

Textual Sources for the Gospel of Luke:

The Papyri:

Most of the earliest manuscript copies of the Gospel of Luke are in the form of either fragments, partial pages, and a few whole chapters. We have no complete copy of the Gospel of Luke from the earliest period (pre-300 AD) of the transmission of the New Testament Text. The earliest known fragment of the Gospel can be found in what is known as Papyrus 4, which dates to between 175-225 AD, depending upon who you ask. It contains Luke 1:58-59; 1:62—2:1, 6-7; 3:8—4:2, 29-32, 34-35; 5:3-8; 5:30—6:16.

The most complete Papyrus copy of the Gospel of Luke is P75, which dates to the early 3rd Century (about 200-225 AD) and contains Luke 3:18—4:2; 4:34—5:10; 5:37—18:18; 22:4—24:53. A page (“leaf”) of P75 is pictured to the right.



The Uncials:

Here we have far more extensive textual exemplars, including the first complete copies not only of Luke but of the entire New Testament. There are at least 62 Uncial Manuscripts of Luke, 19 complete, at least 7 substantially complete, and the rest being varyingly fragmented. Examples of these manuscripts include:

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| Ⲛ Sinaiticus – 4 th Century | Complete |
| B Vaticanus – 4 th Century | Complete |
| A Alexandranus – 5 th Century | Complete |
| C Ephraemi – 5 th Century | Substantial, with many fragments |
| D Bezae – 5 th Century | Complete |