

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach.

First book- Acts goes together with Luke as a two-part whole, having been written by the same author and one being a continuation of the other.

O Theophilus- Luke is very polite and formal, perhaps indicating that Theophilus was a benefactor or someone who paid for Luke/Acts to be produced. The production of books was very expensive and difficult work in those days.

Theophilus- name means "friend of God" or "loved by God," causing some to suggest that Luke was addressing this two-part work not to any one person, but to anybody who reads it.

I have dealt with all- Luke confidently asserts that, through the Holy Spirit, he has given a complete account of Jesus' work in his Gospel

Began to do and teach- To some, Jesus' ministry might have seemed to come out of nowhere, if they did not connect the Old Testament prophecies to Him. However, by saying "began," we are also reminded that His saving work was only the beginning. People still had to come to faith.

² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

Until the day- 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead. After that point, Jesus would do wondrous works and teach through His apostles.

When He was taken up- Refers to Jesus' ascension. Once Jesus had said and done all that He needed to do, He was taken up in order to be seated at the Father's right hand, waiting to come and judge the living and the dead.

After He had given commands- Refers to the Great Commission which Jesus gave just before He ascended. His commands were to "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, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Through the Holy Spirit- At Pentecost, God poured out His Holy Spirit on the disciples. The Spirit would serve as a comforter and guide to them wherever they went. Though Christ was no longer physically present with them, His Spirit would continue to work.

To the apostles- Apostle literally means "one who has been sent." In a narrow sense, this refers to the twelve, but in a broader sense could refer to any Christian, since we have all been sent. In the 1st century, apostle was a specific office of authority held by people who had been close with Jesus.

Whom He had chosen- Refers to Jesus' calling the disciples, as was recorded in the Gospels.

³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

He presented Himself alive to them- Throughout the 40 days, Jesus spent time making sure people knew that He had truly been bodily resurrected. Jesus appeared not only to the twelve, but also to many others, causing many to come to faith.

After His suffering- Jesus did not merely appear to suffer, He actually did. There were many aspects to His humiliation, culminating in His passion and death upon the cross.

By many proofs- Among other things, Jesus asked Thomas to touch His hands and His side after appearing to him. Jesus also ate a breakfast of bread and fish with His disciples.

Speaking about the kingdom of God- The kingdom of God was something that Jesus taught before, but it was now more clear after He was crucified and resurrected. This kingdom is not a place, but rather the spreading of the Gospel to all nations

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me;

And while staying with them- Jesus seems to spend a significant amount of time with His disciples during these 40 days. Maybe not as much as before, but still, He was making the most of this time, in order to teach them.

He ordered them not to depart- Seems counterintuitive, but the disciples would need to wait for 10 more days after Jesus ascended. 50 days after Jesus' resurrection was Pentecost, when they would receive the Holy Spirit

from Jerusalem- Jerusalem was a perfect place to start spreading the Gospel message. Many Jewish pilgrims from around the world were there for the festival.

the promise of the Father- God has promised to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Shows that Jesus was not acting apart from God's will, but according to it.

which, he said, "you heard from me;- Jesus had previously mentioned the sending of the Spirit and God always keeps His promises. Jesus needed to go away in order for the Spirit to be sent.

⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^(u) the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

for John baptized with water- In the Jordan River, John delivered a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, which Jesus Himself received. Jesus did this to fulfill all righteousness. John's baptism was no longer needed once Jesus instituted His baptism.

but you- shows that there is a significant difference between John's baptism and this baptism

will be baptized with the Holy Spirit- God gives the disciples the gift of Himself in the third person of the Trinity. Just as John poured out water, the Spirit will come upon believers.