

ACTS THE SEQUEL? **Acts 1:1-3**

A comparison of Acts 1:1-3 and Luke 1:1-4 indicates that 1) Acts is the _____ to the gospel of Luke (both were addressed to Theophilus, an early convert); and 2) Luke is undoubtedly the _____ of both books

3 considerations suggest that Acts is more than a sequel; it is the middle book in a NT trilogy:

- 1) The word "former" in Acts 1:1 is translated _____ in the ESV and NASV, suggesting more than a sequel
- 2) The book of Acts doesn't really end; rather the action is suspended like the middle unit of many _____
- 3) Without Acts as the _____ between the gospels and the rest of the NT, the NT wouldn't really work

Each statement in Acts 1:1-3 is a recap of the final chapters of Luke, but also a _____ of the book of Acts

- I. ACTS IS THE _____ OF WHAT JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TEACH DURING HIS MINISTRY
 - A. The word _____ in verse 1 implies that after His ascension Jesus continued to do and teach in Acts
 - B. Many verses in Acts indicate that Jesus continues to act in its pages: Jesus is mentioned _____ times
 - C. After His ascension Jesus not only continued to do but to teach through the _____ of the apostles
 - 1) The epistles or _____ written by apostles are the continuation of what Jesus taught in the gospels
 - 2) In Jn.16:13 Jesus promised the apostles that the _____ would hear His words and relay them
 - D. Jesus continues to act today; He promised to build His church so He is doing/teaching at _____
- II. ACTS IS THE DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT THE _____ CAN DO THROUGH JESUS' FOLLOWERS
 - A. The key words in v.2 are "through the Holy _____ ": they define Jesus' entire earthly ministry
 - B. In Acts 1:4-5 Jesus told His followers to do _____ until they had the same empowering by the Spirit
 - C. The Holy Spirit is mentioned _____ times in Acts: this book could be "The Acts of the Holy Spirit"
 - D. The power and enabling that worked in Jesus and the early church is constantly available to _____
 - E. In Acts, the Spirit's power is tied to the success of the _____ in saving people and transforming them
- III. ACTS IS THE HISTORY OF HOW THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS _____ THE GOSPEL
 - A. The commandments that Jesus gave before He was taken up to heaven are the Great _____
 - B. Acts 1:8 is a repetition of the Great Commission and it provides an _____ of the action in this book
 - 1) The Gospel to _____ is found in Acts 2-8
 - 2) The Gospel to Judea and _____ is found in Acts 8-12
 - 3) The Gospel to the uttermost parts of the _____ is found in Acts 13-28
 - C. The spread of the gospel does not end in Acts 28; _____ must play its part in its worldwide spread
- IV. ACTS IS THE RECORD OF HOW THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS EMPHASIZED HIS _____
 - A. Luke uses a word to describe Jesus' resurrection appearances that was used in ancient histories to mean things which must be, things that cannot be otherwise, things there is no _____ around
 - B. The fact of Jesus' resurrection in human history is irrefutable _____ of the Christian faith
 - C. The resurrection of Jesus is mentioned _____ times in Acts: it was an emphasis of the early church