

Opening Acts

Acts 1:1 – 5

I. Introduction and Background

Luke 1:1 – 4 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

II. Three Things about God's Purposes We Are to be Certain of

A. Jesus Christ is God's promised messiah who had to die and rise from the dead.

Luke 24:44 – 46 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead..."

B. Repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name will be proclaimed to all peoples.

Luke 24:47 – 48 "...and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Matthew 28:18 – 20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

C. The Holy Spirit will empower God's people to fulfill this mission.

Luke 24:49 "And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

John 15:26 – 27 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

III. What Does Acts Say to Us Today?

A. Acts shows us God's heart for saving lost people.

B. Acts tells us that nothing will stop the inevitable progress of the gospel.

"God is actively bringing about the fulfillment of his plan. And because it is God's plan it will be fulfilled. It is an unstoppable gospel..." - David Cook

C. Acts gives us confidence in the empowering work of the Spirit.

D. Acts calls us into God's mission purposes.