

A Divine and Dependable Document

Acts 1:1-5

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The biggest problem of man is death – spiritual death, physical death, and the second death at the Final Judgement. Death is the consequence of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden.

Yet as sin entered the world, there was already a promise of a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15). In Genesis 12, God calls Abraham and promises him land, seed, and blessing. From this seed would come the Messiah. Then we have King David, through whom the everlasting King would come.

The fulfillment of these promises was fulfilled in one person, our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came and solved the perennial problem of death. He conquered death, not for Himself, but for mankind. The first writing of Luke (the book of Luke) tells us that story.

Acts is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught. Luke will mention Jesus' resurrection as convincing proof of the Kingdom of God and the anchor to all that follows in this book. Luke also introduces the Holy Spirit, the One who continues the work and causes the growth in the church.

As Acts was written in the "Last Days," today, we still are in the Last Days. But we can be thankful that we live in an age where God has already fully revealed Himself in a way that we no longer need further revelation. We have the complete Bible.

I. Continuation of the Work (v.1-2)

Luke is the writer of Acts. He is very prolific in Greek and a respected historian with contemporaries like Tacitus, Plutarch, and Flavius Josephus. Because he writes an orderly account of the Kingdom of God (Luke 1:1-4) with great detail and accuracy to present many convincing proofs, his work has been subject to more scrutiny from the secular perspective than your average historian.

The first account mentioned in verse 1 is the Gospel of Luke. And as we mentioned earlier, Acts is the written continuation of salvation history.

Who is Theophilus? His name means "lover of God," In Luke 1:3, Luke addresses him as "most excellent," so it is possible that he is a Roman official who was learning the Way, or it could just be Luke being very polite.



Notice also that Luke records what Jesus did and taught. A collection of Jesus' teachings would be nice, but it would be lacking if he didn't also articulate what Jesus did, especially within the framework of the gospel and the Kingdom of God. What Jesus did as the Son of God and Messiah is of utmost importance: healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, proclaiming the good news to the poor, and giving His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 11:4-5).

In verse 2, Luke introduces the Holy Spirit and mentions Jesus giving orders to a group of chosen men (the apostles – witnesses of Jesus) to continue the work of God's Kingdom. The given order was the "witness mandate" seen in Matthew 28:18-20. We can say that the rest of Acts is the result of that given order obeyed by the apostles and continued by the early church; all of which is led, empowered, initiated, and sustained by God the Holy Spirit.

II. Confidence for our Faith (v.3)

Have you ever questioned the authenticity of our faith? Are you convinced of your faith if you hold it up against other religions?

What if you truly had faith to jump off a 50-storey building and survive? No matter how strong your faith is, no matter how true this would be to you, you will not survive the fall.

On the other hand, even if you are "of little faith," but the object of your faith is the True Son of God who saves us from our sins, that weak faith with a strong object of faith prevails. The object of your faith makes the difference.

We are confident that what we believe in is true because of what Christ has done. Christ rose from the dead. He is the Risen Lord. The book of Acts (and our lives as well) is anchored on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

If you are not convinced, expose yourself to the written Word that God the Holy Spirit left for us, there are many convincing truths. The apostles would never have come together for a myth or a Zen-like philosophy. They came together because the Christ they had known and loved was alive. They had encounters to demonstrate the physicality of Jesus: Thomas was invited to touch him and Jesus ate and drank in their presence. Luke was utterly convinced of the historical reliability of the evidence he received from these eyewitnesses to whom Jesus appeared.

If it is difficult to convince skeptics of Jesus' resurrection today in 2026, it was just as difficult in Luke's time (Acts 17:32).

Verse 3 also tells us that in a period of forty days between His resurrection and ascension, Jesus appeared to His apostles and other followers to speak about things concerning the kingdom of God. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly what they spoke about, but it's safe to assume that these disciples were shown how to understand and

explain Jesus and His ministry within the light of Old Testament revelation as a whole. It was as if they were being taught how to interpret Scripture with what Jesus was revealing to them (Luke 24:27). In a sense, Jesus' teaching of the apostles qualified them to be the authoritative interpreters of Scripture and gave them the responsibility to bear witness.

III. The Command to Wait (v.4a)

Wait for the gift of the Father (Luke 24:49). We know from the next verse that this promised gift is the Holy Spirit. The apostles were to wait because Jesus' heavenly exaltation had to take place before the Holy Spirit could be poured out (John 16:7). They were to wait for the empowering for proclaiming God's Kingdom as Christ's witnesses (Acts 1:8).

But why wait in Jerusalem? Jerusalem is a significant city in God's dealings with Israel; it was especially associated with King David's line. And it would be in Jerusalem where their proclamation of the Kingdom of God would originate.

IV. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (v.4b-5)

Luke writes about Jesus referring to John the Baptist (Luke 3:16). Baptized with water means immersed/submerged in water. Baptized with the Holy Spirit means immersed/being overwhelmed with the Holy Spirit.

This is the first instance that the Holy Spirit is mentioned but will definitely not be the last. The Holy Spirit is referred sixty times in Acts. The function and ministry of the Holy Spirit can be seen in John 14:26 and John 15:26. God's work is done in God's power.

Conclusion

Acts is a historical, trustworthy, and orderly account about the continuation of the work of the Lord Jesus with the help of the promised Holy Spirit through the apostles as a part of salvation history for the salvation of mankind.

In our hands is a very dependable and divine document we can rely on, meditate on, and trust that the Spirit of God will use to speak through. Let us not only be convinced of the truth but be transformed into a faithful witness.