

# Where To Start?

## A Case for Luke and Acts

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# Purpose of the Sermon

- What should you recommend as the first Bible books a nonbeliever should read?
- John and James ?
- Luke and Acts ?

# Luke's Goals Align New Readers

- Set a Foundation of Knowledge for new Christians
  - Understand the Life of Jesus
  - Understand the start of the early church
  - Understand Christian Faith

# The Author and Audience

- Luke, the Gentile physician
  - Luke 1:1-4
    - Strives to write an orderly account of the events he witnessed.
    - Draws from eyewitness testimony and careful investigation
  - Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24
    - Gentile physician and a companion of the apostle Paul
- Audience included both Gentile and Jewish readers
  - Desire to present the gospel message in a way that would appeal to a diverse audience

# The Humanity of Jesus

- Stories of Compassion and Empathy
- Luke 4:16-21
  - Seek the poor, brokenhearted, captives and ignorant
- Luke 7:36-50
  - Jesus kept company with sinners who sought him.
- Luke 19:1-10
  - Jesus kept company with corrupt and rich officials

# The Humanity of Jesus

- Healer and Miracle Worker
- Luke 4:40-41
  - So many healed after a long sabbath day
- Luke 8:22-25
  - The winds and waves obeyed him

# The Savior of All

- Luke 2:8-11 – Birth of Jesus is Good News to All
  - Remember Luke 19:10
  - All people: regardless of ethnicity, social status, or religious background
- Luke 14:15-24 – Parable of Jesus Teaching Inclusion
- Luke 15:1-7 - Mission to Seek and Save the lost
  - Remember Luke 4:16-21
  - Seek the poor, brokenhearted, captives and ignorant
- Luke 24:44-53 – Jesus's Final Moments
  - Inviting all people to come to Jesus and receive forgiveness, redemption, and new life

# The Continuation of Jesus's Ministry - Acts

- Acts 1:1-3 - The story continues...

## **The Birth of the Church**

- Acts 2:1-4 – The Holy spirits gift was a witness to their authority
- Acts 2:22-24 Peter Preaches Jesus
- Acts 2:37-39 Actions of faith to bring salvation



# The Growth of the Church

- Acts 2:42-47 – The Christian life

## **Persecution Begins**

- Acts 8:1-4 - Expansion of the Gospel From Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria
- Acts 11:19-26 – Further expansion into Tarsus
  - First called Christians in Antioch

# Why Study Luke and Acts First?

- A Comprehensive Narrative
  - The foundation of the church and the story of its growth
- Accounts by the Witnesses to the Resurrection
  - Acts 1:9
- The Gospel was spread preaching his resurrection
  - Acts 2:32
- Our mission to spread the gospel is demonstrated with many examples.

# Why Study Luke and Acts First?

- Gospel is for All
  - Acts 10: 9-16 – Vision of Animals to Eat
  - Acts 10:34-35 – God shows no partiality
- Perseverance in the Face of Opposition
  - Acts 5:27-29 – Obey God rather than men
- Completing the Gospel Story:

# Practical Benefits of Studying Luke and Acts First

- Fully Equip Yourself
  - The plan of salvation is laid out completely.
  - Hear, Believe, Repent, Baptism, Live Faithfully
- Learning from Examples
  - Jesus's servant leadership
  - Apostles' bold proclamation of the gospel
  - Early church's communal life and mission

# In Summary: A Challenge to Share

- Start your Christian journey if you have not.
- Learn and Apply Luke's writings
  - Be a servant leader
  - Boldly proclaim the gospel
  - Make the church a central part of your life.