

October 1, 2023

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

Acts 1

Introduction for Theophilus

(Luke 1:1-4)

1The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

We will find that Luke address's the book of Luke and Acts to a "Theophilus". An unknown person likely of some authority. There are several theory's on who Theophilus is but the Bible simply does not reveal it.

Luke 1: 1Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; 3It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, **most excellent Theophilus,** 4That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed. (emphasis mine)

By the time Luke writes this record of the "Acts" he had already written the Gospel of Luke which is the reference in vs 1 of Acts 1
"The former treatise have I made.."

We know from Luke that he was not an apostle of Jesus and had never met Jesus nor did he appear to have a close relationship with any Apostle. He cited or quoted from Mark's writings a good deal. It appears that Mark's Gospel did not appear in its entirety until 60-68 AD.

Luke obtained information about Christ in His investigation that the other Gospel writers did not have access to.

More theory's about Luke: Luke was perhaps not a Jew but a gentile from Syria. The other argument is that he was a Jew from Antioch in Syria, having been raised in the knowledge of Judaism but was not a practicing Jew. Again, the Bible does not reveal an answer to the question of Luke's history.

Luke was a close friend and traveling companion to Paul. As a non-Jew IE gentile, or non-practicing Jew he would not have had the relationships that Paul had with the Apostles, but was a staunch supporter of Paul's and an excellent investigator and writer in his own right. He likely knew some of the Apostles but to what extent, that is speculation.

Vs 1 reveals Luke's intent was to make known to mankind the things that Jesus did and taught.

Vs 1 and 2 are separated by a comma so the thought continues that this book of Acts would reveal what Jesus did up until He was taken up. The Holy Spirit would then take a specific responsibility on earth by indwelling the Apostles that Jesus had chosen. That role by the Holy Spirit continued and is on-going within all Believers.

2Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

In the Gospel of Luke, he admits that he did not see Jesus or anything that He had done but had received firsthand testimony from those that did see Jesus.

Luke declares that Jesus was repeatedly seen, and he is reporting on that based on eyewitness testimony that Luke obtained. Luke was told that these personal contacts between the Apostles/Disciples and with Jesus went on for 40 days.

3To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Remember the order of the 7 feasts? Can anyone name them in order? PUF-P

Passover: Jesus was crucified.

Unleavened Bread: the sins of the world we laid on Jesus at His Crucifixion and He was separated from God the Father.

First Fruits: Jesus was raised from the dead as the first fruit to defeat death.

Pentecost: the power of the Holy Spirit was sent to men, IE:Believers in Christ.

All four completed by Christ on the exact day as each feast was celebrated precisely as God had ordained.

Wait for the Holy Spirit

4And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

God is looking for Obedience to Him from us. Jesus Apostles understood that desire of God and they complied by staying in or right around Jerusalem. They were told by Jesus that something was going to happen to them, but they did not fully comprehend it until it happened. They were eager for the Promise of the Father to be carried out in whatever form God deemed appropriate.

Jerusalem holds a special place in God's heart. It was a symbol of the Promised Land both on earth and in Heaven. Jerusalem had many problems, not as an inanimate city but the home to Judaism, home to the Temple of God. But as a nation Israel

turned on God their Father repeatedly against His Profits and ultimately against His Son. God called Jerusalem a harlot due to the way it treated His Prophets and His Son, but He loved and loves Jerusalem. It was there that the next important event would take place, Pentecost: from Thayer's Greek Lexicon: Pentecost (properly, the fiftieth day after the Passover.

The event would happen exactly 50 days after the Passover Feast, that day that Jesus was Crucified. The Holy Spirit of God came down to earth to assume His role in the lives of Believers.

5For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

The promise was of a Spiritual Baptism. This Baptism was not immediately coupled to Jesus' ascension, and Jesus told them of some sort of delay in the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not tell them about His ascension at this time.

This Spiritual Baptism by the Holy Spirit was not like John with water but with the third person of the God Head, the Holy Spirit. This Spiritual Baptism did not eliminate God's direction to have a physical baptism after being born again. The physical baptism is a Believer's opportunity to make a public confession of that what happened to them Spiritually in their hearts, by Believing in Jesus and having the Holy Spirit fill them.

The Ascension

[\(Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53\)](#)

6When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

The disciples as well as many Jews of the time wanted a Messiah that would rid them of the Roman's. Jesus had made it quite clear that was not His mission. Thankfully, His Mission was to bring Salvation to the world.

Neither Luke nor Paul are counted among the Apostles that Jesus selected. Luke is reciting first-hand knowledge from someone present of what occurred at the ascension of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. It is pretty sure that Paul was not there as he was about to embark on his persecution of "the way" followers. There is no indication that Luke was there either, so again it was through Luke's investigation or interviews that we get this account.

7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Jesus answered their question when they asked: would He "***restore again the kingdom of Israel***"? It was not for them to "***know the times or the seasons.***" Jesus would make the point

that they as Believers and we as Believers should be diligent about the job Jesus gave us. Taking the gospel into all the world, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The point being when He does come for His Church, He will find us busy about His Work. The consolation for not knowing the exact time was the giving of the Holy Spirit to Believers. But why the delay from the Ascension to Pentecost? We have no specific Biblical answer, there are some theories but without a concrete Biblical reason, we simply say: we don't know we can speculate but can't teach it as Biblical fact. (I'll give you a speculation of my own in a moment on this issue) What we do know is that Pentecost happened exactly 50 days after Passover the Crucifixion of Jesus.

8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

It would be during 40 days that Jesus would appear to the Apostles and others after His Resurrection. So, when did the 40 days start? After Jesus was raised from the dead, which was 3 days after His death on the cross which was Passover.

After those 40 days He would ascend into Heaven, to the right hand of God the Father. The Apostles were told to wait in

Jerusalem, which they did. God asks of those who love Him to do certain things, whether it being baptized or standing still. Some of those things seem odd or peculiar but none the less He expects us to obey, and we should do so like the Apostles did, simply obey God's Commands.

9And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Christ on many occasions would demonstrate examples of something to show His Apostles what was possible in and through Him; Feeding 5000 with a few loaves of bread. Walking on water. Calming a storm. Healing people, bringing people back to life. All demonstrated examples of His Power and what they could look forward to.

That is true here as well. Man cannot fly in the air without the aid of propulsion or lift, that is common knowledge today, but back then it was so far beyond reason no man could believe it, even seeing it. But they saw it, they all saw it, Jesus lifted off the earth and transported through the air to Heaven. It was an example of

what was going to happen to His Church, Believers bodies both dead and alive at His coming for His Church, the Rapture. These two men in white said the same thing that Jesus alludes to when they said.

***Acts 1:11* Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

***Luke 21: 27* And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. *28* And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**

From Jesus ascension until the coming of the Holy Spirit would actually be 7 days; IE (50 days from Passover to Pentecost) if we subtract the three days Jesus was in the grave. 7 Days after Jesus was Raptured (ascended into Heaven) the Holy Spirit came. I wonder if this is not an allusion to the 7 years of Tribulation after Rapture of the Church. Just a non-provable Biblical thought.

Passover to Pentecost	50 days
Jesus crucified on Passover 3 days in Grave	-3
	=47
Forty days with Apostles	-40
Days from Ascension to Pentecost	-7

7+40+3=50

Again, not a Biblical probable thought but God never does anything by accident. There is a reason He did this, gap of 7 days before He sent the Holy Spirit after Jesus ascension.

Matthias Replaces Judas

12Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

A Sabbath's day journey was around 1000 to 1200 yards. That was likely determined by Joshua, when he established some boundaries around the Arc of the Covenant and Tabernacle while in the desert:

Joshua 3: 4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

It is believed to be the distance that the tribes would camp from the Tabernacle, no one being closer than 2000 cubits. It was also the distance to stay from the Arc while in transit.

October 8, 2023

13And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew,

and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James. [14](#)These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

I must confess I don't know why there are so many commentaries by very reputable Bible Scholars that give a good deal of words to the order of the Apostles in these verses. I am baffled by it. The fact is that these people including the Apostles were present in an upper room when the Holy Spirit came upon them as promised. I am not so concerned with the who and whereas but the WHAT! This was a promised fulfilled by God, exactly as Jesus told them it would happen; the Holy Spirit came. Praise God!

Not only can you read vast amounts of comment on who and where but there are buildings (churches) built on this supposed site by Helena the mother of Constantine. Even the locations have some speculation in them but there has been given some in my opinion over emphasis on places and people instead of what God did. It has I fear led some to worship locations and people instead of the Creator God.

[15](#)And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Those days likely refers to the days between Jesus Resurrection and Jesus Ascension. We could go through a list of things that Peter (Simon) was known to have done, Impetuous things. As Jesus worked with Peter and helped him understand the role he was to play in the creation of the Church, Peter eventually got grounded in the Love of Christ. Jesus told Peter he was to be the Rock, the foundation of the Church. A word that comes to mind about Peter was Passion. He had passion for His Mission and His Lord.

16Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

All the Apostles knew what Judas Iscariot had done, so the reason Peter is speaking about Judas is to enlighten the 120 Disciples (including the Apostles) as to Judas's treachery. It was also to show the consistency in God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit spoke hundreds of years earlier through King David in Psalms

41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

The Holy Spirit continued through King David is the conviction of this friend that did eat bread with the Savior!

Psalms 69: [25](#)Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.

The Holy Spirit hundreds of years before Judas Iscariot was even born condemned his treachery through King David. If you read Psalms 69 you will see our Savior in those Words of Prophecy.

Peter continues in exposing the evil that Judas brought even in fulfillment of Prophecy. Again, what we think of as a prophecy, God has already seen happen through His omnipresence and omniscience.

[17](#)For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. [18](#)Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. [19](#)And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama*, that is to say, *The field of blood*.

[20](#)For it is written in the book of Psalms, *Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take*.

This term “bishoprick” means leader, where we get the word Bishop.

What is coming is the replacing of Judas Iscariot to the 12 Apostles. They were 11 as they sat and had this discussion. Peter was laying out the guidelines as to how God wanted this

replacement chosen. One condition was ironclad, witness the resurrection. Additionally the person should have been with the Apostles as a Disciple of Christ not one of the inner circle but close to it so to speak.

21Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

The starting point of the time-period of those who would be considered would be from the time Jesus was Baptized by John the Baptist. There were a lot of people coming to hear John and be Baptized in those days. There was a span of about 3 years from Jesus's baptism until His Ascension, which narrowed the field of candidates to those who followed Christ during that entire time. And the iron clad proclamation of ***“must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection”***.

23And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Regardless of the manner of “lots” prayer was the key. There are several examples of men of God asking God a question. They

then put before God a method that they would understand His answer.

Judges 6: [36](#)And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, [37](#)Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. [38](#)And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. [39](#)And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. [40](#)And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

They sought God to intervene in whatever manner of “lots” they were going to use that He would choose and cause that man to be identified.

The Greeks used a method that many believe was used here with no Biblical verification. The manner was to write the first name of the two people on separate stones, put the stones in an urn and shake it until a stone fell out. That name would be the chosen one of God. However, they did it, they put it in the hands of God through prayer.

[25](#)That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. [26](#)And they gave forth

their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Matthias is short for *Mattathias*, which according to Got Questions means Gift of Yahweh. The selection pool was limited to the other 72 disciples that meet the criteria that Paul had laid out. The Apostles must have been familiar with these two men and their diligence, yet no information is known about them from the Bible.

There are non-Biblical traditions that speculate as to what ministry Matthias was directed to. I won't go into them as they are not supported by Biblical inference or direct validation. What we know is sufficient; Matthias was selected by God and carried out his mission in obedience.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James