

Comments About Acts 1

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This week, I will use the space in this weekly short article to begin a brief survey of the book of Acts. May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Written by Luke

Bible students generally recognize Luke as the author of the book of Acts. The writing is addressed to Theophilus. He is mentioned twice in the Bible.

Luke 1:3—"It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus."

Acts 1:1—"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach."

Luke was one of the traveling partners of the apostle Paul.

Colossians 4:14—"Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you."

2 Timothy 4:11—"Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry."

Promise of Holy Spirit

Luke reminded his readers that Christ promised the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5—"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' "

Luke 24:49—"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Christ ascended

After Luke reminded the disciples of the coming promise, Christ ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and reached out to God with prayer and supplication (verses 12-14). Included in the audience were some of the phys-

ical family of Jesus (also verse 14). Luke reported that there were approximately 120 disciples there (verse 15).

Eyewitness to replace

The disciples realized that it was time to replace Judas.

When they discussed the possible candidates, it was important that the person be an eyewitness of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:21-22—"Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

The factor of an eyewitness was consistent with what Jesus had recently told His disciples.

John 15:27—"And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

Luke 24:48—"And you are witnesses of these things."

The factor of an eyewitness was consistent with what was written later in the Bible.

Acts 2:32—"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."

Acts 3:15—" [They] killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses."

Acts 4:33—"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus."

1 Peter 5:1—"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed."