

# THE BOOK OF ACTS:

## The birth, growth, and progress of the church

Original Author: Luke, Ph.D Sunday, AD 60 - 62 Sugar Land BC Press

### THE LINK BETWEEN THE GOSPELS & THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES.

CHAPTER 1: The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 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. To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem

from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.'" Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." So they



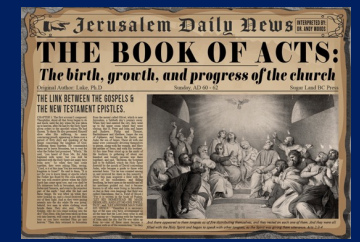
And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4



Dr. Andy Woods

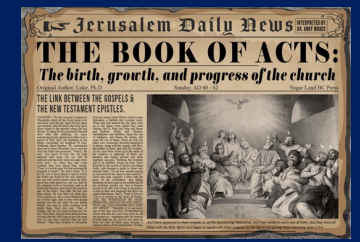
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church  
 President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Introductory Matters



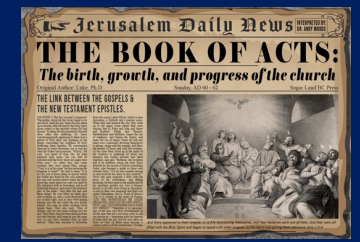
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- Structure
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- Themes
- Unique characteristics

# Introductory Matters

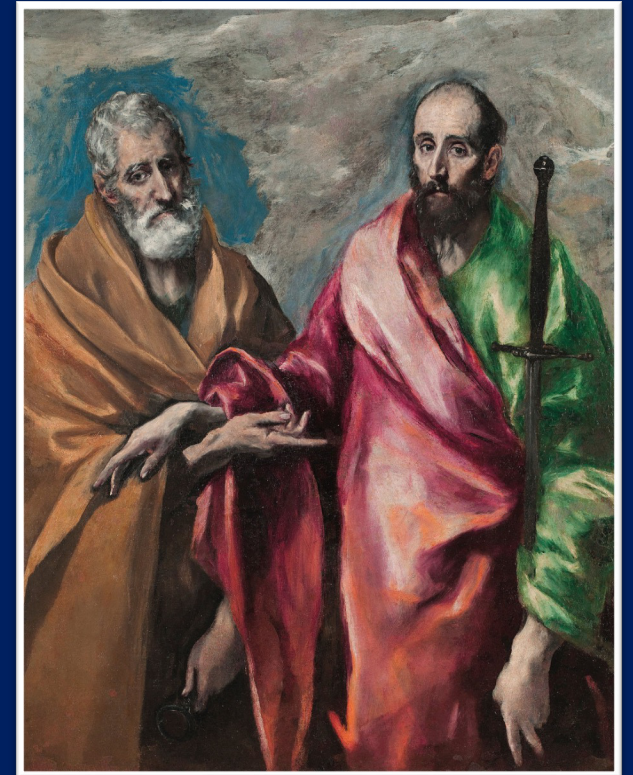


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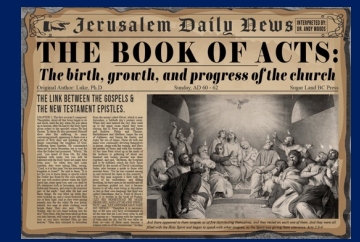
# Title



- Acts of the Apostles
- Misleading?
  - Acts of the Holy Spirit
  - Geographical expansion
  - Two apostles: Peter and Paul

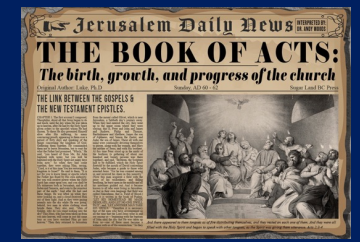


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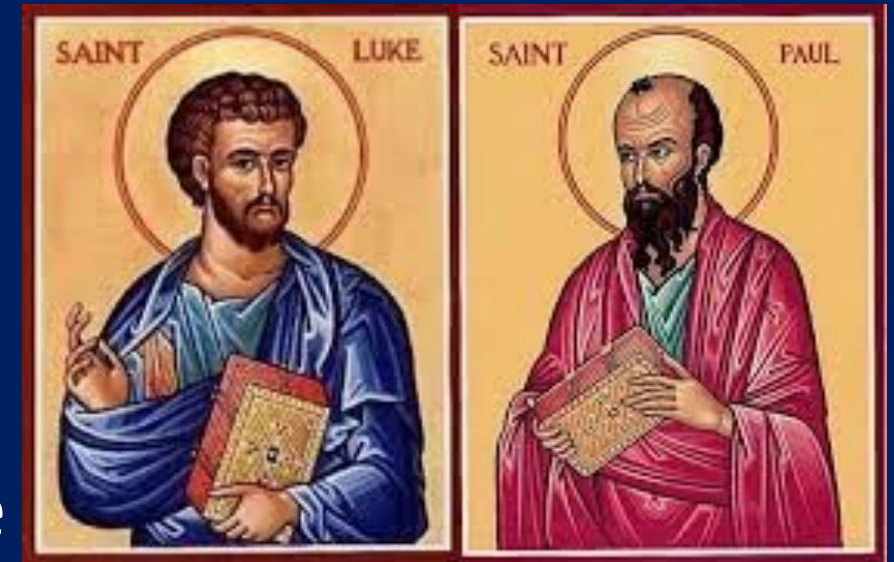


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# Authorship



- External: many early church fathers
- Internal
  - “We” (Acts 28:16)
  - Similarities with the Gospel of Luke
  - Literary ability (Col 4:14)
  - Affiliation with Paul (2 Tim 4:11)

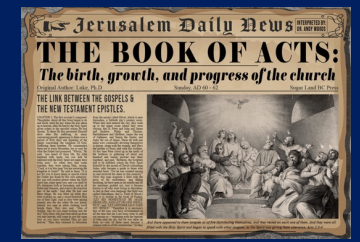


## Luke 1:1–4

<sup>1</sup> 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.



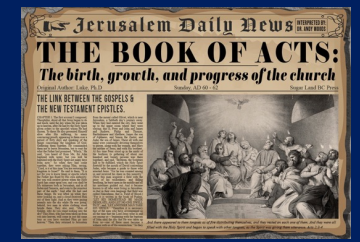
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# Biography

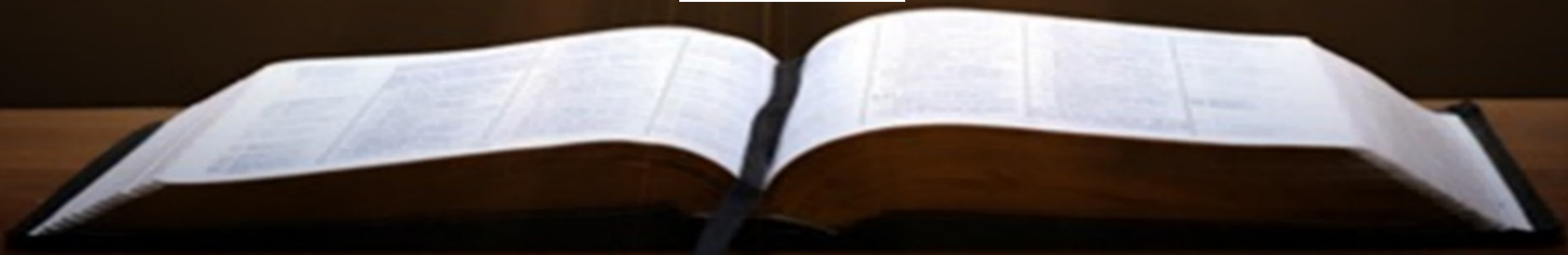
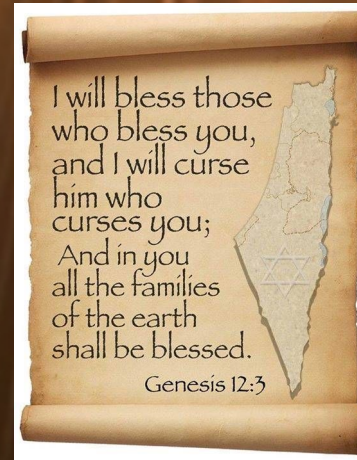


- Paul's companion (2 Tim 4:11)
- Physician (Col 4:14)
- Gentile
  - Col 4:11
  - Acts 1:19



# Genesis 12:3

“And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”



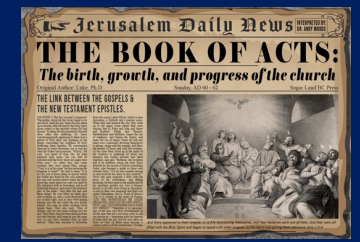
# Israel's Three Blessings to the World

(Gen 12:3b)

- 1) Scripture (Rom 3:2)
- 2) Savior (John 4:22)
- 3) Kingdom (Isa 2:2-3)

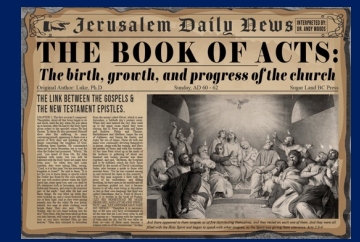


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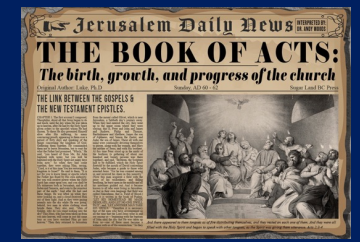
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# Place of Writing



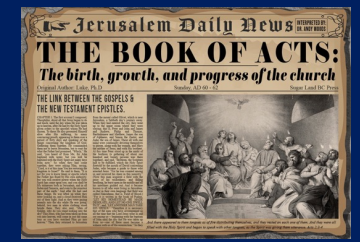
- “We” sections (Acts 16:10-40; 20:5–21:18; 27:1–28:16)
- From Paul
  - Cesarean imprisonment (Acts 24:27)
  - Voyage to Rome (Acts 27)
  - First Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:16)
  - Combination

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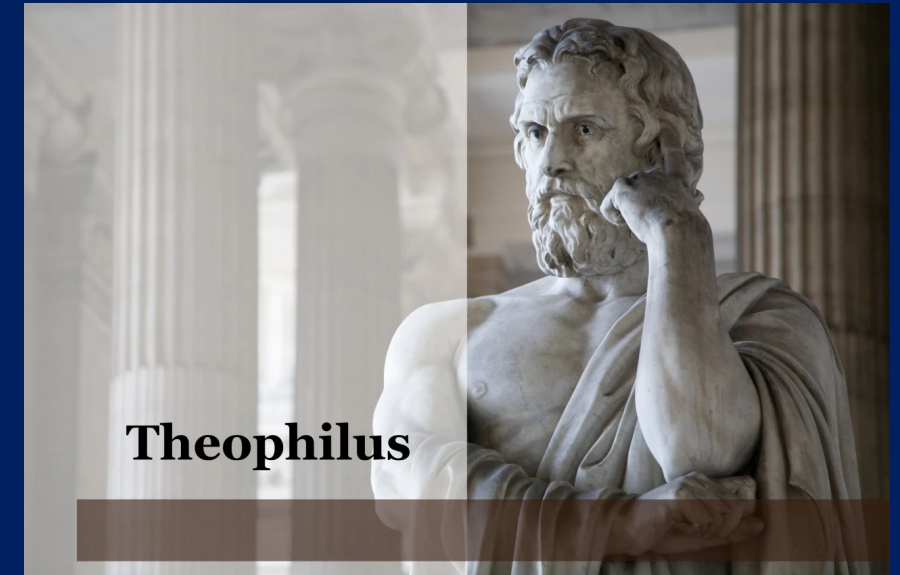
# Recipient



■ Theophilus (Acts 1:1)

■ Luke 1:3-4

- Roman official
- Gentile
- Believer
- Need of confirmation in what he had already believed



## Luke 1:1–4

<sup>1</sup> 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.





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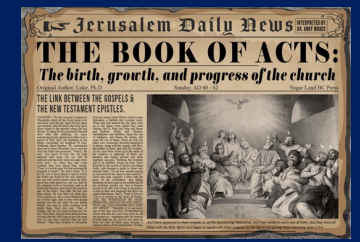


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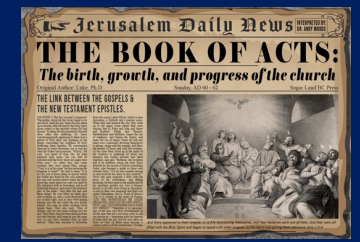


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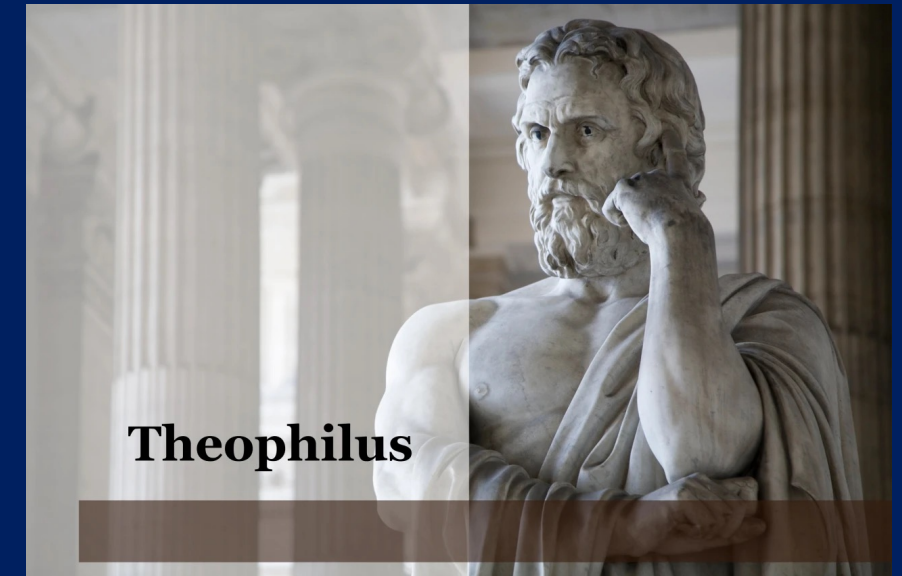


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# Purpose

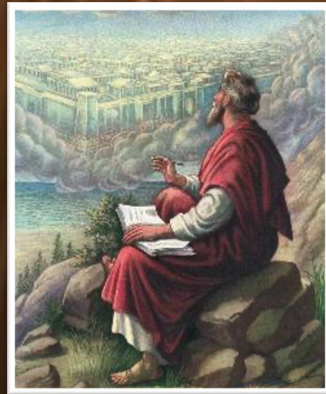


- To present Theophilus with an orderly account of the birth and growth of the church so as to affirm him in what he has believed

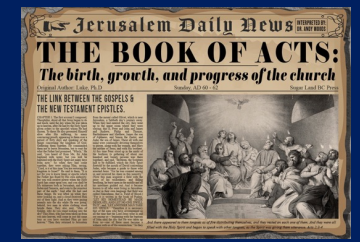


## John 20:30-31

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

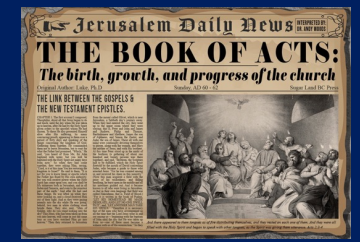


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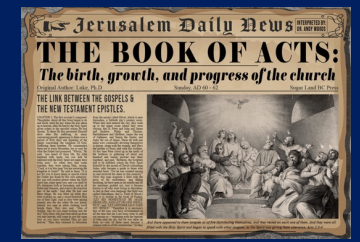
# Message



- Birth and growth of the church numerically, geographically, ethnically
- Components
  - Numerically (progress reports)
  - Geographically (From Jerusalem to Rome)
  - Ethnically (From Judaism to Gentile domination)



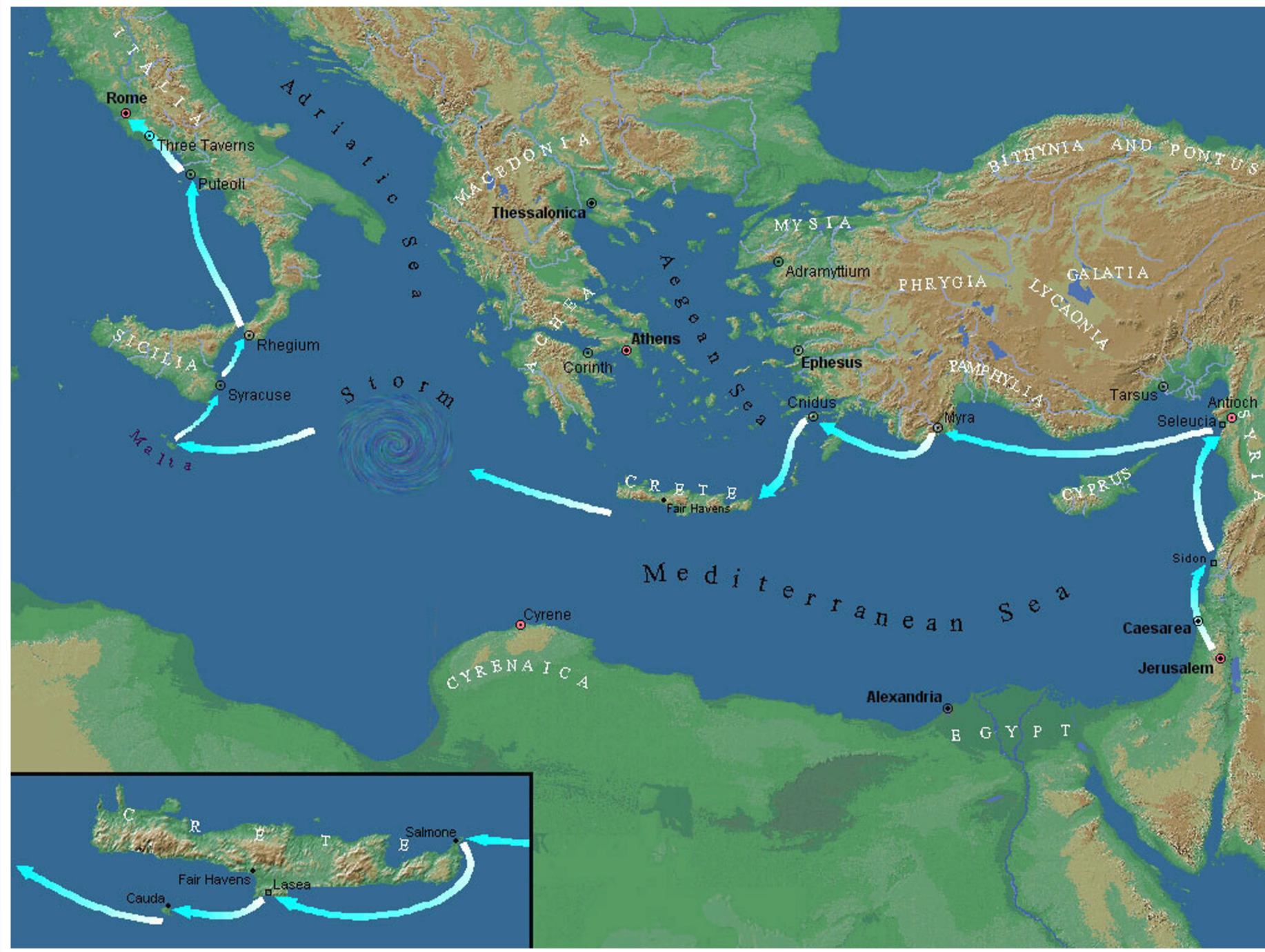
# Progress Reports



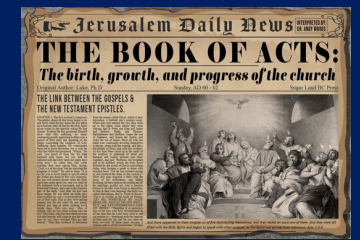
- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6





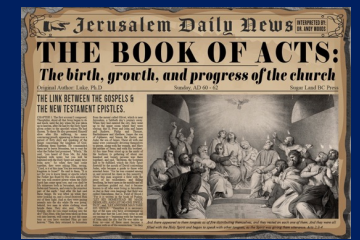


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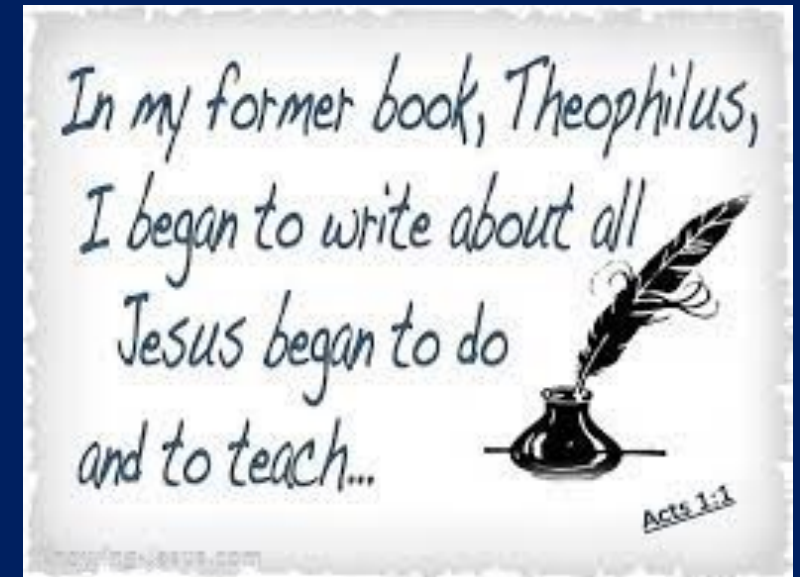


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# Method



- Record history (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1)
- Selective rather than comprehensive
- Shaped around his purpose



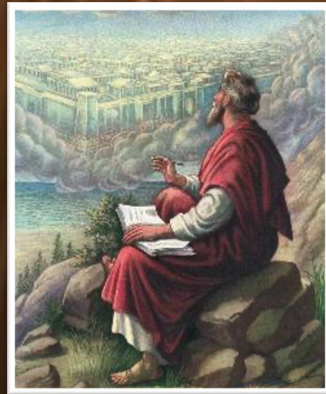
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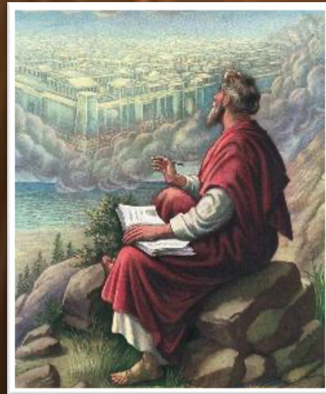
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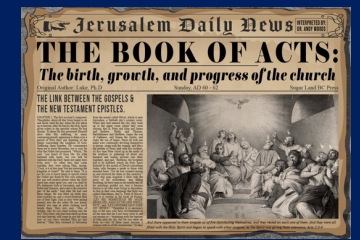


## John 21:25

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.”

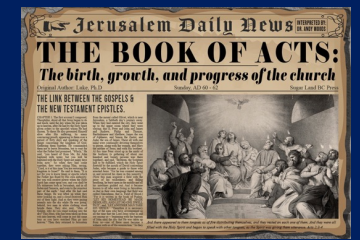


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# Sources



- “We” sections
  - Himself
  - Paul
  - Cesarean witnesses
  - Others mentioned in Acts
- Those interviewed in his prequel (Luke 1:2)
- Written records (Acts 15:23-29; 23:26-30)



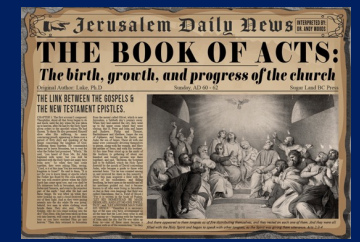


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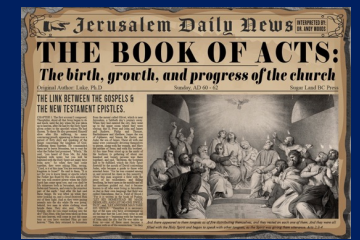


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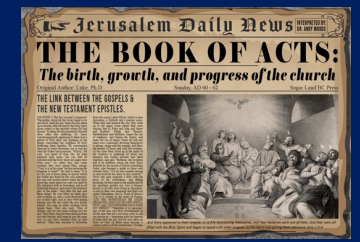
Date: A.D. 60-62



- Israel's judgment (A.D. 66–70)
- First Roman Persecution (A.D. 64–67)
- Paul's latter life
  - Martyrdom (A.D. 68)
  - 2nd imprisonment (A.D. 66)
  - Activity between imprisonment (A.D. 62–66)
  - Outcome of trial (A.D. 62)



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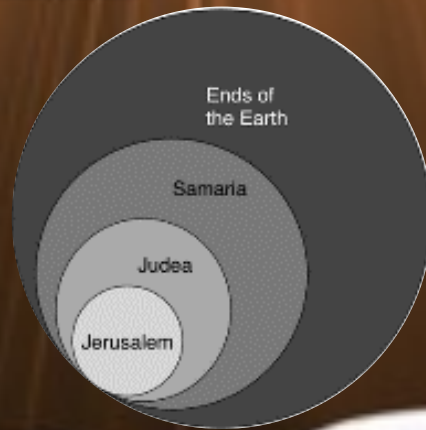
## Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*].”

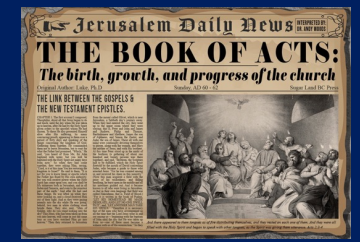


## Acts 1:8

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”



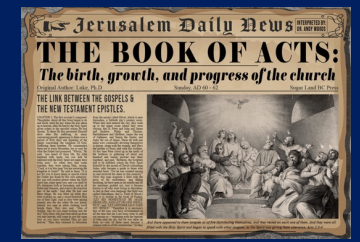
# Structure (Acts 1:8)



- Jerusalem (Acts 1–7)
- Judea and Samaria (Acts 8–12)
- Remotest part of the earth (Acts 13–28)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (Acts 13–14)
  - Jerusalem council (Acts 15:1-35)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 15:36 –18:22)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 18:23–21:17)
  - Trip to Rome (Acts 21:18–28:31)



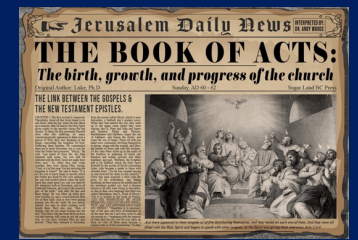
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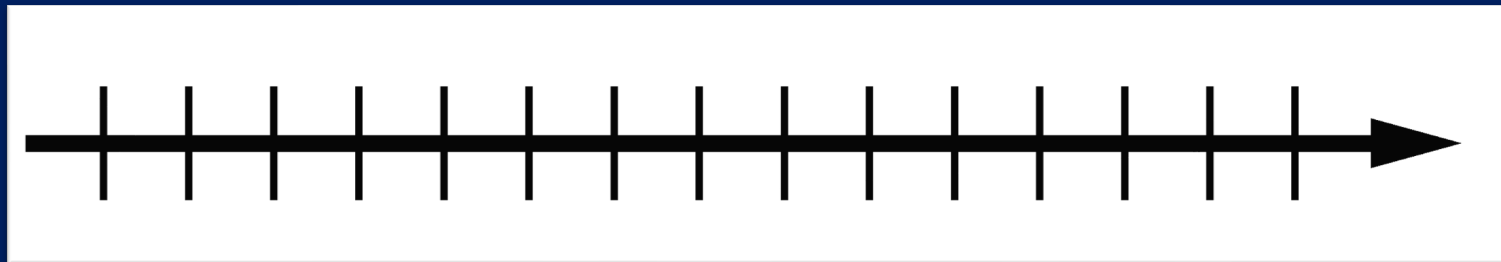
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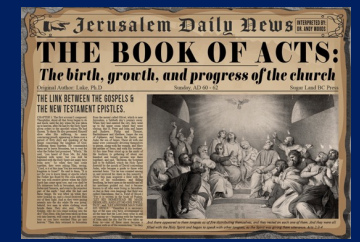
# Scope = 29 years



- Jerusalem (Acts 1–7): A.D. 33–34 or 2 years
- Judea and Samaria (Acts 8–12): A.D. 35–48 or 13 years
- Remotest part of the earth (Acts 13–28): A.D. 48– 62 or 14 years

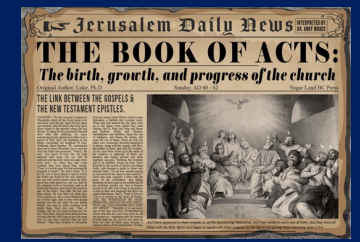


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# Themes



- From Peter to Paul (Gal 2:7-8)
- Universality of the Gospel
- Transitions
- Sovereignty of God (Acts 2:23; 13:48)
- Soteriology (Acts 16:31)



## Galatians 2:7-8

“<sup>7</sup> But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised <sup>8</sup> (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles).”



## From Peter to Paul

Reference	Center	Person	Place	Outreach
<b>Acts 1–12</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>Peter</b>	<b>Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria</b>	<b>Jewish</b>
<b>Acts 13–28</b>	<b>Antioch</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Uttermost parts</b>	<b>Gentiles</b>

# From Peter to Paul

## Peter

Heals a man lame from birth (3:1-11)

Heals by shadow (3:15-16)

Success is a cause of jealousy (5:17)

Confronts a sorcerer (8:9-24)

Raises Dorcas (9:36-41)

Jailed and miraculously freed (12:3-19)

## Paul

Heals a man lame from birth (14:8-18)

Heals by handkerchief (19:11-12)

Success is a cause of jealousy (13:45)

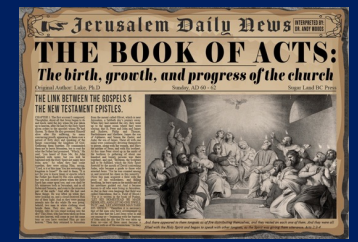
Confronts a sorcerer (13:6-11)

Raises Eutychus (20:9-12)

Jailed and miraculously freed (16:25-34)

# TRANSITIONS

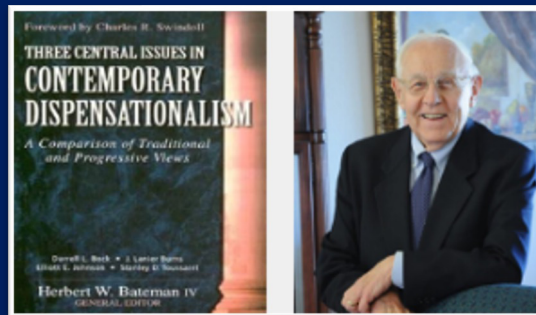
- **Historical:** from gospels to epistles
- **Religious:** from Judaism to Christianity
- **Divine:** from Law to grace
- **People of God:** from Jews to Gentiles
- **Program of God:** from kingdom (Israel) to church
- **Leadership:** from Christ to apostles



# Stanley D. Toussaint

“Israel and the Church of a Traditional Dispensationalist,” in *Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism*, ed. Herbert W. Bateman (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999), 242.

“It is difficult to explain why Luke does not use the term if the kingdom is being inaugurated. He employs it forty-five times in the gospel. . . . [O]ne would expect Luke to use the word if such a startling thing as the inauguration of the kingdom had taken place. The fact that Luke uses kingdom only eight times in Acts after such heavy usage in his gospel implies that the kingdom had not begun but was in fact, postponed.”





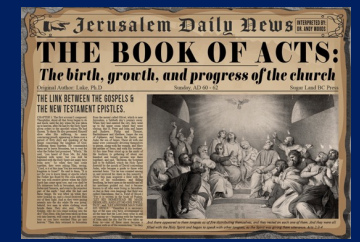


# NEW WINE

A STUDY OF  
TRANSITION  
IN THE  
**BOOK OF  
ACTS**

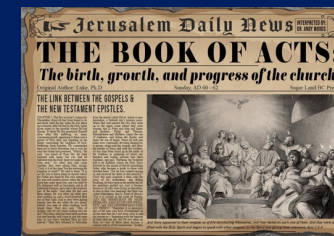
**J. DWIGHT PENTECOST**

# Introductory Matters



- Title
- Authorship
- Biography
- Place of writing
- Recipient
- Purpose
- Message
- Method
- Sources
- Date
- Structure
- Scope
- Themes
- Unique characteristics

# Unique Characteristics



- Sermons
- Miracles wrought by the Holy Spirit
- Background for Pauline letters
- Accurate history
- Places and names
- Volume
- Gentile



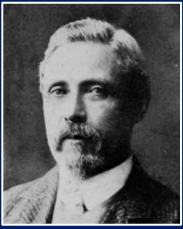
# Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



# Paul's Ministry Chronology

# of books	Journey	Acts	Date	Books
1	1	13–14	48–49	Gal
2	2	15:36–18:22	50–52	1–2 Thess
3	3	18:23–21:17	53–57	1–2 Cor, Rom
4	4	28:16-31	60–62	Eph, Col, Phlm, Phlp
2	Between Imprisonments	Post Acts	62–66	1 Tim, Titus
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Imprisonment	Post Acts	67	2 Tim



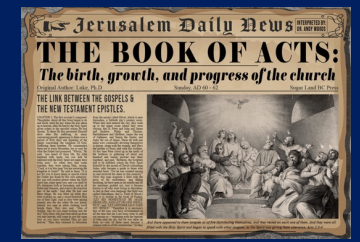
## Sir William Ramsay

*The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness  
of the New Testament, pp. 37-38, 81.*

“I had read a good deal of modern criticism about the book, and dutifully accepted the current opinion that it was written during the second half of the second century by an author who wished to influence the minds of people in his own time by a highly wrought and imaginative description of the early Church. His object was not to present a trustworthy picture of facts in the period about A.D. 50, but to produce a certain effect on his own time by setting forth a carefully coloured account of events and persons of that older period. He wrote for his contemporaries, not for truth...The present writer takes the view that Luke’s history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness. At this point we are describing what reasons and arguments changed the mind of one who began under the impression that the history was written long after the events and that it was untrustworthy as a whole.”

Conclusion

# Introductory Matters



- Title
- Authorship
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- Place of writing
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