

NOTES

I. UNIT THREE – “From Mt. Zion to Mt. Vesuvius” – Intro to The Book of Acts

A. ACTS: An “Intentional Narrative”

1. A Historian With Focus Rather Than Family and Fame

- a. Luke *never* mentions \_\_\_\_\_ by name in the Book of Acts.
- b. His name only appears \_\_\_\_\_ in the entire “New Testament!”
- c. Luke went *without* so that \_\_\_\_\_ wouldn’t have to:

*“Luke was a Syrian of Antioch, by profession a physician, the disciple of the apostles, and later a follower of Paul until his martyrdom. He served the Lord without distraction, without a wife, and without children. He died at the age of eighty-four in Boeotia [region in central Greece], full of the Holy Spirit.” –from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, Anti-Marionite Prologue*

2. A Historian With a History of Faithfulness in a World of Fickleness

- a. Everything we read about Luke comes from the imprisoned pen of \_\_\_\_\_ (Col 4:14; Phm 24; 2 Tim 4:11):
  - (1) He was a \_\_\_\_\_ (Col 4:14; Gk, *iatros*); 20 of the 38x this word is used, are by Luke himself!
  - (2) Luke was a “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_” part of Paul’s elite inner band of “mystery handlers.” (Phm 24).
  - (3) Luke was a faithful brother to the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim 4:11).
  - (4) Luke was a “\_\_\_\_\_” to God’s covenant people (cf. Col 4:11 and 4:13-14).

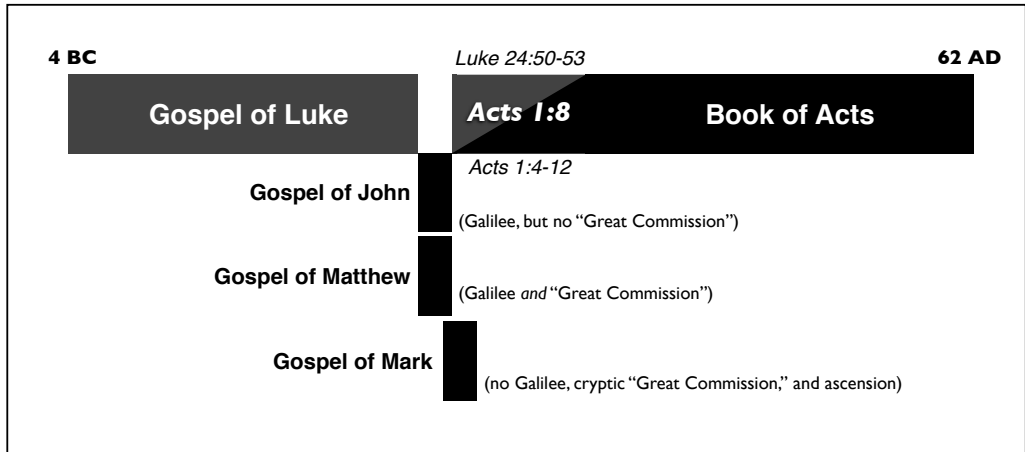
3. Clues Left By Our Reluctant Recorder

- a. Luke was a fastidious \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. birth & youth narratives, shepherd report, Martha/Mary, rejection at Nazareth, etc.).
- b. Luke was a “\_\_\_\_\_” of an influential and wealthy “\_\_\_\_\_” (Gk, *kratistos*; cf. Lk 1:3; Acts 23:26; 26:25).

Luke the Historian	Josephus the Historian
<p><i>“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,”</i></p> <p>—Luke, <i>The Gospel of Luke</i>, 1:1-3</p>	<p><i>“I Suppose that by my books of the Antiquity of the Jews, most excellent Epaphroditus, have made it evident to those who peruse them, that our Jewish nation is of very great antiquity,...However, since I observe a considerable number of people giving ear to the reproaches that are laid against us by those who bear ill-will to us, and will not believe what I have written concerning the antiquity...I therefore have thought myself under an obligation to write somewhat briefly about these subjects, in order to convict those that reproach us of spite and voluntary falsehood, and to correct the ignorance of others, and withal to instruct all those who are desirous of knowing the truth of what great antiquity we really are.”</i></p> <p>—Josephus, <i>Against Apion</i>, Book 1:1</p>

Luke the Historian	Josephus the Historian
<p><i>"In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God."</i> —<b>Luke, Acts, 1:1-3</b></p>	<p><i>"In the former book, most honored Epaphroditus, I have demonstrated our antiquity, and confirmed the truth of what I have said, from the writings of the Phoenicians, and Chaldeans, and Egyptians. I have, moreover, produced many of the Grecian writers as witnesses thereto. I have also made a refutation of Manetho and Cheremon, and of certain others of our enemies. I shall now therefore begin a confutation of the remaining authors who have written any thing against us"</i> — <b>Josephus, Against Apion, Book 2:1</b></p>

- c. Luke was a "frequent \_\_\_\_\_" on Paul's "Gospel ship" (cf. Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16).
4. A History With a Focus Rather Than a Fullness
- a. Though mentioning \_\_\_\_\_ different people in Acts, Luke focuses on four:
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ – 54x (next largest is Romans - 27x).
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ – 62x (he "drops off the scene" in chapter 12)
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ – 72x (his name appears in every chapter, except: 12, 14, 23, 27).
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_ – 158x (he doesn't really "step onto the scene" until chapter 9)
- b. In a very real sense, Luke records the fulfillment of Jesus' two final commands associated with the Great Commission: "\_\_\_\_\_" and "\_\_\_\_\_" (Matt 28:16-20; Mk 16:14-20; Lk 24:46-49; Acts 1:4-11).



- c. Luke provides us with the context for \_\_\_\_\_ of our "New Testament," by recording the majority of Paul's life.
- d. He provides a *partial* context for the rest of our "New Testament," because he gives us the cultural and geographical \_\_\_\_\_ for the other nine letters.
- e. The Book of Acts forms the "\_\_\_\_\_" upon which we can hang the other 22 books of our "New Testament." (see chart on page 15).
- f. Luke stands forever as a testimony to the power of \_\_\_\_\_.

# THE BOOK OF ACTS & BEYOND

