after Jesus resurrection, and send this account also to Theophilus back in Antioch, Syria. This record we know as the book of ACTS, which really doesn't end, but concludes with Paul being held prisoner here at Rome. So Luke writes again: ACTS 1:1 *The former treatise have I made, C Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.* In the gospel of LUKE, Luke begins his account with the story of John the Baptist's parents, and ends with the events immediately after Jesus resurrection. Here in ACTS 1 Luke makes quick reference to John the Baptist as he begins to expound the record of what happened after the day Jesus was taken up. In the 28 chapters of ACTS Luke again tells us much of what we otherwise would not know. Here again without Luke we wouldn't know what took place forty days after Jesus resurrection, and the ten days before Pentecost, which including the choosing of Matthias as a replacement for Judas Iscariot. All of this is recorded in ACTS 1. In ACTS 2 Luke gives the only record we have on what took place in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, and Peter's first sermon where about three thousand souls were saved! Perhaps it was Peter himself who told Luke this information, but more probably Luke got several first hand accounts of this very same event. In these first two chapters the Holy Ghost inspires Luke to bring the Apostle Peter to the fore front, where he remains prominent until ACTS 13. Without Luke we wouldn't know

much about the preaching of Peter, and the trials he and the other Apostles had with the Sanhedrin. Without Luke's record in ACTS we wouldn't know nothing of the miracles, signs and wonders performed by the hands of these Apostles. Nor would we know about a Pharisee named Gamaliel. Without Luke we wouldn't know the origins of Barnabas, or the story of Ananias and his wife Sapphria. Without Luke we wouldn't know about Stephen, and Philip, the two Holy Ghost filled men of renown of the seven in ACTS 6. Without Luke we wouldn't have a record of the sermon of Stephen in ACTS 7, where also a man named Saul of Tarsus was introduced. (We have mentioned this before how that the former Saul of Tarsus, our Apostle Paul, was so pricked in his heart by the sermon of Stephen, that he could recall years later the very words that Stephen spoke that day in ACTS 7. Who else heard that sermon? The Jewish Sanhedrin council, but Luke didn't know any of them, nor would they have remembered Stephen's sermon, for Stephen's Holy Ghost inspired message reached the one man who heard his final words: "...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge..." ACTS 7:60.) In ACTS 8 Luke records the ministry of Philip. Without Luke we wouldn't know that Philip was led of the Lord into the desert to witness unto an Ethiopian eunuch. Without Luke we wouldn't know that later in life Philip had four beautiful daughters who did prophesy. Without Luke we wouldn't know much of the background of one man name Saul of Tarsus. Without Luke we wouldn't have three different records of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Without Luke we wouldn't know about Ananias of Damascus, and the important roll he played in the life of Paul in the earliest days of his Christianity. Without Luke we wouldn't know anything about the church in Antioch, Syria, and the important roll they played in Christian history. Without Luke we wouldn't know where the word Christian came from. Without Luke we wouldn't know nothing of Paul's different missionary journeys! Without Luke we wouldn't know very much about the important place that Corinth, and Ephesus, and Philippi, and Thessalonica, had in the life of the Apostle Paul. Without Luke we wouldn't know much about Apollos, or Aquila and Priscilla, and how they all came to know and love Paul's doctrine, and went on to be ambassadors for Christ. Without Luke we wouldn't know very little about the background of Timothy. Without Luke we would know almost nothing about Silas. Without Luke we wouldn't know about the prophet Agabus. Without Luke we wouldn't know about the conversion of the Philippian jailor. Without Luke we wouldn't know that the Apostle Paul spent two years at Caesarea in prison, where he got to witness to governors and kings! Without Luke we wouldn't know about the serious ship wreck of ACTS 27, and Luke himself was in this shipwreck! Without Luke we wouldn't know Paul's living conditions his first two years in Rome.

All of these unique accounts from the pen of Luke just give us a small hint of the important things the Holy Ghost inspired him to write. Apparently Luke realized the important time and place he was given to live in Christian history, and was gifted of the Lord to properly record the things he was witness to. And Luke also had a humble writing style. When men tell a story, a unique story of what they know, they usually use the words "I," "me," and "myself," and they use these words a lot. Study the first four verses of LUKE 1, and the first three verses of ACTS 1 where Luke is writing about himself, and his reason for writing the stories recorded of Luke in the first place, and you will only find the word "I" once! And that is in ACTS 1:1. You will only find the word "me" once, and that is in LUKE 1:3. From this we note that Luke was not conceited or totally focused upon himself, but rather Luke was a humble man with a clear focus upon the important things of God. Who does Luke draw attention too? The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the very center of Luke's focus. Luke does use the words "we" and "us" several times in his writings in reference in part to himself, and as he does so we see Luke as a team player, and not the center of attention. Luke never focused the attention upon himself, but always seemed to bring attention to what the Lord was working through all of these many events Luke was allowed to record.

Yet beside all of what Luke wrote, we still know very little of Luke himself. From what we have just learned, Luke truly and deeply loved the Lord, was deeply devoted unto the Lord, and went to great lengths to see that the truth of the gospel was preserved. Luke couldn't write the 52 chapters he penned without the unction and inspiration of the Holy Ghost, by whom also was given Luke the additional great confidence and conviction that what he was telling was indeed true. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 All

scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:... . We should then realize that Luke was a man full of the Holy Ghost himself, willing to let the Holy Spirit guide his pen as he inked 52 chapters of unique scripture! Luke was additionally given the opportunity to be a witness to much of the ministry of the Apostle Paul, recording what the Holy Ghost inspired him to write about it. Luke also got to know many of these people he wrote about, including the other ten whom we know visited Paul during these two years at Rome. Certainly Paul also encouraged Luke in his documentary writings to Theophilus of early church history.

We did mention in our introduction of Luke that Paul would write in his final epistle *...Only Luke is with me...* 2 TIMOTHY 4:11. It seems that Luke stayed with, or near Paul until Paul's final day here on earth. Truly to Paul, Luke was *...the beloved physician...* that Paul wrote of him in COLOSSIANS 4:14, a true friend, and very close brother in the Lord, who encouraged Paul to run with patience the race that was set before him until the day he went home to forever be with Jesus.

One thing we should have noted in our discussions of Luke above is that he walked in the same steps, and same spirit as Paul, sticking with Paul till the end. Paul wrote the same of Titus in 2 CORINTHIANS 12:18 *I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?* Some commentators of scripture mention that the brother sent of Paul to Titus might possibly have been Luke. Since this verse doesn't say one way or the other, we have no way of knowing for sure. A similar scripture is referenced in 2 CORINTHIANS 8:18 *And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;...* . Titus is the subject person in this verse, and "the brother" sent with him is unknown. Coneybeare lists four possible choices of "the brother" spoken of here: Luke, Gaius, Tychicus, or Trophimus. One commentator adds that the phrase "the brother" is equivalent to "the brother" of Titus, meaning "his brother," which, if true could indicate that Luke was Titus' brother. This could explain why Titus name is not mentioned in the book of ACTS. Certainly Luke knew Titus for we noted earlier in this study {see page 578 of these notes} that Titus was pretty much a constant traveling companion of the Apostle Paul ever since he started his third missionary journey, and possibly even his second.

Thank God for the 52 "light-giving," "luminous" chapters of holy scripture that were inspired by the Holy Ghost through the pen of Luke! Luke certainly made the most of the one life he was given to live for Christ. Recall the words from a poem Brother Hill liked to quote: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last." {The complete poem is called *Only One Life* by Charles Thomas (C. T.) Studd (1860-1931) an English missionary to China, India, and Africa.}