

## Introduction to Acts - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 9-14-16

### Review

#### Intro to Luke > Purpose in Writing > Luke As Historian > Qualifications for Writing History Cont'd.

- Traveling companion with \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 4:11; 3rd p. pl. "they" to 1st p. pl. "we" in Acts 16:10; 20:5; 21:1; 27:1; etc.)
  - Resided in \_\_\_\_\_ for several years
    - From Antioch
    - Arrived in Jerusalem (21:17)
    - Left for Rome (27:1)
    - 2 year gap (24:27)
  - Ranks among "the historians of the first rank." (Sir William Ramsey)
  - A.N. Sherwin-White: "The confirmation of historicity is overwhelming. Any attempt to reject its basic historicity even in matters of detail must now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted."
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- Luke as \_\_\_\_\_
    - Historicity of Christianity AND \_\_\_\_\_
    - Theophilus ("loved by God") + *kratistos* ("most excellent") = a powerful political leader
      - Cf. Felix (23:26; 24:3) and Festus (26:25)
    - Produced evidence to show Christianity was:
      - \_\_\_\_\_ - relationship to Roman officials
      - \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus and Paul (3x) declared innocent
      - \_\_\_\_\_ - direct connection to Judaism
    - He was a \_\_\_\_\_ in the church
  
  - Luke as \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
    - Theology based on saving significance of \_\_\_\_\_ - lose the history, lose everything
    - Emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_:
      - "Prepared by God" (Luke 2:30-31)
      - "Bestowed by Christ" (Luke 2:11; cf. 15:1-32; Acts 2:38-39; 4:12)
      - "Offered to all peoples" - (Luke 2:32a; cf. 3:6)



## Introduction to Acts

### 1:1-2 - How Luke and Acts relate

- Not vol. 1 on Christ, vol. 2 on the church, but rather between the two \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's ministry (Acts 1:1-2 - "...all that Jesus began to do and teach...")
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the watershed moment for Luke:
- Concerning the book's title
  - Not originally from Luke! (not inspired)
  - Options?
    - "Acts of (the) Apostles"? - since at least 2nd century
    - "Acts of the Holy Spirit"?
    - "The Continuing Words and Deeds of Jesus by His Spirit Through the Apostles"?
- Significance of vv. 1-2
  - Jesus' ministry was just \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 28:20)

### 1:2-5 - The foundation ministry of the apostles

- V. 2 - "had given commands" - Jesus made \_\_\_\_\_ for the continuance of his ministry via the HS
- 4 aspects to their qualifications as apostles:
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ them - (v. 2; cf. Luke 6:13; Acts 1:24; 9:15)
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to them - (v. 3; cf. 1:21-22)
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ them - (v. 2)
    - Western text - "to preach the gospel" (cf. Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8)
    - Apostles = delegates with a message who carried the authority of the sender.
      - Like Paul in Ephesians, beginning in 1:1 - "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..."
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ them the Holy Spirit (v. 5)
    - From the Father (v. 4 - "of the Father"; cf. Joel 2:28ff.; Is. 32:15; Ezek. 36:27)
    - From Jesus himself (v. 4 - "you heard from me")
    - John the Baptist (v. 5)

## **Appendix I - Outline of Acts**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Introduction to Luke (Luke 1:1-4)
  - B. Introduction to Acts (Acts 1:1-5)
- II. In Jerusalem (1:6-6:7)
  - A. Waiting for Pentecost (1:6-26)
  - B. The Day of Pentecost (2:1-47)
  - C. The outbreak of persecution (3:1-4:31)
  - D. Satanic counter-attack (4:32-6:7)
- III. Foundations for World Mission (6:8-12:24)
  - A. Stephen the martyr (6:8-7:60)
  - B. Philip the evangelist (8:1-40)
  - C. The conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
  - D. The conversion of Cornelius (9:32-11:18)
  - E. Expansion and opposition (11:19-12:24)
- IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)
  - A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
  - B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
  - C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
  - D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
  - E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
  - F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)
- V. On the Way to Rome (21:18-28:31)
  - A. Paul's arrest and self-defense (21:18-23:35)
  - B. Paul on trial (24:1-26:32)
  - C. Rome at last! (27:1-28:31)