

An Orderly Account

Luke 1:1-4 - Sunday, January 5, 2020

Probing the Passage

Who Is Luke?

- We believe that Luke the Physician, companion of _____ was the author of both Luke and Acts.
 - ◊ Luke and Acts are paired in Acts 1:1.
- Luke followed along with Paul from Acts 16:10 to the end of Paul's Ministry in 2 Timothy 4:11.

When was Luke Written?

- Sometime between 60 A.D. and 80 A.D.
- This has Luke living through both the reign of _____ and Nero.
 - ◊ Though possibly before Nero was at his worst.

Luke's Preface:

- Luke is clearly doing something different with the first four verses of the book.
- They comprise one sentence in Greek.
- The _____, in Greek, is noticeably different.

Originality:

- Luke directly addresses the idea that his Gospel is not the _____ written.
 - ◊ Many may be as small as two or three.
- The Gospel of Luke is, at core, not an original work.
- This makes sense.
 - ◊ Of course many people would seek to write on the extraordinary phenomenon of Jesus.

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The Burning Question:

- Why is Luke considered _____, if there were apparently many books written about the Life of Jesus?

Apostolicity:

- The vast majority of the New Testament was directly connected to an _____.
- Mark -> Peter
- Luke/Acts -> Paul

Orthodox:

- What does this book teach?
- Is it in keeping with other _____?

Relevant:

- Were these words demonstrated by the _____ as being useful for rebuke, correction and teaching?

Widespread:

- Was it actually being _____?
- Note these two last categories are more related to feelings or observable actions rather than scholarship.
- These last two are also fairly impossible for a new book to overcome.

What This Means:

- The canon process is not beholden to:
 - ◊ _____ . (Although all are 1st Century)
 - ◊ _____ . (Although all are tied to an Apostle)

The Holy Spirit:

- The _____ was decided, above all, by the Holy Spirit.
- It is for this reason that the _____ is complete.

Luke's Account:

- Luke acknowledges that he and Theophilus have been given _____ testimony to what Jesus said and did.

How Did Luke Write This?

- Luke admits that he is operating based on other _____.
- Luke investigated carefully.
- Luke is functioning as an ancient historian.

Why Does Luke's Life Matter?

- Luke says "From the Beginning", likely of his ministry, he sought to confirm what they had been taught.
- Luke spends time, traveling with Paul, talking to eyewitnesses in order to bring this text.

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Who is Luke's Audience?

- “Most Excellent Theophilus”
- There is some dispute on if Theophilus was an individual or not.
- Name means “God-Lover”

Who is Theophilus?

- Theophilus is already acquainted with the teachings of Jesus.
- Theophilus is almost certainly a _____.
- Theophilus has heard these wondrous things, but didn't get to see them firsthand.

Theophilus is Us:

- We are _____, not steeped in the traditions and worldview of Israel.
- We have heard the Good News.
 - ◊ We didn't get to see Christ physically walk firsthand.

So That You May KNOW:

- Luke's _____ is revealed.
- This Gospel is written so that you may know.
 - ◊ Or Recognize, Learn, Find, Perceive.
- Didn't Theophilus already know?

Get Inside:

- This is so that it gets inside of you.
- It becomes _____ to you.
- It becomes something that you recognize or acknowledge, something within you.

The Truth:

- Luke is fundamentally writing _____.
- He is writing to a home that doesn't have confirmation.
- He is interested, invested, committed to providing that confirmation.

The Work:

- The Book of Luke is above all, a _____ of Good News.
- He centers himself as a historian, and writes history.
- But He isn't interested in history for history's sake.
- He doesn't pretend to be an impartial observer.

Progress of Salvation:

- Luke sees the Birth and Death of Jesus as inflection points in God's work to save.
- He presents a _____ that explores what God has been doing in the World.

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God's Inflection Point:

- God has been doing a work of salvation in Israel.
- With the birth of Jesus, something fundamentally changed in the Universe.
- God became _____.

Work Vs. Shape:

- The _____ is the same.
- But the _____ of that work looks different.
- The shape is chronicled in Luke and Acts.

What Can We Expect?

- The Truth to get inside of us.
- Our Faith to be bolstered.
- An encounter with Jesus.
 - ◊ Our Mental Model to be disrupted.
- To hear the Gospel Proclaimed.

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