

Acts 1:1-3—"How the Risen Christ Prepared the Apostles"

I. Author

II. Date

III. Purpose

IV. Outline

Acts: How the Lord Built His Church Through the Advancement of His Word

I. Intro—1:1-11

II. In Jerusalem—1:12-6:7

III. In Judea, Samaria & Surrounding Regions—6:8-12:24

IV. In Europe and Asia Minor—12:25-19:20

V. From Jerusalem to Rome—19:21-28:31

V. Themes

Col 4:14; Phm 24; 2 Tim 4:14; Lk 1:1-4; Jn 14:17; Lk 6:13; Eph 1:4; Titus 2:12; Acts 1:1-6/28:23-31, 1:8, 6:7, 12:24, 19:20, 8:4, 4:12, 2:42, 44-45, 15:19-21

The first volume tells us what Jesus began to do and teach; [whereas the second volume] now recounts the continuing work of Jesus through his witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' ministry on earth, exercised personally and publicly [in Luke], was followed [in Acts] by his ministry from heaven, exercised through his Holy Spirit by his apostles. (1)

[Acts], then, was Luke's political apologetic. He produced evidence to show that Christianity was harmless (because some Roman officials had embraced it themselves), innocent (because Roman judges could find no basis for prosecution) and lawful (because it was the true fulfilment of [God's promises]). (2)

The kingdom of God is conceived as coming in the events of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and to proclaim these truths...is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God...[In other words,] At Christ's first coming the age to come invaded this present age; at his coming in glory the age to come will have altogether superseded this present age. Between the two comings the two ages overlap; the people of Christ live temporally in this present age while spiritually they belong to the heavenly kingdom and enjoy by anticipation the life of the age to come. [The kingdom then is an already, but not yet reality.] (3)

1 Andreas J. Kostenberger & P.T. O'Brien, *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*, 128.

2 John R.W. Stott, *Bible Speaks Today-Acts*, 26.

3 F. F. Bruce, *The Book of the Acts*, NICNT (G.R., MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1988), 33.