



## The Gospel of Luke

*Joel B. Green*

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## **The Gospel of Luke** Joel B. Green

This highly original commentary, part of the New International Commentary, is unique for the way it combines concerns with first-century culture in the Roman world with understanding the text of Luke as a wholistic, historical narrative.

## **The Gospel of Luke Details**

Date : Published October 2nd 1997 by Eerdmans (first published October 1997)

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Author : Joel B. Green

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## **From Reader Review The Gospel of Luke for online ebook**

### **Dustin Bagby says**

During the last 1.5 years in Luke, this has been the most helpful commentary I've read. Excellent! I highly recommend it.

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### **Steve says**

After reading slowly (and rather laboriously) through the commentary over a rather long period, I finished with a sigh. Admirable and valuable, yes. But disappointing, or at least not for me. (I posted a longer review on Amazon.)

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### **David says**

The replacement volume for Geldenhuys' commentary on Luke in the NICNT series, it is MUCH better than Geldenhuys. I didn't think Celdenhuys ever said a great deal, and Green is much better and has become one of my top commentaries on Luke's gospel.

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### **Mike says**

Very helpful in elucidating the historical background of Luke and the Greek text. It can be dense at times and is probably best for the serious student / minister.

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### **Graham says**

The best available single volume commentary on Luke.

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### **Sue says**

26 Mar 2015 - Reading the Kindle edition, and about 1/3 of the way through. Green's commentary is a literary analysis of Luke, meaning he gets into the story, tries to figure out what Luke's point is, finds commonality between sections of Luke's own narrative and certain passages in the Old Testament, and does his best to take on the mind of Luke. Enlightening. My only complaint is that the Kindle edition, which usually lets you zoom or shrink text, does not do this for certain areas where Green has included brief charts of comparison and quoted text from the Bible. For some reason, you cannot zoom out these paragraphs, even on a PC, so a small part of Green's helpful analysis is lost to the Kindle reader.

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10 Apr 2015 - Appreciate Green's footnotes.

I'm sometimes frustrated by what seems to be, to me, too many (coded) words as Green gets to his point. A very small example are these: "...in the Third Gospel" and "...by the Evangelist." Why doesn't Green just say "Luke"? It occurs to me, in my frustration, that Green is not writing for popular reading. Another example of "unnecessary words" is Green's frequent use of the word "co-text." Although I understand what he means, I stumble each time I come to it, wondering why he brands his current explanation with this word which, for me, does not add clarity but serves as a stumbling block to the flow of my reading and absorbing.

I am gaining better understanding of Luke through Green, but I think I will supplement this commentary with the Pillar commentary to be released later this month. So far, I would rate Green's commentary, for my purposes, just short of 4, but will probably round it up to a 4 when I'm done. There are sections of Green's commentary where my mental lightbulbs flash continually.

My purpose for this commentary is to enhance my personal Bible study. I do think, though, that Green's commentary would be good fodder for sermon making.

30 Apr 2015 - Favorite Phrase

I have come across this phrase: inbreaking of ... God, kingdom of God, presence, etc ... to me, this is a beautiful phrase, a poetic illustration of how God comes to us, a phrase that speaks of movement, a living event ... it is now happening; it is not yet complete, but it is happening even as we speak. Green uses this phrase more than any other commentator I've read, and it blesses me each time I read it.

8 May 2015 - Finished

I'm sure I will refer to Green's commentary many times in the future. His commentary builds to a high just as Luke's gospel builds, and as I finish, I feel an emotional shout of "Joy!!" rise within me. This is one of Green's closing comments: "Finally, their earlier joy, which produced astonishment and disbelief (v 41), has given way to "great joy." Lovely!

Additional notes about the Kindle edition (nearly as expensive as the print edition): The end matter has a great table of authors Green cites as well as a standard index of subject matter. Oh how I wish these were linked to the text. Of course, I could do a search, but it would have been great just to touch (or click) the topic and have been redirected. Maybe one day publishers will find an economic way to do that. After all, you can do it in Word, so I know it's possible.

I am settling on 4 stars, not 3. My inclination toward 3 to 4 is because Green's language is not my own. I am not intimate with literary criticism. It is not my language. But Green gave me a new perspective on Luke, and I am grateful to see this gospel in a new light.

In the meantime, I am left with this echo of Green's commentary in my mind: Break in, you inbreaking Kingdom of God! Come Lord Jesus, come! Maranatha!

Second reading begun 20 Mar 2018

(30 Mar 2018) Note: My Kindle ebook began to crash my android tablets regularly. Amazon was not able to detect why or to correct the problem, so they graciously refunded my purchase price and removed the book

from my kindle apps.)

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### **Brett says**

Used not read. There could not be anything worse than reading a commentary straight away. This is a really good one. To have by your side if you are studying Luke.

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### **Adam Shields says**

Short review: Very good commentary.

My longer reviews on my blog. <http://bookwi.se/luke-green/>

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### **William says**

A great commentary on Luke. Green takes a narrative-historical approach and examines Luke on his own terms. In preaching through Luke I found this to be the most helpful of my stack of commentaries. On the down-side, Green is sometimes so focused on "social justice" that he can miss the primary thrust of a passage. While I might go to Green first, I wouldn't rely on him alone; the alternative viewpoints of other commentators are necessary. Green doesn't always "show his work", giving little more than a footnote listing other books and articles, which is often frustrating.

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### **Greg Coates says**

My all-time favorite commentary on any book.

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### **Ken says**

This book is a literary analysis of the Gospel of Luke. This was very helpful to look at Luke as a literary work with important pieces of information rooted in how this text was written. I would recommend this as another commentary to help anyone who is studying Luke to look at it through different eyes.

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### **Jeff says**

His Wesleyanism only showed through once. Most questions were answered and there was very good detail except for only a few times. Very good.

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### **David says**

I used this book as I was teaching from the Gospel of Luke throughout the Spring. Overall it is a very helpful commentary giving historical background information and focusing on the overall story Luke was telling, within the context of what had come before (Israel, Old Testament) and what would come after (Acts). Recommended to anyone studying and teaching on Luke.

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### **Tim says**

Green's commentary on Luke is a remarkable narrative approach to the text, providing a fresh new breeze of realization from a familiar text. I will not claim to have read every page of this almost 900 page commentary, but I have read over half of it. Green is not the one to go to explain every Greek word, but if you want to know the co-text and the context of the Gospel of Luke, to know the culture in which Jesus lived and how he and his message upended that culture (and by implication ours today), you cannot do better. Invaluable for teaching and just a joy to read generally.

Here is one comment (from Luke 6) chosen almost at random: "Jesus has just subverted a key organizing factor of the Roman Empire - namely, patronal ethics. The Empire was an intrusive, suffocating web of obligation, with resources deployed so as to maintain social equilibrium, with the elite in every village, town, city, and region, and of the Empire as a whole given esteem due them in light of their role as benefactors. If God, and not the emperor, is identified as the Great Benefactor, the Patron, and if people are to act without regard to cycles of obligation, then the politics of the Empire is sabotaged."

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### **Ryan Linkous says**

This commentary by Green is fantastic. It approaches Luke mainly on Luke's terms and the OT's terms rather than on the terms of the other Synoptic Gospels. It's very readable and Green has great insights. If only more commentaries were as readable and accessible as Green's! I'm thankful for this work of scholarship that serves both the academy and the church.

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