

The Charge to the Disciples and Prophecy Concerning the Birth of the Church

GTW – Class #1

The Confirmation of Luke's authorship of both Luke and Acts:

- **Luke Writes at the Beginning of The Gospel of Luke:** “I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”
 - **Theophilus** – Means – “Loved by God” or “Friend of God.” Since a modifier was added in the Gospel of Luke, “most excellent” it suggests a real person. “Most excellent” would be the description of a high government official being addressed.
- **Luke continues to write at the beginning of Acts:** “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²**until the day he was taken up to heaven**, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.
 - **These parallel verses from Acts and Luke confirm both letters were written by Luke:**

“Then he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, **he left them and was taken up into heaven.** ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.”
- **Luke writes of the resurrection** – “After his suffering, **he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them...**” **Acts 1:3-4**
 - The Gospel of John Jesus appears to:

Mary (20:11-18) The Disciples (20:19-23) Thomas (20:24-29)
Peter (21:1-19)
 - The Gospel of Luke Jesus appears to:

Two disciples (24:13-35) All the disciples (24:36-49)
 - The Gospel of Mark Jesus appears to:

Mary Magdalene (16:1-11) The two disciples (16:12-13)
The Eleven (16:14-20)

- The Gospel of Matthew Jesus appears to:
The two Marys (28:1-10) The eleven (16-20)
- The Epistle of 1 Corinthians Jesus appears to:
Cephas and the twelve (15:5) To 500 (15:6) To Paul (15:8; Acts 9:3-5)

➤ **Another convincing proof of the connection between the Gospel of Luke and Acts is seen when Luke reflects on his words in at the beginning of Acts reflecting the words of Luke 24:**

- **“...he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.” Acts 1:4** reflects back to Luke’s earlier book:
- **“Listen carefully: I am sending the Promise of My Father [the Holy Spirit] upon you; but you are to remain in the city [of Jerusalem] until you are clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49**

➤ **Luke recalls Jesus’ promise:** “John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who comes after me is greater than I—I am not worthy even to remove his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and **with fire.**” **Luke 3:16**
- “And they were all filled with (baptism with the Holy Spirit has already taken place) **the Holy Spirit...tongues of fire** appeared to them and rested upon them.” Acts 2:4, 3
- In Acts 2, “filled with the Holy Spirit” and “with fire” are explicit, “baptized with the Holy Spirit” is implied and implicit. “ (see 1 Cor. 12:13 – “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”) – Same Greek term “*en baptizo*” is used in the following texts (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16)

➤ **Luke reflects on the inquisitive disciples:** “Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Finally, some things we can learn about speculations concerning escatology:

- ⁷ He said to them: **“It is not for you to know** the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.” Acts 1:7
- **“But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven’s angels, not even the Son. Only the Father.** Matt. 13:32

Luke now records Jesus' charge to the disciples and to us:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you

- **The promise of witnessing is preceded by the Holy Spirit and power.**

"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

- **This verse is an outline of the book of Acts:**

Jerusalem – Acts 1-7

Judea and Samaria – Acts 8-9

The Ends of the Earth – Acts 10-28; Including Ethiopia, Caesarea, Antioch, Asia Minor, Greece and Rome

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; (THEN) and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Two things **we can learn** from this verse:

1. We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness
2. We are charged to be witnesses to:

Our Jerusalem – Colorado Springs

Our Judea – The USA

Our Samaria – Either be witnesses ourselves, or support missionaries who are witnesses as cross cultural witness within our Jerusalem, our Judea, our uttermost parts of the earth.

Our "uttermost parts of the earth" (support missionaries and nationals in foreign lands if you cannot go there)

Finally, Jesus Ascension and Return is our “blessed hope”

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”