

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

This volume offers a comprehensive overview of one of the four New Testament gospels and brings a unique approach to the genre of Bible commentary. Featuring distinct Jewish and Christian voices in respectful conversation, Amy-Jill Levine and Ben Witherington methodologically break new ground in exploring why scholars disagree on questions of history (what actually happened, what is authorial invention, how do we address different versions of the same account), literature (what does this story tell us about Jesus and Peter, Mary Magdalene and Judas, among other characters), and theology (what can we say about resurrection and divine justice, or about Jesus as the Messiah). They show how Luke has been used to create both tragedy and hope, as well as to promote sexism, anti-Semitism, and religious intolerance, thereby raising important questions regarding ethically responsible interpretation. It will be essential reading for theologians, clergy, and anyone interested in biblical studies and Jewish/Christian dialogue.

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt, Affiliated Professor, Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations, Cambridge, UK, and an elected member of the prestigious *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (SNTS). Her numerous publications include the prize-winning volumes *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*; *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*; the edited thirteen-volume *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings*; and the coedited *Jewish Annotated New Testament*.

Ben Witherington is Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary and on the doctoral faculty at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Considered one of the leading evangelical scholars in the world, he is an elected member of the prestigious *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (SNTS), a society dedicated to New Testament studies. Witherington has written more than fifty books, including *The Jesus Quest* and *The Paul Quest*, both of which were selected as top biblical studies works by *Christianity Today*. He also writes for many church and scholarly publications, and is a frequent contributor to the Patheos website.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine , Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine, Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

NEW CAMBRIDGE BIBLE COMMENTARY

GENERAL EDITOR: Ben Witherington III

HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT EDITOR: Bill T. Arnold

EDITORIAL BOARD

Bill T. Arnold, *Asbury Theological Seminary*

James D. G. Dunn, *University of Durham*

Michael V. Fox, *University of Wisconsin–Madison*

Robert P. Gordon, *University of Cambridge*

Judith M. Gundry, *Yale University*

The New Cambridge Bible Commentary (NCBC) aims to elucidate the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and New Testament for a wide range of intellectually curious individuals. While building on the work and reputation of the *Cambridge Bible Commentary* popular in the 1960s and 1970s, the NCBC takes advantage of many of the rewards provided by scholarly research over the last four decades. Volumes utilize recent gains in rhetorical criticism, social scientific study of the Scriptures, narrative criticism, and other developing disciplines to exploit the growing advances in biblical studies. Accessible jargon-free commentary, an annotated “Suggested Readings” list, and the entire New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) text under discussion are the hallmarks of all volumes in the series.

PUBLISHED VOLUMES IN THE SERIES

Genesis, Bill T. Arnold

Exodus, Carol Meyers

Judges and Ruth, Victor H. Matthews

Psalms, Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr.

Matthew, Craig A. Evans

Mark, Darrell Bock

The Gospel of John, Jerome H. Neyrey

1–2 Corinthians, Craig S. Keener

Galatians, Craig Keener

James and Jude, William F. Brosend II

Revelation, Ben Witherington III

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine , Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine, Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

The Gospel of Luke



Amy-Jill Levine

Vanderbilt University

Ben Witherington III

Asbury Theological Seminary



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine, Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521859509

DOI: 10.1017/9781139029353

© Amy-Jill Levine and Ben Witherington III 2018

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2018

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-0-521-85950-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-67681-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine , Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

*For Jews and Christians in hopes that they love the Bible like we do, and
in hopes that this commentary may show how the Bible can be used as a
bridge to build better Jewish-Christian relationships*

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-85950-9 — The Gospel of Luke
Amy-Jill Levine , Ben Witherington, III
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Contents



| | |
|--|---------------|
| INTRODUCTION | <i>page</i> 1 |
| LUKE 1: PROLOGUE, PREPARATIONS, AND POEMS | 18 |
| LUKE 2: JESUS' BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD | 52 |
| LUKE 3: JOHN THE BAPTIZER AND JESUS' GENEALOGY | 77 |
| LUKE 4: THE WILDERNESS, NAZARETH, AND CAPERNAUM | 99 |
| LUKE 5: DISCIPLES AND DEBATES | 132 |
| LUKE 6: TEACHINGS IN SYNAGOGUES AND ON THE PLAIN | 159 |
| LUKE 7: HEALING, DEBATING, FORGIVING | 194 |
| LUKE 8: PATRONS AND PARABLES, HEALINGS AND EXORCISMS | 218 |
| LUKE 9: MISSION, TRANSFIGURATION, AND PREDICTIONS OF DEATH | 249 |
| LUKE 10: INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SEVENTY, THE LAWYER, AND MARTHA THE HOUSEHOLDER | 273 |
| LUKE 11: PRAYER, PETITIONS, PARABLES, AND POLEMIC | 304 |
| LUKE 12: PROVERBS, PROVOCATIONS, AND PREPARATIONS | 333 |
| LUKE 13: REPENTANCE, HEALING, AND SALVATION | 360 |
| | ix |

| | |
|--|-----|
| LUKE 14: BANQUETS EARTHLY AND ESCHATOLOGICAL | 385 |
| LUKE 15: PARABLES OF LOSING AND FINDING | 407 |
| LUKE 16: ON SERVING GOD AND MAMMON | 433 |
| LUKE 17: FAITH, FIDELITY, AND FINDING THE KINGDOM | 462 |
| LUKE 18: PARABLES AND PASSION PREDICTIONS | 479 |
| LUKE 19: FROM JERICHO TO JERUSALEM: TAX COLLECTOR, TRIUMPHAL ENTRY, TEMPLE TEACHING | 507 |
| LUKE 20: QUESTIONS IN THE TEMPLE | 529 |
| LUKE 21: DEDICATION AND DESTRUCTION | 554 |
| LUKE 22: LAST SUPPER, ARREST, AND SANHEDRIN TRIAL | 575 |
| LUKE 23: PILATE AND THE CROSS | 615 |
| LUKE 24: RESURRECTION AND RESPONSES | 645 |
| Select Bibliography | 675 |
| Scriptural Index | 697 |
| Author Index | 712 |