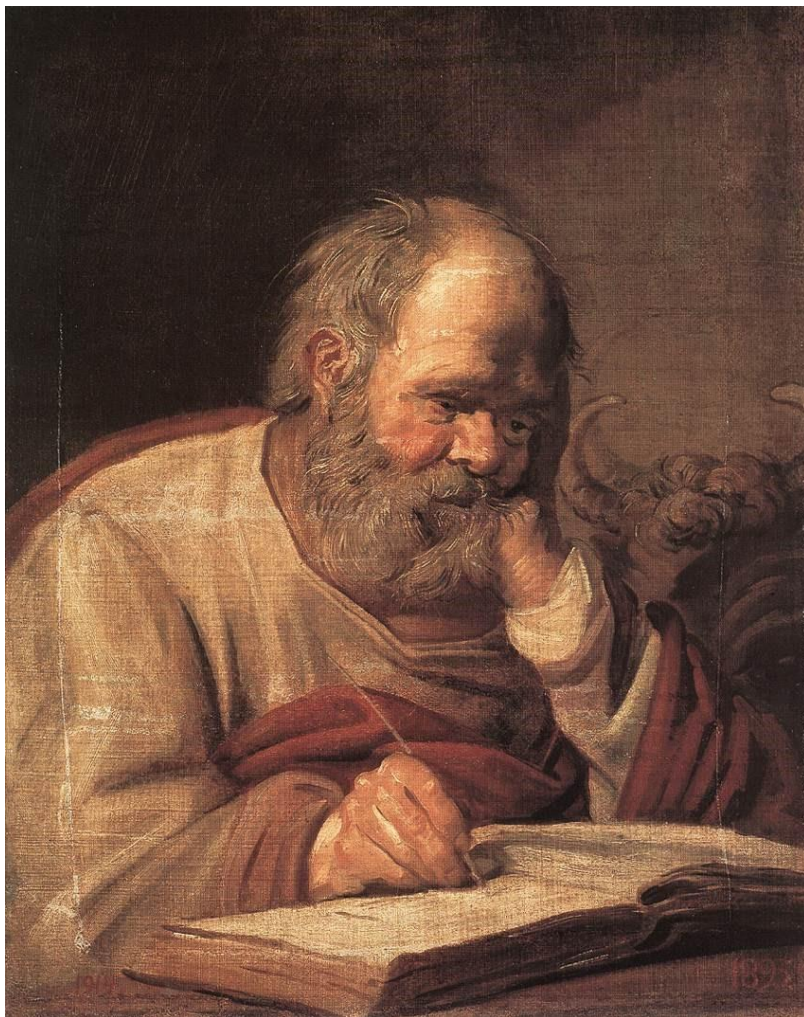


LIVING GODS WILL

The Disciple

LUKE



Saint Luke by Frans Hals

The Disciple **LUKE**

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Born: 1 AD, Antioch, Syria.

Died: AD 84 (aged 84), Thebes, Boeotia, Greece

Death: Tortured and Hanged from an olive tree

He was a **physician** and an **artist**

He was a **traveling companion** of the Apostle Paul

He was a **traveling companion** of Cleopas

The Apostle Luke authored 2 books of the Holy Bible

1. **The Book of Luke**
2. **The Book of Acts**

The holy, glorious and all-laudable **Apostle** and **Evangelist** Luke is the author of the **Gospel of Luke**, the companion of the Apostle Paul (**Phil 1:24, 2 Tim 4:10-11**), and is numbered among the **Seventy Apostles**. He was a native of **Syrian Antioch** and a **physician**, and is the founder of **iconography**.

His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (**1:10**), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as pointed out by St. Irenaeus.

His feast days are celebrated on October 18; on April 22 with Apostles Nathaniel and Clement; on June 20 on which day his relics, among others, were translated to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople; and on January 4, the synaxis of the Seventy.

Saint Luke, was of **Greek origin** born in the Hellenistic city of **Antioch**, and was extremely educated. His studies included **Greek philosophy, medicine, and art** in his youth. He was also a **professional physician**. St. Luke came to Jerusalem where he came to believe in the Lord. He and **Cleopas** met the resurrected Lord on the road to Emmaus (**Luke 24**).

After Pentecost, Luke returned to Antioch and worked with the **Apostle Paul**, traveling with him to Rome, and converting Jews and pagans to the Christian Faith. "Luke, the beloved physician, ... greets you," writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians (**Colossians 4:14**).

Luke is first mentioned in the letters of Paul as the latter's "**coworker**" and as the "**beloved physician**." The former designation is the more significant one, for it identifies him as one of a professional cadre of itinerant Christian "workers," many of whom were teachers and preachers. His medical skills, like Paul's tentmaking, may have contributed to his livelihood; but his principal occupation was the advancement of the Christian mission.

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Luke was the author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He excludes himself from those who were eyewitnesses of Christ's ministry. He indicates participation in the Pauline mission by the use of the first person in the "we" sections of Acts. They suggest that Luke shared in instructing persons in the Christian message and possibly in performing miraculous healings.

The "we" sections are analogous in style to travel reports found elsewhere in writings of the Greco-Roman period. They place the author with Paul during his initial mission into Greece—i.e., as far as Philippi, in Macedonia (**c. 51 CE**). It is there that Luke later rejoins Paul and accompanies him on his final journey to Jerusalem (**c. 58 CE**).

After Paul's arrest in that city and during his extended detention in nearby Caesarea, Luke may have spent considerable time in Palestine working with the apostle as the occasion allowed and gathering materials for his future two-volume literary work, the Gospel and the Acts.

In any case, two years later he appears with Paul on his prison voyage from Caesarea to Rome and again, according to the **Second Letter of Paul to Timothy 4:11**, at the time of the apostle's martyrdom in the imperial city (**c. 66 CE**).

At the request of Christians, St. Luke wrote his Gospel in the first century. According to some accounts this took place around 60 A.D., and according to others around 80 A.D. After St. Paul's martyrdom, St. Luke preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia, and other regions.

He **painted icons** of the Most-holy Theotokos—not just one, but three—as well as icons of the Holy Apostles **Peter** and **Paul**. For this reason, St. Luke is considered the founder of **Christian iconography**. In his old age, he visited Libya and Upper Egypt; from Egypt he returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and convert many with great zeal despite his age.

In addition to his Gospel, St. Luke wrote the **Acts of the Apostles** and dedicated each of these works to **Theophilus**, the governor of Achaia. Luke was **84 years old** when the wicked idolaters **tortured him for the sake of Christ and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Boeotia of Greece**.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Colossians 4:14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

2nd Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Philemon 1:23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

Burial place of the Disciple Luke



Abbey of Santa Giustina, Padua, Italy