

Dr. Daniel K. Darko, Gospel of Luke, Session 2, Introduction, Part 2 – Literary Artistry of Luke Resources from NotebookLM

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1. Abstract of Darko, Luke, Session 2, Introduction, Part 2 – Literary Artistry of Luke, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Dan Darko's lecture, the second session on the Gospel of Luke, focuses on **Luke's literary artistry and his sources**. He explains that Luke, aiming to provide an **orderly and accurate account** for Theophilus, drew upon **written accounts and eyewitness testimonies**, conducting his own careful investigation. The lecture introduces **source criticism**, discussing the **two-source and four-source hypotheses** regarding Luke's reliance on sources like Mark and a hypothetical collection of sayings called Q. Furthermore, Darko highlights **shared themes between Luke and Acts**, such as promise and fulfillment and the role of the Spirit, emphasizing that **Christianity's origins are rooted in Second Temple Judaism** without replacing it. Finally, he examines **Luke's narrative techniques**, including summaries, speeches, journeys, and parallels, advocating for understanding Luke as a **historical narrative with biographical elements** intended to convey the story of the Kingdom of God.

**2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Darko, Luke, Session 2 – Double click icon to play in
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]
Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament →
Gospels → Luke).**



**Darko_Luke_Session
n02.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Darko, Luke, Session 2, Introduction, Part 2 – Literary Artistry of Luke

Briefing Document: Dr. Daniel K. Darko on the Literary Artistry of Luke (Session 2)

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the second session of Dr. Daniel K. Darko's lecture on the Gospel of Luke, which focuses on the literary artistry of Luke as part of the introduction to the Gospel. Dr. Darko explores Luke's stated intentions, his use of sources, the relationship between Luke and Acts, key shared themes, narrative devices employed by Luke, the genre of Luke's writing, and the historical and theological context, particularly the connection to Second Temple Judaism.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. Luke's Purpose and Methodology:

- **Orderly Account:** Luke states his intention to write an "orderly account" for Theophilus, emphasizing a logical and lucid presentation of events rather than strict chronological sequencing. Dr. Darko clarifies that ancient writers often prioritized plot development over precise chronology.
- **Quote:** "since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."
- **Reliance on Sources:** Luke acknowledges that "Many have undertaken to draw up an account," indicating he is not the first. He relied on "those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word," highlighting the credibility of his sources.
- **Quote:** "Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word."
- **Investigation and Research:** Dr. Darko emphasizes Luke's role as a careful investigator who "carefully investigated the material he gathered and presented an orderly account."

2. Source Criticism:

- **Multiple Sources:** Dr. Darko briefly introduces the concept of source criticism, explaining that gospel writers likely relied on existing sources due to the time elapsed between the events and the writing.
- **Two-Source Hypothesis:** This dominant hypothesis suggests Luke used Mark's Gospel and another source called "Q" (believed to contain primarily sayings of Jesus) in his composition.
- **Four-Source Hypothesis:** This expands on the two-source hypothesis, suggesting Luke also used a unique source known as "L-source" for material not found in Mark or Q.
- **Emphasis on Luke's Unique Contribution:** While acknowledging shared sources, Dr. Darko stresses that Luke brings his "distinct and unique emphasis" to his Gospel.

3. Relationship Between Luke and Acts:

- **Shared Author and Recipient:** Both Luke and Acts were written by the same author (Luke) and addressed to the same person, Theophilus.
- **Two Volumes:** Dr. Darko posits that Luke likely intended these as two volumes of a single work, potentially limited by the size of available papyrus.
- **Shared Themes:** Key themes run through both Luke and Acts, demonstrating a continuity of God's work.

4. Shared Themes Between Luke and Acts:

- **Promise and Fulfillment:** Luke emphasizes how Old Testament promises and messianic prophecies are being fulfilled in Jesus' life and ministry, a theme that continues into the age of the Spirit in Acts.
- **Age of the Spirit:** Luke portrays the arrival of the Messiah as ushering in the "age of the spirit," marked by the active presence and power of the Holy Spirit, evident in both Jesus' ministry and the early church.
- **Quote:** "Luke, for him, the age of the spirit is here. And we are going to see the age of the spirit, the remarkable move of the Holy Spirit, beginning also in the book of Acts."

- **Gospel for All People:** Luke's narrative highlights the inclusive nature of the gospel, reaching "widows," "the ordinary," "the outcasts," "the elite," and people of all nations.
- **Quote:** "Luke would argue in his gospel, as in the book of Acts, that the gospel will come to a point where widows will be touched. The ordinary will be touched. The outcasts will be brought in. The elite will be brought in."
- **Inauguration Marked by the Spirit and the Church:** The beginning of Jesus' ministry and the birth of the church in Acts are both marked by the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- **Emphasis on Outsiders:** Luke pays particular attention to those marginalized in society, demonstrating God's inclusive love.

5. Luke's Literary Artistry and Narrative Devices:

- **Summaries and Speeches:** Luke uses summaries to condense information and incorporates speeches to convey important teachings and perspectives.
- **Quote:** "He uses summaries, devices that were common in his day, in his narrative writing. He uses speeches."
- **Journeys:** Travel narratives are a significant structural element in both Luke (Jesus' journey to Jerusalem) and Acts (the spread of the gospel outward from Jerusalem).
- **Parallels/Parallelisms:** Luke draws parallels between figures (Jesus and John the Baptist, Peter and Paul) and events to highlight continuity and theological points.
- **Example:** Parallels between the anointing and signs of Jesus and the church/Paul, and similarities in their trials and final words.
- **Quote:** "Luke is skillful in helping the mind to recall similar things he had talked or written about so that his audience could be so engaged."
- **Plot and Plot Resolution:** Luke skillfully employs plot development and resolution to engage his audience.

6. Genre of Luke's Writing:

- **Not Simply "Gospel":** Dr. Darko notes that "gospel" as a specific literary genre did not exist in the first century.

- **Debate: Biography vs. Narrative:** Scholars debate whether Luke wrote a biography of Jesus or a historical narrative.
- **Historical Narrative with Biographical Components:** Dr. Darko suggests viewing Luke as a "narrative that has some biographical component" to tell a broader story within a religious context. He draws an analogy to African storytelling traditions.
- **Narrator's Aim and Selectivity:** Luke, as a narrator, has a clear aim (the Kingdom of God) and selectively chooses and orders events to present his message effectively.

7. Old Testament in the Lucan Writings:

- **Fulfillment of Prophecy:** The birth and ministry of Jesus are presented as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
- **Rooted in Second Temple Judaism:** Early Christianity, as depicted by Luke, is presented as a Jewish movement rooted in the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies within Jewish tradition.
- **Quote:** "In Luke's account of early Christianity, Christianity was a Jewish movement. The message of the Christians is a message the outworking of the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies in the Jewish tradition."
- **Continuity, Not Replacement:** Dr. Darko strongly emphasizes that Christianity did not come to replace Judaism but emerged from it.
- **Quote:** "Christianity did not come to replace Judaism. That is not Luke's theology. Christianity did not come so that Judaism would die. No. Jesus came as a Jew. And he came to fulfill these prophecies with God's power and His spirit."
- **Context and Interpretation:** The Old Testament provides the context and framework for understanding God's actions in history as presented by Luke.

8. Luke's Audience and Universal Message:

- **Gentile Author and Recipient:** Luke, a Gentile, writes to Theophilus, another Gentile, highlighting the message being conveyed from a Jewish context to a Gentile audience.
- **Universal Participation:** Despite the Jewish origins, Luke emphasizes that "everyone, everybody, everywhere, will have a part in what God is doing in the world."

9. Relevance for Contemporary Readers:

- Dr. Darko highlights the enduring relevance of Luke's Gospel for various Christian traditions, noting its emphasis on the poor (Catholicism), its connection to Christmas hymns and parables (Protestantism), and its focus on the Holy Spirit (Charismatic/Pentecostalism).
- He underscores that Luke offers a consistent account connecting Jesus' ministry to the beginnings of the early church.

Conclusion:

Dr. Darko's lecture provides a valuable introduction to the literary artistry of Luke, emphasizing the author's careful methodology, his reliance on sources, the interconnectedness of Luke and Acts, key recurring themes, skillful narrative techniques, the historical context within Second Temple Judaism, and the ultimately universal message of the Gospel. Understanding these aspects is crucial for interpreting Luke's account and appreciating his unique contribution to the New Testament.

4. Study Guide: Darko, Luke, Session 2, Introduction, Part 2 – Literary Artistry of Luke

Study Guide: Dr. Darko on the Literary Artistry of Luke

Key Concepts:

- **Authorship and Recipient:** Luke, a physician and companion of Paul, wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. His intended audience was Theophilus, a person of high social standing.
- **Purpose of Luke's Writing:** Luke aimed to provide Theophilus with an orderly and certain account of the things he had been taught about Jesus and the early Christian movement.
- **Luke's Sources:** Luke relied on written accounts, eyewitness testimonies, and his own careful investigation (research) to compile his Gospel.
- **Source Criticism:** This field of New Testament study explores the origins and interrelationships of the Gospel texts, particularly the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). Key theories include the Two-Source Hypothesis (Mark and Q) and the Four-Source Hypothesis (Mark, Q, L).
- **Orderly Account:** Luke's concept of an orderly account refers to a logical and lucid presentation of events, not necessarily a strict chronological sequence.
- **Relationship between Luke and Acts:** These two books form a two-volume work by the same author for the same recipient, sharing common themes and demonstrating the continuation of God's work from Jesus' ministry to the early church.
- **Shared Themes in Luke-Acts:** Prominent themes include promise and fulfillment (of Old Testament prophecies), the age of the Spirit, and the universality of the gospel message for all people and nations.
- **Use of the Old Testament:** Luke presents the birth and ministry of Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and roots the origins of Christianity in Second Temple Judaism.
- **Narrative Devices:** Luke employs various literary techniques to engage his audience, including summaries, speeches, journeys, and parallels (especially between Jesus and Peter/Paul).

- **Genre of Luke:** While the Gospels are unique, Luke can be understood as a historical narrative with biographical components, aiming to tell the story of God's Kingdom inaugurated by Jesus and continuing in the early church.
- **Historical Narrative:** This approach emphasizes Luke's aim, selection of material, and theological perspective as a Christ-follower writing about the Kingdom of God.

Short-Answer Quiz:

1. Who is traditionally identified as the author of the Gospel of Luke, and what was his profession? Who was the intended recipient of his Gospel?
2. According to Luke's own words in the prologue (Luke 1:1-4), what were his primary goals in writing his Gospel for Theophilus? What does he emphasize about his sources?
3. Explain the concept of "source criticism" in the context of New Testament studies. Briefly describe the Two-Source Hypothesis and the Four-Source Hypothesis regarding Luke's sources.
4. What does Dr. Darko clarify about Luke's use of the phrase "orderly account"? Does it necessarily imply a strict chronological ordering of events? Why or why not?
5. Describe the relationship between the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. What evidence suggests they were intended as a two-volume work?
6. Identify and briefly explain two key shared themes that are evident in both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, according to the lecture.
7. How does Luke utilize the Old Testament in his Gospel and Acts? What does Dr. Darko emphasize about the relationship between early Christianity and Judaism in Luke's writings?
8. Name and briefly describe at least two narrative devices that Luke employs in his writing to engage his audience and convey his message effectively.
9. According to the lecture, how might the genre of Luke's Gospel be best understood? Should it be strictly classified as a biography or something else? Explain your reasoning.

10. What is Dr. Darko's main point regarding the theological perspective that should inform our reading of Luke's Gospel? What is Luke ultimately trying to communicate about the Kingdom of God?

Answer Key:

1. The author of the Gospel of Luke is traditionally identified as Luke, who was a physician and a companion of the Apostle Paul. He wrote his Gospel for a nobleman or elite person named Theophilus.
2. Luke states that he undertook to write an orderly account of the things that had been fulfilled among them, based on the traditions handed down by eyewitnesses and servants of the word. He emphasizes that he carefully investigated everything from the beginning to provide Theophilus with certainty about what he had been taught.
3. Source criticism examines the origins of the Gospel writers' information, exploring whom they consulted, what written or oral sources they used, and how they gathered their material. The Two-Source Hypothesis posits that Luke (and Matthew) used Mark's Gospel and another hypothetical source called "Q." The Four-Source Hypothesis adds another source unique to Luke, known as "L."
4. Dr. Darko clarifies that Luke's "orderly account" refers to a logical and lucid presentation of events, rather than a strict chronological sequence. Ancient writers often prioritized thematic or plot development over strict chronology in their narratives.
5. The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are considered a two-volume work by the same author (Luke) for the same recipient (Theophilus). The way Luke concludes his Gospel and begins Acts suggests a deliberate continuation of the narrative, and the lengths of both books align with the size of the longest available papyrus scrolls at the time.
6. Two key shared themes are "promise and fulfillment," where Luke demonstrates how Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus' life and ministry, and "the age of the Spirit," highlighting the active role of the Holy Spirit in both Jesus' ministry and the early church.
7. Luke uses the Old Testament extensively to show that Jesus' birth and ministry were the fulfillment of Jewish prophecies and presents early Christianity as a movement rooted in Second Temple Judaism. Dr. Darko emphasizes that

Christianity did not come to replace Judaism but rather emerged from it as the fulfillment of its messianic expectations.

8. Two narrative devices Luke uses are "summaries," which condense periods or aspects of Jesus' ministry, and "speeches," where he incorporates discourses to convey important teachings and perspectives. He also uses "journeys" to structure his narrative and "parallels" to draw connections between figures and events.
9. The genre of Luke's Gospel can be best understood as a historical narrative with biographical components. While it focuses on the life of Jesus, it does so within a broader narrative framework that aims to explain the inauguration of God's Kingdom and its continuation, rather than adhering strictly to the conventions of modern biography.
10. Dr. Darko emphasizes that we should read Luke's Gospel as a Christ-follower writing with an understanding of the Kingdom of God, aiming to tell the story of how this Kingdom was inaugurated by Jesus and continues in the early Christian movement. Luke's focus is on Jesus and the unfolding of God's plan in history, making the gospel message accessible to all.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the significance of Luke's prologue (Luke 1:1-4) in understanding his purpose, methodology, and intended audience for his Gospel. How does this introduction shape our approach to reading the rest of the book?
2. Analyze Dr. Darko's explanation of "source criticism" in relation to the Gospel of Luke. How do the different source hypotheses (Two-Source and Four-Source) impact our understanding of Luke's unique contributions and his relationship to the other Synoptic Gospels?
3. Explore the interconnectedness of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts as a two-volume work. What are the key literary and thematic links between these two books, and how does understanding this connection enhance our comprehension of Luke's overall message?
4. Examine Luke's use of the Old Testament and his portrayal of the relationship between early Christianity and Judaism. How does Luke present Jesus as both a fulfillment of Jewish prophecy and the initiator of a new, inclusive movement?

What are the implications of this portrayal for Christian theology and interfaith relations?

5. Evaluate Dr. Darko's perspective on the genre of Luke's Gospel as a "historical narrative with biographical components." How does this understanding of genre influence our interpretation of Luke's literary techniques, his selection and arrangement of material, and his overall theological aims?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Authorship:** The identity of the person or group who wrote a particular text. In the case of the Gospel of Luke, tradition ascribes authorship to Luke, a companion of Paul.
- **Recipient:** The intended audience for a written work. Luke explicitly addresses his Gospel to "most excellent Theophilus."
- **Literary Artistry:** The skillful use of language, narrative techniques, and other literary devices to create a particular effect or convey a specific message.
- **Eyewitnesses:** Individuals who directly observed the events being described. Luke mentions relying on accounts from those who were eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry.
- **Servants of the Word:** Those who were involved in the early transmission and teaching of the Christian message.
- **Orderly Account:** Luke's stated intention to present his material in a logical and lucid manner, focusing on coherence and clarity.
- **Source Criticism:** A branch of biblical criticism that investigates the sources and literary relationships between biblical texts, particularly the Synoptic Gospels.
- **Two-Source Hypothesis:** A theory that posits Matthew and Luke independently drew upon Mark's Gospel and another hypothetical collection of Jesus' sayings called "Q."
- **Four-Source Hypothesis:** An expansion of the Two-Source Hypothesis that suggests Luke also used a source unique to him, often referred to as "L," and Matthew also used a source unique to him, often referred to as "M."

- **Promise and Fulfillment:** A major theme in Luke-Acts that highlights how God's promises in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the subsequent spread of the gospel.
- **Age of the Spirit:** A theological concept emphasized by Luke, referring to the era inaugurated by the Holy Spirit's outpouring, marked by spiritual gifts and the empowering of believers.
- **Second Temple Judaism:** The period of Jewish history between the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (around 516 BCE) and its destruction by the Romans in 70 CE. This was the religious and cultural context in which Jesus lived and the early Christian movement began.
- **Narrative Devices:** Literary techniques used in storytelling to engage the audience and convey the plot and themes, such as summaries, speeches, journeys, and parallels.
- **Parallels (Parallelisms):** The use of similar structures, characters, or events to draw comparisons and highlight connections between different parts of a narrative.
- **Genre:** A category of artistic composition characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter. The genre of the Gospels has been a subject of scholarly debate.
- **Historical Narrative:** A genre that aims to recount past events, often with a particular purpose or perspective, incorporating storytelling elements.
- **Biographical Component:** Elements within a narrative that focus on the life and character of a particular individual. Luke's Gospel has a strong biographical component centered on Jesus.
- **Kingdom of God:** The central theme of Jesus' teaching, referring to God's reign and rule over all things, both present and future.

5. FAQs on Darko, Luke, Session 2, Introduction, Part 2 – Literary Artistry of Luke, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about the Gospel of Luke

1. **Who wrote the Gospel of Luke and who was the intended recipient?** The Gospel of Luke was written by Luke, identified as a physician. He addressed his gospel, as well as the subsequent book of Acts, to a man named Theophilus, whom he respectfully addresses as "most excellent." This suggests Theophilus was a person of high social standing, possibly a Roman official or a wealthy patron who had received some initial instruction in Christianity, and Luke wrote to provide him with a more certain and orderly account of the things he had been taught.
2. **What sources did Luke use to write his Gospel?** Luke explicitly states in his introduction (Luke 1:1-4) that he relied on multiple sources for his Gospel. These included written accounts from those who had gone before him, the eyewitness accounts of individuals who were present from the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and the teachings of "servants of the word." Modern New Testament scholarship, through source criticism, proposes theories like the two-source hypothesis (Mark and Q) and the four-source hypothesis (Mark, Q, L-source) to explain the similarities and differences between Luke and the other synoptic gospels (Matthew and Mark). The "L-source" refers to material unique to Luke.
3. **How does Luke present his account – chronologically or logically?** Luke indicates his intention to provide an "orderly account," but this does not necessarily mean a strict chronological sequencing of events. Ancient writers often prioritized thematic development and plot structure over exact chronology. Therefore, Luke's "orderly account" likely refers to a logical and lucid presentation of the events of Jesus' life and ministry, arranged to convey his specific theological and narrative aims rather than a purely temporal timeline.
4. **What is the relationship between the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts?** The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are best understood as two volumes of a single work by the same author, Luke, addressed to the same recipient, Theophilus. The ending of Luke and the beginning of Acts demonstrate Luke's intention to create a continuous narrative. They share common themes, such as the fulfillment of God's promises, the central role of the Holy Spirit, and the expansion of the gospel to all people. The Gospel focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus, while Acts narrates the beginnings and spread of the early Christian

movement as a continuation of Jesus' work through his followers empowered by the Spirit.

5. **What are some of the key themes emphasized in Luke's Gospel?** Several key themes are prominent in Luke's Gospel. One is the theme of **promise and fulfillment**, showing how the life and ministry of Jesus fulfill Old Testament prophecies. Another crucial theme is the **age of the Spirit**, with Luke emphasizing the active role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life and the early church. Luke also highlights the **universality of the gospel**, demonstrating that God's salvation is for all people, including the marginalized, outcasts, and Gentiles.
6. **How does Luke portray the relationship between Christianity and Judaism?** Luke presents early Christianity as being deeply rooted in Second Temple Judaism. He emphasizes that Jesus came as a Jew to fulfill Jewish Messianic prophecies, and the early Christian movement emerged from within this Jewish context. Luke's theology does not suggest that Christianity replaced Judaism but rather that it is the continuation and fulfillment of God's promises made to the Jewish people, now extended to all nations through faith in Jesus Christ. He stresses the Jewish foundations of Christianity and cautions against any form of anti-Jewish sentiment.
7. **What are some of the literary techniques and devices that Luke employs in his Gospel?** Luke demonstrates significant literary artistry in his writing. He uses **narrative devices** such as summaries, speeches, journeys, and well-developed plots with clear resolutions. He also employs **parallelism**, drawing comparisons between figures like Jesus and John the Baptist in the infancy narratives, and Peter and Paul in Acts, as well as between miraculous events. Luke's skillful use of these techniques engages his audience and effectively conveys his message.
8. **What is the genre of Luke's Gospel, and how does this influence our understanding of it?** The genre of the Gospels, including Luke, is a subject of scholarly debate. While not fitting neatly into modern biographical or historical categories, Luke's work can be understood as a form of **historical narrative with biographical components**. This means Luke had specific aims and perspectives as he selected, arranged, and presented his material. As a "Christ-follower writing with the understanding of the Kingdom of God," Luke aimed to tell the story of how God's kingdom was inaugurated through Jesus and continued through the early church, drawing on historical information and eyewitness accounts to construct a meaningful and persuasive narrative for his audience.