

LUKE'S GOSPEL

Luke is writing in an 'orderly way' (Lk.1.1-4). He is a literary artist who, like all the Gospel writers, puts 'true meaning' before 'historical truth'. He uses chiasm (1-5,C,5'-1') at three levels in all (in shaping his gospel, his central teaching and his genealogy of Jesus). For 'Gentiles', this Gospel is a re-structured and amended version of Mark's and Matthew's Gospels and it includes Luke's own additional material. The presentation begins, turns and ends on activities happening, or about to happen in Jerusalem. And in the opening scenes 'Law' and 'Grace' have their contrasting roles, as also at the Gospel's centre and at its end. (Paul would have approved of this!)

Section 1: 1.1-80 Prologue; Angel's Announcements: Promises of Births;

(80 verses) **Belief and Disbelief; John the Baptist's Birth**

A(Prologue: aa')B(AA')B'(AA') 1.1-2/3-4; 5-25/26-38; 39-56/57-80

Section 2: 2.1-52 Jesus' Birth; Salvation

(52) I(ABB')C(ABA')I'(ABB') 2.1-20; 21-40; 41-52

Section 3: 3.1-4.44 Jesus' Baptism, Genealogy, Three Trials & Rejection

(82) I(ABA')C(ABA')I'(ABA') 3.1-20; 21-4.30; 31-44

Section 4: 5.1-8.21 'Sinners to Disciples'

(159) I(4(AA'))C(ABA')I'(4(AA')) 5.1-6.19; 20-49; 7.1-8.21

Section 5: 8.22-9.43a Jesus' Identity: 'the Christ', His 'Death',

(77.5) **Glorious Return as Judge, His Glory: Disciples' Purpose**

I(ABB')C(ABA')I'(ABB') 8.22-56; 9.1-22; 23-43a

Section C: 9.43b-19.48 Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem

(436.5) **(I) Setting Out; Fate of Jesus & Cities; 3 'Disciples'?**

I(ABB')C(ABA')I'(ABB') 9.43b-50; 51-10.20; 21-24

(C) His Teachings on 'the Way' 10.25-18.30 - - -

(I') Arriving; Fate of Jesus & Jerusalem; 3 'Servants'?

I(ABB')C(ABA')I'(ABB') 18.31-19.10; 11-28; 29-48

Section 5': 20.1-21.36 Jesus in the Temple: His 'Death',

(83) **'the Christ', Return as Judge in Glory; Disciples' Purpose**

I(ABB')C(ABA')I'(ABB') 20.1-19; 20-21.4; 5-36

Section 4': 21.37-22.53 'Disciples to Sinners'; Jesus' Arrest

(51.5) I(2(AA'))C(ABA')I'(2(AA')) 21.37-22.13; 14-30; 31-53

Section 3': 22.54-23.25 Jesus' Three Trials & Denials/Rejections

(42) I(ABA')C(ABA')I'(ABA') 22.54-62; 63-23.12; 13-25

Section 2': 23.26-56a Jesus' Death; Salvation

(29.5) I(ABB')C(ABA')I'(ABB') 23.26-31; 32-49; 50-56a

Section 1': 23.56b-24.53 Angels Announce, 'Jesus is Risen!';

(53.5) **Belief & Disbelief; a New Promise (of Jesus)**

A(AA')B(AA')B'(AA') 23.56b-24.7/8-11; 13-27/28-35; 36-43/44-53

1 Inheriting Eternal Life: Law and Love

ABB' 10.25-30a; 30b-37; 38-42

2 Prayer: Right Praying, Persistence, Holy Spirit is Given

ABB' 11.1-4; 5-8; 9-13

3 The Kingdom of God: what is Internal is Important

ABB' 11.14-36; 37-54; 12.1-12

4 Earthly/Heavenly Riches: the Coming of the Son of Man

ABB' 12.13-21; 22-34; 35-48

5 Divisions, Warning & Prudence, Repentance

ABB' 12.49-59; 13.1-5; 6-9

C Kingdom: Entry; Jerusalem: Jesus is to be killed there

I(ABB')C(AA')I'(ABB') 13.10-30; 13.31-33/34-35; 14.1-24

5' Divisions, Warning & Prudence, Repentance

ABB' 14.25-35; 15.1-10; 11-32

4' Earthly/Heavenly Riches: Coming Judgement

ABB' 16.1-13; 14-18; 19-31

3' The Kingdom of God: is Within, not Coming with Signs

ABB' 17.1-10; 11-19; 20-37

2' Prayer: Persistence, Right Praying, Receiving Kingdom

ABB' 18.1-8; 9-14; 15-17

1' Inheriting Eternal Life: Law and Love

ABB' 18.18-22; 23-27; 28-30

Luke's writing style is ABB' where A is introductory, B is the first development and B' is the second and concluding development. Luke's sectional style is ICI' where three parts are in chiasm, a centre part with balancing parts each side. His sub-sectional style exhibits variation: ABA' which is like ICI' but at a smaller scale; AA' which is like ABA' but without the centre B, where two parts are in simple balance; and ABB' which is the same as his writing style.