

Acts

That Luke was the author of Acts as well as the Gospel which bears his name is evident from the introduction, Paul's statement that all had left him except Luke in II Timothy 4:11 and the unanimous testimonies of the early Christian fathers of the second and third centuries.

The ancient uncial manuscripts, those written in large capital block letters do not have the same title for the book of Acts. One prominent manuscript known as Codex Sinaiticus - Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet has simply Acts as it's title. Codex Alexandrinus A in the Latin Alphabet has The Acts of the Holy Apostles. Some other uncial manuscripts has Acts of the Apostles. Later dated minuscule manuscripts have different names such as, Acts of the Holy Apostles, and Acts of the Holy Spirit. Since the book of Acts follows the progress of the gospel from its beginning in Jerusalem to world conquest in the capital of the World Rome and does not deal with the Acts of all the Apostles we're styling this study as simply Acts.

Various dates have been given for the composition of the book some late date, Acts to 80 - 90AD because the Jewish historian Josephus mentions Theudas and Judas the Gallilean as does Luke in Acts 5:36. They say Luke must have been dependent upon Josephus, which is baloney. Josephus could have been dependent on Luke, or, they both could have been dependent on an outside historical source. Also Theudas was a very common Greek name and may have not been the same man.

The second date that critical scholars give is 70 to 80AD, because Luke 21:20 changes the words of Daniel 9:27 to the expression "compassed with armies", and they do not believe predictive prophecy is possible, therefore, they say that Luke and Acts must have been written after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans. All of this is not a problem if you believe Jesus is who He says He is, there is no problem with Jesus predicting the future.

The third possible date is 63 to 64AD. In the book of Acts, the Roman government is pictured as being tolerant of Christianity

and Christians being in subjection to the Roman government. By 64 AD the first great persecution under Nero had begun. The Jewish rebellion against Rome began in 66AD. Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed in 70AD. It is inconceivable for these events to have been left out if they had already taken place. Acts ends where it does because the events had progressed no further in history. Luke was with Paul in Rome cf II Timothy 4:11 and probably suffered the same fate as the apostle.

There are seven threads that tie together the Gospel of Luke to the Book of Acts.

1. Both Luke and Acts are addressed to the same person.

Acts 1:1 A. "The former treatise have I made O Theophilus ..." cf "... most excellent Theophilus ..."

Luke 1:1-4

2. Note the word order: Jesus did not practice what He preached, He preached what He practiced. Jesus would work a miracle, and use it as a teaching tool, to teach a lesson from.

Acts 1:1 B. "...of all that Jesus began both to do and teach," cf Luke 24:19b "... which was a prophet mighty in deed and word ..."

3. The resurrection of Christ is the watershed of both books. Luke ends with it and Acts begins with it.

Acts 1:2 A. "Until the day in which He was taken up ..." cf

Luke 24:51b "... he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."

4. Jesus gives commandments also known as The Great Commission.

Acts 1:2b "...have given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:" cf

"... repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name beginning at Jerusalem ..."

Luke 24:44-49

5. Jesus did not just rise in the hearts of His disciples, or His doctrine did not just arise in the hearts of His new church. Jesus rose in a bodily, physical resurrection from the dead. Ask yourself what are the many infallible proofs Luke speaks of?

Acts 1:3 “To whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs ...” cf

Luke 24:36-39 “ ... Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them... behold my hands my feet that it is I myself handle me and see for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have. ...have ye here any meat? And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and of a honeycomb. And He took it and did eat before them.”

Most of Acts is written from the standpoint of the 3rd person.

The story moves along by “ they did ...” or “he did ...” However a number of verses utilize the first person plural, “we...”

Acts 16:10-18, Acts 20:5-15, Acts 21:1-18, Acts 27:1, Acts 28:16, thus, the “we” alerts us to the fact that the author is an eyeball witness to the “we” sections in the book of Acts.

Acts 1:1 “the former theses have I made O Theophilus of all that Jesus began to do and teach” The purpose of the author in writing the Book of Acts is to set forth the words and deeds of Jesus and should be compared to the introduction to the Gospel of Luke cf Luke 1:1-4 Luke & Acts should be considered one work in two parts.

Peter foremost Apostle to Jews Paul foremost Apostle Gentiles

1st part Chapters 2-12 Acts

2nd part Chapters 13-28 Acts

Peter

Paul

1st sermon Chapter 2

1st sermon Chapter 13

Lame healed Chapter 3

Lame healed Chapter 14

Influence of shadow Chapter 5

Influence of kerchief Chapter 19

Simon the Sorcerer Chapter 8

Elymas the Sorcerer Chapter 13

Laying on of hands Chapter 8

Laying on of hands Chapter 19

Peter worshipped Chapter 10

Paul worshipped Chapter 14

Raised the dead Chapter 9

Raised the dead Chapter 20

Imprisoned Chapter 12

Imprisoned Chapter 28

“Acts 1:8” ... Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto uttermost parts of the earth” cf Isaiah 43 & 44.

The job of an apostle was to bear eyewitness testimony of the life, death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ, God. This they did as we progressively read the book of Acts. Cf Acts 1:21-22, Acts 2:32, Acts 3:15, Acts 5:32, Acts 10:39-41, Acts 22:14-15, Acts 23:11, Acts 26:13-18, Acts. Peter also sums it up nicely when he says: II Peter 1:15-16.

Acts 1:9-16

Psalm 41:9

Acts 1:17-18

Zechariah 11:10-17

Matthew 26:14-16

Matthew 27:1-8

Acts 1:17-19

Jeremiah 7:29-32

Acts 1:20

Psalm 69:25

Psalm 109:8

Galatians 1:7-8

Acts 1:21-26

Acts 2:1

The bishop’s bible brought us chapter and verse divisions as a tool so we might memorize how to find verses. Acts 2:1 is often misunderstood especially by our Pentecostal friends as they think that the “... they ...” is referring to the 120 cf Acts 1:15. However, they is an antecedent which always refers back to the

nearest named noun. Therefore, Acts 1:26 and Acts 2:1 must be read together in order to rightly divide the word of truth and understand that the “they” is “ ... the eleven apostles”

XActs 2:2-13

Notice Peter stands up with the eleven, not the 120.

Acts 2:14-16

Two explanations are offered for this phenomenon, first, “these men are full of new wine” cf verse 13, offered by the mockers. Second, Peter’s answer that this is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel cf Joel 2:28-32.

Pentecost—Peter Preaches First Gospel Sermon

Fellowship called “the Church” is born. Acts 2:17 Last days cf: Joel 2:28-32. Acts 2:20 “day of The Lord”; coming destruction of Jerusalem & final judgment day cf I Cor 5:5, II Cor 1:14, I Thess 5:2, II Peter 3:10. During Christian Age “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. This chapter will teach us how to call. Acts 2:22-24 Greatest speech in history. Peter makes 7 points Acts 2:25 cf Psalm 16:8-11. Acts 2:26-28 cf Heb 12:2, Heb 2:17, Jn 9:4. Acts 2:29-30 cf: Matt 22:41:46, Ps 132:11. Acts 2:31-35 cf Ps 110:1. Acts 2:36 Point of whole sermon “Lord” Greek-Kurios, YHWH-Hebrew Unspeakable name of God, & “Christ”-Greek Christos, Anointed One. Acts 2:37 No faith was produced by demonstrations of the spirit Acts 2:1-21. Only with preaching of Gospel Acts 2:22-36 faith is produced. Cf Rom 10:17. Acts 2:38 contains 2 imperatives & 2 promises. Dependence of the clause, remission of sins, relies upon both imperative verbs, repent & be baptized. 2 promises, remission of sins & gift of Holy Spirit. 2:39 conditions are for whole Christian Age. 2:40-42 Worship began 2:43-46 sharing 2:47 repentant baptized believers added to “the Church.”