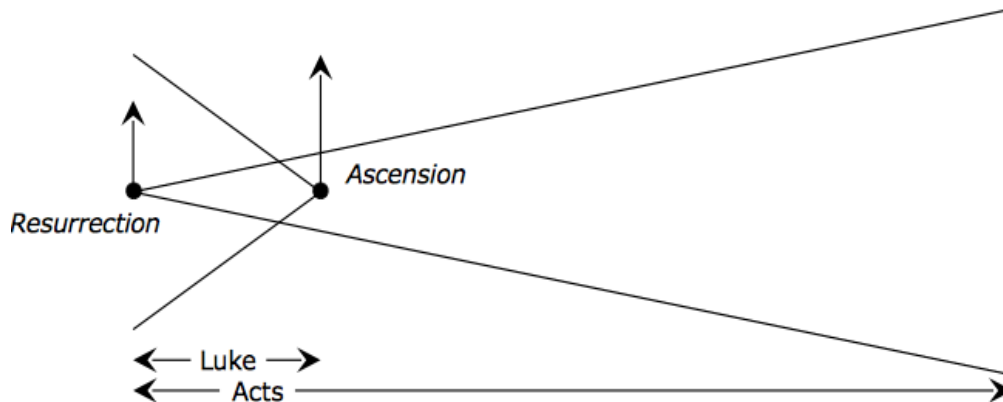


## Acts 1.1-14: Overlap and Expansion

We can follow how Luke interlocks his two books by overlap and extension. In book one, he ended with the ascension. In book two, Acts, he goes back to the resurrection, revisits some of the same events, and gives additional information about what occurred between the resurrection and the ascension. Whereas, book one narrows down from the resurrection to the ascension, book two expands out from the resurrection through the ascension and into the work of Jesus that He continues to accomplish from heaven. This overlap and expansion can be illustrated on a graph of angles that overlap in reverse directions over the two points of resurrection and ascension:



### Acts 1.1-2

Luke summarizes the first part of his narrative on the accomplishments of Jesus. He makes two central points: 1) he indicates that the narrative part one covered the work of Jesus up to His ascension (**In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up**). The implication of “began” to do and teach is that part two continues the narrative regarding what Jesus continues to do and teach since the ascension. 2) The core and conclusion of His pre-ascension work focused on the apostles (**after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen**).

- a) The apostles were such by His sovereign selection (thus uniquely appointed)
- b) He gave them specific commands especially in the days before the ascension
- c) His ministry to the apostles, we are told explicitly, was by the Holy Spirit

From Luke 1.1-4, we know that the orderly narrative written to Theophilus has the pastoral purpose of giving assurance regarding the accomplished redemption that Jesus secured for sinners. Q: How does Johnson ground, and help us ground, the shift from Theophilus to us: “Theophilus represents readers who have not had direct contact with the apostolic eyewitnesses and need to hear their testimony through Luke’s careful account” (Johnson, *Let’s Study Acts*, 2)?

### Overlap and expansion between Luke and Acts

In Acts, Luke expands on the Lord’s resurrection appearances leading up to the ascension. At the end of his Gospel, we have record of the appearance of Jesus to the two men on the road (24.13-35) ending with their report to the eleven at Jerusalem: **Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread** (24.35). Then we have our Lord’s appearance to them all at Jerusalem while the two men were giving their report (24.36). During this time with them, Jesus showed them His hands and feet and ate broiled fish before them because of the difficulty they had believing what they were seeing (24.37-43). He also opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (24.44-48) regarding His death, resurrection, and their role in carrying the message of forgiveness to all nations (48: **You are witnesses of these things**). Then, before leading them out to Bethany, He promised the coming of the promise of the Father for which they must wait (24.49, **And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high**). Finally, near Bethany, He lifted His hands and blessed them as He parted from them into heaven (24.50-51) and they returned to Jerusalem and to the temple blessing God (24.52-53).

What is the expansion in Acts 1.1-14 of the events from the resurrection to the ascension?