

The Book of Acts

Luke to Theophilus Volume 2

Survey

I. Title (of the whole and of the subtitles: note the key words in each text)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us (Luke 1:1); In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, (Acts 1:1) [began to do and teach implies continues, which in turn shows the unity of the narrative, of pts 1 & 2]

Luke's narration of the accomplishments of Jesus from the beginning in Israel to the present among the nations (Lk 1.1 through Acts 28.31). Subtitles:

Vol 1. Luke's narration the accomplishments of Jesus from the beginning in Israel to the resurrection-ascension.

Vol 2. Luke's narration of the accomplishments of Jesus from the resurrection-ascension to the present among the nations.

II. Theme (additional thoughts beyond the title)

...and [Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.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." (Luke 24:46-49)

Accomplishments of Jesus since the resurrection through appointed, commissioned and Holy Spirit empowered witnesses

Securing and applying the forgiveness of sins;

Gospel of

III. Outline

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (Acts 1:8-9)

1) What outline of structure of the entire book of Acts do we get from Acts 1.8-9 (note not only the geography but also the timeframe, task, power, and authority)?

Geographical- Jer, Jud/Sam, ends [later test: 1-7; 8-12; 13-28]

Timeframe: from the resurrection/ascension (beginning as to place and time)

Task: witnesses

Power: of the Holy Spirit

Authority: *you* will be *my*

2) What lesson do we get by reading the abrupt (unexpected, incomplete?) ending of part two of Luke's narration in conjunction with the final words of Acts 1.8 & Mat 28.20 (end of age)?

Acts 28:30-31 He [Paul] lived there [in Rome under house arrest] two whole years... and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

This opens the door to the omnipresent narrator that thrusts us as readers out with Jesus beyond Rome...continuing His doing and teaching (His Acts) among the nations to the present as risen Lord. Acts ends rather abruptly (some think, cf. 28.14-31) without closure regarding what happened to Paul, the main character of the third section of the book.

IV. Biblical Theology (study of the history of redemption and redemptive revelation)

1) We can talk about promise-fulfillment regarding the shift from the OT to the NT. How does the promise-fulfillment model surface within Luke's entire narration [picture a rectangle with an arrow in the middle, pointing from I (promise) to II (fulfillment)]? How can we relate another model, humiliation-exaltation, to this unfolding of promise to fulfillment?

Acts: Jesus fulfills His promise recorded in Luke

Acts: Jesus fulfilling *in exaltation* what He promised *in humiliation*

2) From our Lord in all the Gospels as background for what occurs in Acts, what justifies approaching Acts from a cessationist (which means?) point of view or premise?

From our Lord in the Gospels, we have the promise of a special band of witnesses, the apostles, that will be His uniquely commissioned, authorized, and empowered representatives to

testify of Him giving the foundation of the church that will eventually take a written form (Jn 21.24; 1 Jn 1.1-4: apostolic proclaiming = testifying = writing)

2

We have already considered the authority of the witnesses (my witnesses...to the end).

Note: *to the end*, which goes with the apostles as foundation: upon this rock: Peter and the rest confessing Christ, Acts 16.16-18 (**Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** ¹⁷ **And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.** ¹⁸ **And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it)**

Note the structure of the NT: (**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you, John 14:26; When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come, John 16:13)**

How can we summarize the fundamental (foundational) implication of Jesus' promise?

Picture a house resting on a foundation as the church built on the apostles.

Foundation laying is once for all = cessationism (especially of special revelation)

So, we properly bring this with us as a frame in which to view Acts