

# Early Testimony to the Authorship of Luke

*Muratorian Canon (170 A.D.)*

The Canon says, in part:

“...those things at which he was present he placed thus.<sup>23</sup> The third book of the Gospel, that according to Luke, the well-known physician Luke wrote in his own name<sup>24</sup> in order after the ascension of Christ, and when Paul had associated him with himself<sup>25</sup> as one studious of right.<sup>26</sup> Nor did he himself see the Lord in the flesh; and he, according as he was able to accomplish it, began<sup>27</sup> his narrative with the nativity of John. The fourth Gospel is that of John, one of the disciples.”

*Anti-Marcionite Prologue to Luke*

“Luke was a Syrian of Antioch, by profession a physician, the disciple of the apostles, and later a follower of Paul until his martyrdom. He served the Lord without distraction, without a wife, and without children. He died at the age of eighty-four in Boeotia, full of the Holy Spirit.”

*Ireneus (180 A.D.)*

“Luke also, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him.” --  
*Adv. Haer.* 3.1.1

“But that this Luke was inseparable from Paul, and his fellow-labourer in the Gospel, he himself clearly evinces, not as a matter of boasting, but as bound to do so by the truth itself. [*Irenaeus here recounts the “we” passages in Acts and concludes*] . . . As Luke was present at all these occurrences, he carefully noted them down in writing, so that he cannot be convicted of falsehood or boastfulness, because all these [particulars] proved both that he was senior to all those who now teach otherwise, and that he was not ignorant of the truth.” --*Adv. Haer.* 3.14.1

*Tertullian (200 A.D.)*

“Of the apostles, therefore, John and Matthew first instill faith into us; whilst of apostolic men, Luke and Mark renew it afterwards.”-- *adv. Marc.* 4.2

*Origen (220 A.D.)*

“Next came that of Luke, who wrote for Gentile converts the gospel praised by Paul.”  
--*Comm. On Matt.* (Eusebius, *H.E.* 6.25.5)

*Eusebius (c. 350 A.D.)*

“But Luke, who was of Antiochian parentage and a physician by profession, and who was especially intimate with Paul and well acquainted with the rest of the apostles, has left us, in two inspired books, proofs of that spiritual healing art which he learned from them. One of these books is the Gospel, which he testifies that he wrote as those who were from the beginning eye witnesses and ministers of the word delivered unto him, all of whom, as he says, he followed accurately from the first. The other book is the Acts of the Apostles which he composed not from the accounts of others, but from what he had seen himself. And they say that Paul meant to refer to Luke's Gospel wherever, as if speaking of some gospel of his own, he used the words, ‘according to my Gospel.’” (*H. E.* 3.4.7-8)