

Sunday Sermon 5-10-2020
Mother's Day
Beginning of Study of Acts
Acts 1:1-3 / Luke 1:1-4

Acts 1:1-3 Prologue—Introduction

- Prologue = introduction, preface, forward, preamble, opening, prelude
- “former account” = the gospel of Luke
- **Luke 1:1-4**
 - Dedication to Theophilus (God lover/lover of God)
 - “most excellent Theophilus
 - A formal address in Luke, but not in Acts
 - Luke had made perfect understanding / research from eye witnesses, and wrote his orderly account of Jesus and His ministry
 - **2 Peter 1:21** [21](#) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - So Theophilus would know the certainty of the things he had already heard as instruction
 - We might think of the 1st verses of Luke and Acts as the short “dedication” comments like what we normally see in the front of books by the authors to someone they want to acknowledge the purpose or motivation of the writing—understanding that many more people than that will read it
 - Theophilus may have been one of those who turned to Christ from Caesar’s household
 - **Philippians 4:22** [22](#) All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.
 - **Philippians 1:12-14** [12](#) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, [13](#) so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; [14](#) and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Luke and Acts give a broad history of the beginning of Christianity and the transition from Judaism to the N.T. Church

We will not look for N.T. Church doctrine in the book of Acts, but will study it as an historical transition period from the dispensation of the Law to the dispensation of the Grace of God, the Church Age, our current age that will I believe soon be coming to a close in preparation for the Kingdom Age

Happy Mother's Day !

Acts 1:1-3

Prologue

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Luke 1:1-4

Dedication to Theophilus

1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled ^[fn1] among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 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, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

Luke and Acts are like a 2-volume set—a broad history of the founding of Christianity—from the birth of Christ, to Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Acts is a transition book and period between Judaism and Christianity—the change between the dispensation of the Law and our current dispensation of the Grace of God, the Church Age.

As we approach the end of our current age, Scripture tells us about a very difficult period of time—we normally refer to it as the Tribulation Period. The technical name from prophetic Scriptures is Daniel's 70th Week.

It will be somewhat of a transition period between life as we know it now, and the return of Christ to set up His Millennial Kingdom here on earth.

If all the periods of time of man's history were laid out before us, and we could choose the time we wanted to live in, it's very possible that we would choose the very time in which we find ourselves today—Biblelifetoday ! That time when Scripture tells of the one time in all of man's history that Jesus Himself will come for His bride, his people, in the clouds to take them to His Father's house to be with Him.

We just have always hoped that it would come or happen in the midst of our enjoying an easy and happy life down here—not in the midst of chaos, pandemics, and all kinds of conspiracy thoughts and ideas.

Well, welcome to our "real world".

The Apostle Paul said that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persectution.