

New Testament: Gospel of Luke

St. Paul calls Luke "the beloved physician" and we know from the Acts of the Apostles (which Luke also wrote) that he spent much of his time traveling with Paul and the others. He was a well educated man and a prominent writer. Luke mainly wrote to the Gentile converts. His Gospel contains details of Jesus' conception and birth not found anywhere else. He is the only one that gives us the story of the Annunciation, the baby in the manger, the visit of the shepherds and Jesus teaching in the temple when he was 12 years old. Therefore, it is believed that Mary herself was the source for these details. He also emphasizes the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus as well as the joy and promises His salvation brings to all. Luke presents Jesus as a prophet and teacher. It is important to note that his Gospel describes the ministry of Jesus as a journey to Jerusalem. It clearly shows that on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus often teaches the disciples in the context of meals which we can see in many of his parables. Another theme that Luke emphasizes is of joy and rejoicing. One only needs to look at the parable of the Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep. It is at that time that he notes that there is more joy in Heaven over the sinner that repents than over the ninety nine others who need no repentance. What the Pharisees and scribes have never understood is that God, other than being worried with being obedient and respectful, also wanted His children to find happiness in His love. Because of this we see the phrase in the Gospel, "*...he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.*" The lost sheep is the sinner that had gone astray. Well, when the shepherd finds it, he did not shout or kick it, but put it on his shoulder. In other words, he gives strength and love to those that have none. What a beautiful imagine! -*Sherrie Clutts DRE*