Research: Acts 1:1-3

“**The Establishment and Progress of the Church at Jerusalem (**[Acts 1:1](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Acts+1:1&t1=en_nas)**to**[Acts 8:3](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Acts+8:3&t1=en_nas)**)**

**“The Acts of the Apostles**] A more adequate title would be 'The Acts of Peter and Paul,' the Acts of Peter extending from Acts 1-12, and the Acts of Paul from Acts 13-28” (Dummelow’s Commentary).

Acts is the second volume of Luke’s two-volume work: Luke and Acts. Luke tells one side of the story of Jesus’ ministry, especially his healings, and Acts is the record of the early Christian Church with Peter and Paul as the central figures.

Acts 1:1-3

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

“**The former treatise** or Luke's Gospel:

**“Began**. The Gospel records the work that Jesus began to do. Acts records its accomplishment. The chief agent in this book is the Ascended Christ Himself, operating through His Spirit, and performing works which were not possible while He was still in the flesh ([John 14:12](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=John+14:12&t1=en_nas))” (Dummelow’s Commentary).

The name *Theophilus* is from two Greek words: *theos* and *philos* – which translated is “friend of God” (*Strong* #2321). We might think of the name to mean “God-loving.” There is no reason to think he was not a real person, possibly Luke’s patron, who helped finance publication of the gospel.

2Until 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:

“The first phrase is a description of Jesus’ ascension which actually inaugurates the apostles’ mission. “Luke stresses the Spirit-guided apostolic character of the Christian gospel. This is the first of 57 occurrences of ‘the Spirit’ [or Holy Ghost] in the book of Acts” (*AB Acts* 196).

“The word “ghost” in Greek is *pneuma*. It is “breath, Spirit, wind, air” (*Strong* #4151) and is associated with the concept of movement. The Scriptures open with: “The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2).

“whom he had chosen” alludes to Luke 6:13: “he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”

“**Through the. Holy Ghost**] St. Luke represents all the actions of Christ's ministry as performed by the power of the Holy Spirit, which He received at His Baptism to consecrate Him to His office of Messiah:

“**Commandments**] viz. to preach repentance and remission of sins to all nations beginning at Jerusalem, and to tarry in the city until they should be endued with power from on high ([Luke 24:47](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Luke+24:47&t1=en_nas).)” (Dummelow’s Commentary).

3To 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:

“**Many infallible proofs] RV** omits 'infallible,' but the Gk. implies that they were reliable and convincing. The 'many' is important, for St. Luke records only four appearances, all in Judaea:

**“Forty days**] i.e. at intervals during forty days.

**“The kingdom of God**] Sometimes 'the Kingdom of God' denotes the inward and spiritual aspects of Christianity, sometimes Christianity as organized into a visible Kingdom or Church. Both meanings are here blended. The departing Lord doubtless wished to give the Apostles spiritual instructions to prepare them to receive the Holy Spirit, and also special directions for the future government of His Church” (Dummelow’s Commentary).