##### INTRODUCTION. Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the King, Mark presents Jesus as the servant, John presents Jesus as God, but Luke presents Jesus as a man. The key verse is Luke 19:10. Luke was Paul’s companion and a physician (Colossians 4:14). He was a likely a Gentile who was highly educated. Note that Luke wrote his account to all men (Luke 2:10).

**Jeremiah 33:15**, “In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.”

**Jeremiah 23:5**, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”

**Zechariah 3:8**, “Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.”

**Zechariah 6:12**, “And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:”

**Isaiah 4:2**, “In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.”

**Luke 19:10**, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

1. **LUKE’S DECLARATION. Verses 1-2**
2. **The growing confusion regarding the facts. (Verse 1a)** “…many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us.” Apparently, there were many writings about the Lord Jesus Christ in the first century – some true and some false. This explains the so-called discovery of many *Gnostic gospels.* The Holy Spirit had already inspired Mark and Matthew may have already been written. John would not pen his account for another thirty years. Along with Luke’s gospel these are included in the inspired writings. However, a multitude of others was rejected.
3. **The great confession regarding the faith. (Verses 1b-2a)**  “…those things which are most surely believed among us” would include the incarnation, the substitutionary atonement and the resurrection. The basic doctrines of Christ were established.
4. **The glorious confidence regarding the foundation. (Verses 2b)** Luke was educated and methodical. His account is based upon eyewitness testimony. It is not the result of myth or hearsay. Ultimately, Luke was a man with confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Peter 1:16**, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

1. **LUKE’S DETERMINATION. Verse 3**
2. **The source implied. (Verse 3a)** Luke had “a perfect understanding of all things” and this came largely from his observation of and conversation with individuals who had known the Lord Jesus Christ. He was probably exposed to many of the apostles and disciples of our Lord. Luke was surely a close companion of the apostle Paul having accompanied him during much of his missionary work (Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16). He was so influenced by the apostle that this book has been referred to as the Gospel of Paul. Additionally, Luke studied the Gospel of Mark because approximately 320 of Mark’s 661 verses are included in the Gospel of Luke. Finally, the Holy Spirit of God inspired Luke (2Peter 1:21). The Lord used Luke’s experience and knowledge. However, the Holy Spirit is responsible for the content and the Holy Spirit included Luke’s gospel in the *canon* of scripture.
3. **The system employed. (Verse 3b)** Luke was determined to “write…in order.” He desired to place things related to the First Advent in proper order and he labored to present the correct chronology.
4. **LUKE’S DEDICATION. Verses 3c-4**
5. **The title by which Theophilus is introduced. (Verse 3c)** Luke addressed this writing as well as *The Acts of the Apostles* to the “most excellent Theophilus.” This was a common name meaning “beloved of God” and Theophilus was probably a Gentile convert. He was likely an official of Rome because Luke recorded similar terminology in Acts 23:26 and 26:25. Nothing more is known of him.

**Acts 1:1**, “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,”

**Acts 23:26**, “Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.”

**Acts 26:25**, “But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.”

1. **The truth in which Theophilus is introduced. (Verse 4)** Theophilus had been “instructed” in “those things which are most surely believed among us.” *The Gospel According to St. Luke* was written to strengthen Theophilus in his faith. John said, “These things have I written…that ye may know” (1 John 5:13) and Paul said, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). In the same way, Luke wrote “That thou (Theophilus) mightest know the certainty of those things.” The written Word of God has the same effect on all believers.

**Luke 18:8**, “I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

**2 Timothy 2:18**, “Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”