

## The Transition From Luke To Acts.

Acts 1:1-3.

Sunday morning, May 3, 2009.

### I. The Former account I made, O Theophilus... Acts 1:1.

- A. Luke was a gentile doctor, a physician, from the city of Antioch in Syria. He is the only non-Jewish author in the NT.
  - 1. Luke had made a careful investigation into the things pertaining to the Lord Jesus. Luke 1:3
  - 2. Out of this investigation he wrote his gospel, or “the former account,” setting in order the things of his investigation. Luke 1:1
  - 3. Luke did so in order that Theophilus might know the certainty of the things in which he was instructed. Luke 1:4 Once again in Acts Luke wants Theophilus to know that same certainty; hence the many irrefutable proofs. Acts 1:3
- B. Theophilus was a lover of God as his name implies. He may have taken this name upon his conversion, or it may have been given to him by his parents if they were gentile converts to Judaism; we simply do not know.
- C. At any rate Theophilus was an official in the Roman government as is implied in the gospel of Luke where he is referred to as “most excellent Theophilus.” The words “most excellent” are not a reference to the man’s character, but in the original Greek they are used to address government officials. Luke 1:3.

#### Applications:

- 1. If only we would read the Scriptures with the careful attentiveness that Luke displayed as he investigated the things pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ. What light and what grace would soon flood our souls!
- 2. What assurance would attend such an approach to the things of God as well. Luke speaks with the utmost confidence and assurance and seeks to impart the same to Theophilus.
- 3. The truth Theophilus carried in his name is one that we are all called upon to take upon ourselves. What a high calling this is. To be a lover of God is to be a lover of His people as well. 1 John 3:14-17. By nature we love ourselves and this world; by nature and by choice the Lord loves the needy men women and children of this world, and these two loves will forever be on a collision course Mark 5:15-17.

### II. All that Jesus began to do and to teach... Acts 1:1.

- A. This is a reference to the work the Lord Jesus undertook in His incarnation and humiliation. It is again a reference to the gospel of Luke.
- B. Implied in this statement is that with the gospel of Luke the work of Jesus was not finished. The work undertaken in His humiliation was only the beginning of the work of Jesus. The work Jesus continued to do from the right hand of the Father is now before us in the book of Acts.
- C. Implied in this statement also we may see that there will be an end and a finishing up of the work of Jesus. This is what is set before us in 1 Cor. 15:23-28.

Application:

What a wonderful comfort is there for us to know that the work of Jesus is ongoing; that we serve a living and actively ruling and undertaking Lord. That we have a throne of grace, and a day of grace to go there to receive the help that we need to serve Him.

III. "...He was taken up after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles..." Acts 1:2.

- A. This is the only time where the Lord Jesus is said to have spoken, or given commandments "through the Holy Spirit."
- B. It is true in a general way that the Lord Jesus lived His entire life and ministry by the power of the holy Spirit, Matt. 3:16,17, but He always spoke directly to His disciples and the people. Why the change now?
- C. A few things need to be said about this.

- 1. The Lord Jesus was now raised from the dead. He had been born with a "natural body," but He was raised with a "spiritual body" 1 Cor. 15:44. The words "through the Holy Spirit," may be taken to mean that He spoke with the new life and vitality which the Holy Spirit freely expressed through His spiritual body. No longer was the godhead veiled in the body of His humiliation, but all His resurrection glory was freely expressed by the Holy Spirit in Christ's spiritual body and witnessed by all for 40 days.

- 2. There was something else going on at the same time.

At this time in redemptive history the Lord Jesus was handing over the care

of

His flock to the third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

- a. During the Passover celebration the Lord Jesus had repeatedly spoken of His going away, and Him sending another Helper. John 14:16-18, 26 John 15:26 and John 16:7-14
- b. Following the resurrection the Lord appeared to His disciples, and, alluding to their being sent forth as His apostles, He breathed on them He said: "receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:22.
- c. Now, as He is about to be taken up, He speaks to them "through the Holy spirit." We do not know how He did this exactly, nor how it was different from His speaking at other times. However that it was an introducing the disciples again to their new Companion and Helper is almost certain. From now on it was going to be the Holy spirit who would teach and guide and empower the disciples, and as such the Lord Jesus speaks to them through Him.

Application:

Do not take the presence of the Holy spirit in your life for granted. How blessed are we to have the godhead with us, and in us, without the limitations of time and place.

- Develop a sensitivity to hearing Him speak in the Scriptures. Rev. 3:6,13,22.
- Do not grieve Him by rebellion; by unbelief; or by coldness and indifference toward the

things of God and His people. Ephesians 4:30.

- Do not quench Him by impenitence when you have gone astray 1 Thessalonians 5:19.