

Beginning at the Beginning

The introduction to both scrolls is found in Luke 1:1-4

The author of Acts and the gospel that bears his name is Dr Luke, he makes 5 points:

1. What are 'the things' in Luke 1:1?
2. Luke an eyewitness? a) of events in his gospel? Y / N
b) of later events in Acts Y / N
3. The quality of his research v3?
4. Who may the 'many' of v1 include?
5. What did Luke supply to Theophilus with both these documents?

Is that important to us?

Detective hats on!

What did he train as?

Where was his hometown?

Was he a Jewish or a Gentile believer?

In Acts 16 he is a part of Paul's team. How do we know?

The clues!

In Acts 20:6 he is part of the team sailing now Troas, taking relief to Judean believers

In Acts 21:17 he is in Jerusalem with Paul and was in the area for

In Acts 27 Luke is with Paul as he is sent by sea to to face trial.

Named as present in Paul's 2-year imprisonment

Named as present during the imprisonment which ended in Paul's death around AD 67/68

Where his information came from

What did he probably discover for himself?

Who did he meet in Jerusalem who became 'sources' for both the gospel and Acts?

What other material was around?

The where and when of the 'Acts of the Apostles'

Where was he most likely based as he wrote the gospel and Acts?

When did Luke most likely commence both the gospel and the Acts?

Thoughts on the 'naming' of this document... probably not by Luke!

Some say 'The Acts of Apostles' focusses too much on the humans involved!

Others suggest 'The Acts of the Holy Spirit' but, does that minimise the part God intends us to play?

*Possibly, 'The continuing words and deeds of Jesus, by his Spirit through his apostles'
or 'Acts of Spirit-filled men'*

Imagining Luke's musings as he comes to write the Acts.

What would have he recalled from all those months of writing the gospel?

Some quotes! "Luke realises that the Jesus he has never met, **has** been the disciples, but is **now** them and all believers, including himself"

"In fact, Jesus had never been so really them as when he them!"

"So, it's not Part 1 'Jesus' and now part 2 'the Church' but it's the two stages of the ministry of Jesus, first on personally, and publicly, and then, Jesus from by through his....."

What Luke has already told Theophilus

In Luke 24:44-48 What did Luke say Jesus did **for** them?

What did Luke say Jesus promised **to** them?

Some notes on the highlights of Luke's story – its beginnings and its end?

You will discover.....

Luke's recap and expansion on his ending to the gospel

The coming of the Holy Spirit empowering, transforming, and equipping for the task

The young church in action, glorious fellowship and outreach

Growth and opposition, persecution and death

The scattering of believers, and the spread of the gospel (Paul is a part of this!)

Luke's concentration on the gospel's spread from Jerusalem, westwards to Rome

Luke's evangelist's heart – salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ

Luke's 'warts and all' approach

'The great divide' between Jew and Gentile to be completely dismantled!

It starts with Peter and his mission to Roman, Gentile Cornelius

It continues with Paul's 'Arrest' by Jesus as he heads to wipe out more believers

It develops with Paul's growth and preparation for his coming ministry

His mission 'kick-started' with news of Gentiles becoming believers in Antioch

Teamed with Barnabas, Paul begins his mission in earnest

The shift in emphasis from Jerusalem, **the capital of Judaism**, to Syrian Antioch

The progress of the gospel westwards to Rome, **the capital of the world!**

The climate in which the gospel was able to reach the ends of the earth

It reached us! The incomplete story!

Completion will come, when Jesus returns as he said he would

The never-ending story in which we now have our part

To the ends of the earth and to the people next door in your street

The story of Vijay Menon

The Great Commission

'The Acts of Spirit-filled believers in the Lord Jesus Christ until he comes in his glory'

Your role in the Great Commission

The end of the story of Vijay Menon and those who prayed!

Your prayer