

January 8, 2023

Acts 1:1-5

“Many Convincing Proofs And The Father’s Promise”

### PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Author: Luke. As we go along through Acts we will discover the “we” passages!

Date around A.D. 62-63. Time span covered: 30 years.

Recipient: Theophilus.

Theme: Birth and growth of the early church.

Theology: God’s plan of salvation through Jesus and the establishment and growth of the Kingdom of God.

Serves as the bridge between the gospels and the epistles of the New Testament.

Provides the church today with the pattern of growth through: evangelism, missions, and discipleship. Luke’s “former narrative” was the gospel that bears his name.

The first two chapters of Acts revolve around Pentecost. Before His ascension, Jesus commissioned the apostles to take on a worldwide mission of spreading the gospel. Jesus also promised that they would be empowered for this task by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus spoke previously of the coming of the Holy Spirit:

**Luke 24:49** “And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

**John 14:16** “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”

**John 15:26** “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me.”

**John 16:7-11** “Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. When he comes he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

And in **Acts 2:33**, the coming of the promised Holy Spirit is spoken of with these words, “Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear.”

“Formerly they had experienced the Spirit through the presence of Jesus. After Pentecost they would experience Jesus through the presence of the Spirit.” *John B. Polhill.*

#### **Application:**

Meditate on the following statement regarding the purpose of Acts followed by a plethora of vitally important elements of this New Testament book.

Regarding purpose author *Stanley D. Toussaint* writes, “To explain with the Gospel of Luke the orderly and sovereignly directed progress of the kingdom message from Jews to Gentiles, and from Jerusalem to Rome.”

Couched within this statement of purpose are elements of: giving a historical perspective, serving as an apologetics source for defense of the faith, demonstrating the universality of Christianity, a theological treatise, and an eschatologically informative source. This eschatological emphasis is found in the opening of the book in **Acts 1:3** and again at the conclusion of the book in **Acts 28:31**. Lots to take in, hang on tight!