

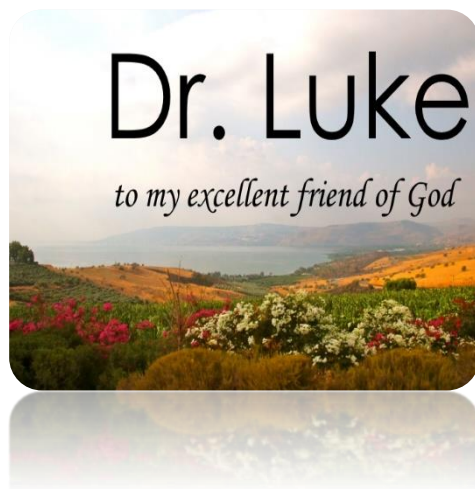
ACTS 1 vs 1

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**¹ The first treatise / the gospel of Luke... I wrote,
O Theophilus,**

Who is this Theophilus? His name means: **theo = God + philus = friend; Friend of God.** For nearly 2,000 years clerics and scholars said, Oh, he's just some guy who likes God; recently, we discover, that within 2 years of Jesus' resurrection, one of the five sons of Annas -- remember that one? the money-trafficking high priest in the Temple. The one who condemned Jesus the night He was betrayed. There's never been an ass like that one -- other than his son-in-law at the time, Caiaphas! Well, that Annas, the name of his 3rd son was: Theophilus, who was high priest until king Agrippa removed him, about 40AD.



In Acts 4... we read a partial family list with the names of Annas, the high priest, Caiaphas, Jonathan -- firstborn of Annas, and Alexander -- the 2nd son. Suddenly names disappear; yet Luke continues the verse with... and as many as were related to the high priest.

We read in Acts 6... after the earthquakes around Christ's death and resurrection; after some of the old Temple had crashed down... and the candle-stand in the Temple was never able to be lit again; and remember that little detail in the gospel of John -- he knew someone in the high priest's house.

And we read in Acts 6... a great company of the priests of the Jews were obedient to the faith. The eternal Father is a God of mercy and grace. In Acts chapter 7, at the time of Stephen's great confession, we read: Then said the high priest / with no name given.... he asked, Are these things so? And one wonders, was that Theophilus truly questioning Stephen? Are these things so, or not?

And we know, all these letters were not written by men, bored with life... just dabbling in creative writing exercises. So, it makes sense to ask: Did Luke meticulously compile his gospel and this detailed book of Acts for that one's journey of faith? And were Luke and that Theophilus responsible for the book of Hebrews? Yes. That is why the book of Hebrews sounds so much like Paul; and yet different.

Luke writes...

The first treatise I wrote, O Theophilus,

About all that Jesus began both to do and teach / HE was just getting started: And HE is still both doing and teaching, as He continues to build His Church.



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² Until the day when He was taken up / this 40th day, after He had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen,

Luke writes about the last day Jesus was among them, until He was lifted up and received into heaven, this 40th day after the resurrection.

³ After He had suffered, He also presented Himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, being seen by them over a period of 40 days / after He arose from the dead, by many sure and certain evidence; many convincing demonstrations, for more than a month!

Luke writes...

and speaking about the kingdom of God / where God's will is done, with the resources He provides: in love, joy and peace... in kindness and in mercy... which is why He provides us with His grace; **God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth:**

⁴ And while He was with them / on this 40th day, Jesus told them they should **not leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, “which” He said, you have heard Me speak about / to wait the next 10 days, **to the Day of Pentecost**, for the Father's promised Gift. Jesus already told them about the Spirit -- Someone like Jesus, but unseen, no longer restricted by time and place; **welcome Him**.**

⁵ For John baptized with water; but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit a few days / it is interesting, Jesus speaks as if water, wasn't that important; John the Baptist said: the One coming after him, would baptize **by Spirit and fire! So, John provided **no** fodder for the millennial divisions of self-righteous legalists over the issue of sprinkling or dunking. the wasted words of Jesus!**

And listen to their incorrect, limited thinking, born in those deeply rooted traditions of men...

⁶ So, when they had come together,

they asked Him, saying, Lord,

will You restore the kingdom to Israel at this time? / it's almost as if some of them were lagging behind and finally catching up! A little reminiscent of the upper room; they still wanted to know... **what is the seating arrangement in this kingdom You continue to mention?** Some wanted to know: who is going to be the greatest. Where is my seat? Now, Jesus could have said, The short answer is, NO! But instead...

⁷ He said to them, It is **not for you to know times or seasons,**

that the Father has set by His own authority / whatever HE has fixed, and planned... and predetermined...is His own concern.

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Moses said, the secret things belong to the Lord; the revealed things are for our benefit. So that part of the Father's business... is none of your business. HE doesn't need help from you! HE's got it under control. But thanks for asking! I'll let HIM know you care.

⁸ But you will receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come on you: and you will be My martyrs / dunamis; **spiritual dynamite**; the kingdom power is given to the one willing to risk their life and reputation for the Lord,

in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth / they were to go to the place they historically avoided; and from there to the last and final parts of the earth.

⁹ And when He said these things,

as they watched, He was lifted up,

and a cloud received Him out of their sight. / as they paid attention suddenly, wow! As we lift up our song in great joy and exaltation! So He was lifted up;

¹⁰ while He was going they were watching toward the heavens / as they strained their eyes watching His departure; how long did this last? I'd imagine about as long as it takes for a balloon to rise and vanish from view; long enough to never question or doubt which direction Jesus went; and then, was there a cloud, and moments later, a clear blue sky?



and suddenly, two men in white clothes stood by them / clothed in brilliant white garments;

¹¹ They said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up to heaven? / these 2 men asked: Why are you gawking up in space? Because they knew there was much work to do!

this same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have seen Him go into the heavens. / when He comes again it will be similar. That day heaven reached down and received Him home. Can you imagine? God, our Father, did it seemed like an eternity! I bet HE was first to greet His faithful Son! And shouts of victory filled heaven that day of His ascension!

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount called Olivet / across from the Temple mount, directly above the Garden of Gethsemane;

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which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey / which is about the distance of a mile; which is the distance the rabbis allowed the Jewish people to walk in the Sabbath, which ought to remind us that... though they descended the Mount of Olives... praising God, with great joy! Amazed by all the things they had seen and learned those 40 days. Still, they descended into an atmosphere of legalism, religious performance and fear... without a Lutheran, a Baptist, a Methodist... a Pentecostal... an Episcopalian, or anybody else... in sight!

Where Your Heart Is

| **Every Praise**

JESUS it is YOU