

## ACTS 1:1-3

The Transition:

Israel - Chap. 1-8

Chap. 9 → Paul-Body → Chap. 28

Romans-Philemon

Body Increases

Israel Diminishes

A.

Acts 1:1 - The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

1. Verse one shows Luke sending the book of Acts to his friend Theophilus. This is the **second** time that Luke did this.

Luke 1:1, 3-4 - Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, Luke 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

\*This also shows Luke was the author of the books of Luke and Acts. Luke's Gospel was volume one, with Acts continuing on as volume two.

2. [Theophilus] His name means God lover, or beloved of God.
  - a. In Luke he is called [most excellent Theophilus], but here in Acts 1:1, he is [O Theophilus]. Some think that in Luke, he had a high position in government. But in Acts, because of his belief in Christ, he had **lost** that official government position.
  - b. Also, some believe Luke's dropping of Theophilus' title of honor indicates, over the three years between the first and second letters, there was a **growth** in their friendship.
3. [of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.]
  - a. When Christ was on earth, His ministry was in accordance with Israel's O.T. prophetic **covenant promises**. He ministered to the Israelites concerning those covenant promises and the Kingdom was at hand.
  - b. He was their promised Messiah. If they would believe this, repent, and be water baptized - then they would become saved, become Israel's **priests**, receive the Holy Spirit; then after the seven-year Tribulation - they would inherit their promised **earthly** Kingdom.

Matthew 3:2 - And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:6 - And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Romans 15:8 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:

Luke 3:3 - And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:25-26 - Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 60:3 - And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 61:6 - But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: *men* shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Revelation 20:6 - Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

\*Christ came to **ad**vance these promises to Israel.

- c. Luke had, in the book of Luke, written the details of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry teachings while Israel was under the **Law** covenant. Associated with the Kingdom-Messiah teaching, as a part to confirm prophetic truth, they had healings, miracles, **signs**, wonders, and the power to cast out evil spirits.

Isaiah 35:4-6 - Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Isa. 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Isa. 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Matthew 10:5-10 - These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: Matt. 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Matt. 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matt. 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Matt. 10:9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Matt. 10:10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

John 20:30-31 - And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

B. Acts 1:2 - Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

1. [Until the day in which he was taken up,] After Christ's resurrection, He continued to teach His disciples in order to ground them, establish their faith, and to prepare them to continue on proclaiming the prophetic Kingdom message.

\*Christ personally mentored those He had called until His ascension (for 40 days).

2. During this instructional time, He partially opened their eyes of understanding. He didn't reveal all the accomplishments of His D.B.R.

\*This would allow them to genuinely offer the Kingdom to the nation Israel.

Luke 24:45-46, 51 - Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

3. This supernatural ability to understand scripture was given to the disciples-apostles so that they could stand up as leaders of the Little Flock and other believers in Israel. They also needed to stand up against the Jewish false and unbelieving leaders of the nation of Israel.

Examples: Acts 2:14, 16, 36-37, 40 - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Acts 3:12-14, 18-19 - And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; Acts 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 4:8, 10-14 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

4. [after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:]

a. After Christ ascended to sit on the Father's right hand, we know that Jesus' Kingdom message **con**tinued on through the help, illumination, and power of the Holy Spirit. This was in fulfillment of Jesus' promise to them. What Christ had begun to do, the Holy Spirit would **help** finish!

Matthew 10:19 - But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Luke 12:11-12 - And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and *unto* magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: Luke 12:12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Luke 21:15 - For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

b. The 12's ability to comprehend and to speak intelligently came from the Holy Spirit - their Comforter.

John 14:26 - But the Comforter, *which is the Holy Ghost*, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

\*\*It is obvious Paul was **not** one of the 11 and Matthias!

C.

|  |
|--|
| <p><u>Acts 1:3</u> - To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:</p> |
|--|

1. [To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion]

\*This is in regards to His beatings, sufferings, scourging, and being nailed to His **cross**.

2. [he shewed himself alive (*3 days later*) after his passion by many infallible proofs,]

a. There is no question of Christ's resurrection. It is absolutely and infallibly **fact**! He validated His authenticity by rising from the dead.

b. Sometimes I think with many people Christ's resurrection is almost **super**stition. It is like a hazy sentimental thing.

c. But, no other historic event has been documented as historically **true** and accurate as has Christ's resurrection.

\*\***①** The empty tomb, **②** Broken seal of Rome, **③** the stone rolled away, **④** the grave clothes, **⑤** His appearances (I Cor. 15:3-9)-over 500 at one time!, **⑥** His disciples saw Him multiple times, ate with Him, handled-touched Him, **⑦** the supernatural **change** in His disciples - from fear to bold, courageous, spiritual giants - and even **martyr**dom for Christ's name!

\*You don't die for something you don't believe is true...a fact!

d. [many] - John 21:25 - And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

3. [being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:]

a. During His 40 days in His resurrected glorified body, He continued the earthly Kingdom gospel message to Israel.

b. Why would He do that?

(1) Matthew 21:43 - Therefore say I unto you (*religious leaders*), The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

(2) The earthly kingdom of God was what their ministry revolved around when Christ was on earth.

Deuteronomy 11:21 - That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

Daniel 2:44 - And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 10:7 - And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

c. Now, since Christ had died, shed His blood, rose from the grave, ascended on high to intercede for them, and they would soon be given enduement of power of the Holy Spirit - they were to proclaim the earthly Kingdom message to give Israel one final chance (one year).

(1) \*These disciples knew exactly where they stood in the program of God to Israel.

(2) That is why Peter and the 11 could stand up at Pentecost and say this is what Joel-David-promises of God to Israel meant.

Acts 1:3b, 6 - ...and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

\*\* But remember: The Mystery Body (us) was still hidden, not revealed to Paul yet!