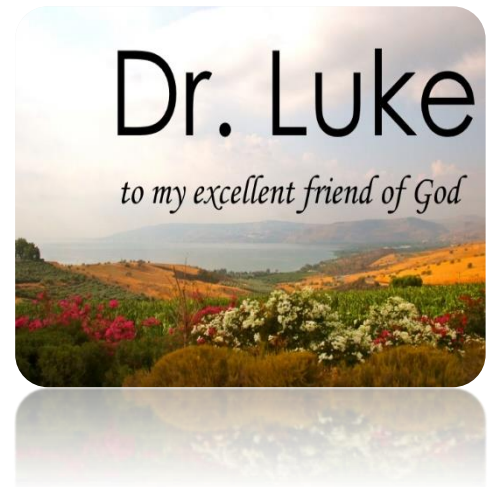


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Luke, the beloved physician, what an interesting person he must have been. The renowned archaeologist Sir William Ramsey wrote of him: Luke is a historian of the first rank. Not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... but he should be placed along with the very greatest of historians. Luke has been compared with the Greek historian, Thucydides, who is often called: the father of scientific history... because of his strict standards of evidence gathering and analysis. Luke was not an eye-witness to Christ; but he was a disciple of Paul.



The previous chapter ended saying: You are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, And in your seed / in Christ the Messiah... all the families of the earth be blessed. To you first, God raised up His Son Jesus, and sent Him to bless you, by turning every one of you from your sins.

The beginning of persecution,

¹ And as they spoke to the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees, confronted them,

² being annoyed that they were teaching the people, and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

³ And they seized them / Peter and John, and put them in jail until the next day: since it was already evening.

⁴ However many of those who heard their message believed; and the number of men was about five thousand.

⁵ And it happened the next day, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

⁶ and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all those of the high priest family, assembled at Jerusalem / it is interesting, in this list of the family of the high priest, the next son's name is missing; and what is it? Theophilus, which is also the name of the person Dr. Luke is writing his highly researched letters to. Theophilus was high priest at the time of Steven's inquisition and death.

And was an emergency session of the Sanhedrin called?

⁷ And when they put Peter and John before them, they began to question them: By what power, or in what name, have you done this?

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, You rulers and elders of the people Israel,

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⁹ if we are being examined this day for a good deed done to a disabled man, as to how he was made well;

¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus the Messiah of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead -- by this name does this man stand here before you, healthy.

¹¹ This Jesus is **the stone rejected by you, the builders, that became the very cornerstone.**

¹² There is no **salvation** in any other / in Hebrew: **Yeshuah** means salvation, from where comes the name **Jesus**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we are saved.

¹³ Now when they saw the courage of Peter and John, and realized they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and recognized **they had been with Jesus.**

¹⁴ And seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they had nothing to say to them.

¹⁵ But after they ordered them to leave the council, they conferred among themselves,

¹⁶ questioning, What should we do to these men? for an obvious miracle has occurred by them, clear to all who dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

¹⁷ But that it spread no further among the people, let us right now threaten them, that they speak from now on to no one in this Name.

¹⁸ And they called them, and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, **Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you be the judge.**

²⁰ For we will not stop speaking about the things which we have seen and heard.

²¹ So after they threatened them further, they released them, finding no basis to punish them, because the people were all giving glory to God for what was done.

²² For this miracle of healing was given to a man more than forty years old.

²³ And being released, they went to their own people, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

²⁴ And when they heard this, together they raised their voice to God, and said, Lord, You are the One, who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them:

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²⁵ Who through the mouth of Your servant David / inspired by the Holy Spirit... said, **Why did the nations rage, and the people plot futile things?**

²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ / His Messiah.

²⁷ For in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel gathered against Your holy Son Jesus, whom You anointed,

²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your will, in the past determined to do.

²⁹ And now, Lord, see their threats: and grant that Your servants, may speak Your word with all boldness,

³⁰ while You stretch out Your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders be done through the name of Your holy Son Jesus.

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they assembled shook; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they all spoke the word of God boldly.

³² Now the assembly of those who believed were of one heart and being: **and no one claimed the things which he possessed was his own; but all things were common to them.**

³³ And with great power the apostles gave eye-witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and abundant grace was on them all.

³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them: **because all who were owners of land or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what were sold,**

³⁵ and laid them at the feet of the apostles: and distributed to each person as any had need.

³⁶ And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated, Son of support),

³⁷ who having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the feet of the apostles.

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