

OUR JOURNEY...COME ALONG!!!

Acts 1:1-3

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What is this JOURNEY we are on as Shadow Mountain Church? Well, it is the '**Journey of Faith**'. Here we go...

Let's begin with our human author, Luke, and his goal for this letter.

- a.) Written with the same design to furnish an authentic and full narrative of events concerning which there would be many accounts.

It is presumed that "Acts" was written sometime around 60-90 AD.

- b.) It is referred to as "THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES".
- c.) Luke was the companion of Paul in his travels, and was an eye-witness of no small part of the transactions recorded in this book.

I. To Theophilus

- a.) We know very little about Theophilus... only that his name seems to indicate his deep desire to know God and Luke was writing to him to strengthen his faith.
- b.) What we **do** know is that Luke wrote to Theophilus on 2 occasions and we know them as "Luke and Acts."

So let's start our journey in Luke 1:1-4

Luke 24:1-53 brings us to the conclusion of the first letter to Theophilus.

- c.) There seems to be one goal in these letters; Luke 1:4
- d.) Acts 1:1

The former treatise - The former book. That is the Gospel of Luke

Treatise - logos (log'-os) a word, uttered by a living voice, the sayings of God, doctrine, teaching

Theophilus - "friend of God"

Theos = God

Philos (fee'-los) = friend

- Some believe that there is no person but that it was written to “all that are friends of God”.
- When there is a statement, we need not spiritualize or diminish what is written.
- From all I read, and what I believe, there is no indication that this was to anyone but “**most excellent Theophilus.**”

Theophilus was the person for whom Luke originally wrote his two books: the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles.

It is interesting to note that around 26% of the New Testament was written to Theophilus in Luke’s writings.

e.) Luke’s desire was to prove to Theophilus the truth of Jesus the Messiah’s life, death and resurrection.

Then He would continue his letter by showing the walk of the Apostles after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

II. So, as we study Acts, we will read of the evidence that Luke had written to Theophilus. “Of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,” –

- a.) As Luke wrote to his friend in the past it was to show him that **Jesus was who He said He was**, the Son of God (God in the flesh). That was all of what we know as the book of Luke.

Acts 1:2

Luke 24:50-53

- b.) “After that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:” -

Once ascended Jesus no longer spoke directly to the Apostles but rather the “Comforter” that was promised would be the link that has continued even now.

Acts 1:3

Passion - Place or time of suffering (We often hear, even just last weekend: “The Passion of Christ”)

Infallible - that from which something is surely and plainly known. (The infallible Word of God)

Dictionary = absolutely trustworthy or sure: an infallible rule.

John 20:26-29

1 Corinthians 15:5-7

Being seen of them forty days - There are no less than **thirteen different appearances of Jesus** to his disciples recorded in these 40 days.

- c.) Speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: -

The Kingdom of God can be summarized as the everlasting realm where God is sovereign and Jesus Christ rules forever.

The Kingdom of God is mentioned more than 80 times in the New Testament.

The teachings of Jesus Christ center on the Kingdom of God.

Another name in the Bible for the Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 3:2

Matthew 4:17

In the “Kingdom of God” we see both present-tense and future-tense in the Bible.

- **In the present** we are The Kingdom of God; that is in us!
- **In the future** we will arrive in God’s Kingdom where He reigns supreme.

Both are the result of salvation.

So, let me just outright ask... Are you saved?