

# Appreciating What We Have in Luke and Acts

## **LUKE 1:1-4**

*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, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.*

## **ACTS 1:1-3**

*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. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*

### **In *The Gospel According to Luke* We Have:**

- ⇒ An orderly narrative (*diēgēsis*)
- ⇒ Compiled by Luke, a Gentile physician (*Col. 4:14; Philem 23-24; 2 Tim. 4:11*)
- ⇒ Concerning things that Jesus did, taught, and accomplished (*Luke 3:4-6; 4:16-21; 7:22-23, 48-50; 8:25, 54-55; 9:35; Acts 2:22-24; Luke 24:18, 26-27, 44-47; 22:69*)
- ⇒ Delivered by the earliest eyewitnesses (*24:48*) and ministers of the word (*24:49*)
- ⇒ Written for “*most excellent Theophilus*”—a Gentile, probably a man of wealth and social standing (*Acts 23:26; 24:2; 26:25*)
- ⇒ So that he could have certainty concerning the things he had been taught

### **In *The Acts of the Apostles* We Have:**

- ⇒ A second book by the same author, now an eyewitness companion of the apostle Paul (*16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16*) to the same recipient
- ⇒ Documenting what the chosen apostles did after receiving commands through the Holy Spirit (*1:4-5, 8; 2:32-33, 36, 42-47; 8:4; 10:34-35; 13:1-3; 14:23; 28:30-31*)
- ⇒ Built on the truth that Jesus had presented himself to a great many people alive by many proofs over the course of 40 days (*Acts 26:26*)
- ⇒ Revolving around the kingdom of God (*Luke 9:27; Acts 13:32–39; 28:31*)
- ⇒ Promising that this same Jesus will return (*Luke 18:8; Acts 1:6-11*)