

# \* Acts

The Continuing Work of Jesus

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,  
<sup>2</sup> until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

(Acts 1:1-2)

## Acts: Introduction

### 1. Author

- Luke – the Apostle Paul's co-worker, fellow traveler and "beloved physician"
- Luke's credentials and credibility stem from his close relationship to Paul

## Acts: Introduction

### 2. Purpose

- Luke 1:1-4

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, <sup>3</sup> it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

(Luke 1:1-4)

## Acts: Introduction

### 2. Purpose

- *that we might know the "certainty" of these things*
  - to give an accurate, verifiable history of the origins of Christianity
  - to give a Christian apologetic – to motivate and equip believers to bear faithful witness to the apostolic gospel

## Acts: Introduction

### 3. Theme

- *The work of the exalted Lord Jesus who employs His word and the Spirit to advance His saving purposes through faithful witnesses*

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### 3. Theme

- Key elements
  - the power of the Holy Spirit
  - the triumph of the gospel/word
  - the faithfulness of witnesses

## Acts: Introduction

- *The challenge of Acts to today's church*  
(Ajith Fernando)