

JESUS' RESURRECTION APPEARANCE AND THE BOOK OF ACTS

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

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ACTS 1:1-13

(THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION)

- **1** ¹⁻⁵ Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles, the ones he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but “must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon.”
- ⁶ When they were together for the last time they asked, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”
- ⁷⁻⁸ He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”
- ⁹⁻¹¹ These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”
- Returning to Jerusalem
- ¹²⁻¹³ So they left the mountain called Olives and returned to Jerusalem. It was a little over half a mile. They went to the upper room they had been using as a meeting place: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

A. D. A. P. T.

(Author; Date; Audience; Place; Theme)

A – The **AUTHOR** of the Books of Acts is **LUKE** (Greek; Physician;...)

D – The **DATE** the Book of Acts was written was the late 60s – early 70s A.D. (Note: different sources will have different dates)

A – The **AUDIENCE** to whom The Book of Acts was written is two-fold:

1) “Most Excellent Theophilus” – a Greek/Roman official who had become a Christian.

2) Coded for “God Lovers”. The name is broken down into two parts: “Theo” meaning “God” and “philus” meaning “loved or beloved”.

P – The **PLACE** the Book of Acts was written is believed to be Rome (Antioch; Ephesus).

T - The **THEME** of the book is the **Holy Spirit**; Prayer; Witnessing.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

- ACTS of the HOLY SPIRIT in the lives of the APOSTLES.
- Acts is the second publication of a two volume work
- The Book of Acts is the HISTORY book of the New Testament. It records the growth and expansion of the early church.
- A *selective* record of events that took place during the formative years of the church. Acts provides us with the historical antecedents of our faith and how that faith came to be embraced from Jerusalem to Rome.
- Provides helpful information and historical facts surrounding to many of the NT letters, which in turn helps a reader better understand *when, what, and why*– WHEN the writers said what they said; WHAT they said; and WHY they said it.

TWO IN ONE



Purpose of the Book

- As was stated, Acts is the second part of what was originally a two-part, single volume (i.e. Luke-Acts; cf. Acts 1:1). Therefore, it is reasonable to include Luke's purpose for Acts as falling under his purpose for the Gospel of Luke. In Luke 1:4 the author says that he is writing to "most excellent Theophilus" . . . "in order that he might know the certainty of the things he had been taught (instructed)."
- Given the contents of the book of Acts, Theophilus appears to have had questions about the coming and activity of the **Holy Spirit**, the ministry of the Apostles, Paul and his dealings with the Jerusalem Apostles and the advance of Christianity to the Imperial capital (Rome).
- Luke's purpose was to demonstrate to Theophilus the sovereign, unified and unmitigated advance of the gospel into all the world, i.e. from Jerusalem to Rome. There are seven "progress reports" on the unity and advance of the church that further confirm this (cf. 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30, 31).

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER 1

I. Introduction to the early Beginning of the Church (1)

A. The Lord Prepares the Disciples (1:1-11)

1. The Reaffirmation of the Promise (1:1-5)
2. The Re-orientation to the Program (1:6-8)
3. The Ascension and Predicted Return (1:9-11)

B. The 11 Apostles Doing God's Work (1:12-26)

1. The Apostles and Others Gathered in Jerusalem (1:12-14)
2. Impromptu Business Meeting; Motion of Peter to Choose Another Apostle (1:15-26)
3. Judas' apostatizing fulfilled Scripture (1:15-20)
4. The Criteria for Apostolic Replacement (1:21,22)
5. The Method of Choosing (1:23-26)