

Doctor Luke Reveals The Beginning Acts of Jesus' Kingdom, as It was Established Upon the Earth, (A.D. 30-62) Beginning in Jerusalem, & ending on Earth when Time stops.

Introduction:

This Reading is Dr. Luke's contemporary history in his 2nd Treatise completed about AD 63, concerning the Kingdom Jesus ruled. This Treatise provides historical details regarding Its beginning, which began through the "12" (disciples from the first contemporary Treatise) and Its spread, until the release of Doctor Paul from house arrest in Rome during Nero's reign as Caesar of the Roman Empire (Dr. Paul was an Apostle of that Kingdom & served Its King). He (for 30+ years) evangelized His Good News over a vast area in much difficulty. This Treatise ends its details in the winter of AD 62, when Dr. Paul was released from Roman house arrest. Dr. Luke has revealed the work and the direction of the Holy Spirit with certain Apostles and Prophets (along with various local folks in various communities that had become 'citizens' of It), who all were instrumental in establishing His Kingdom, illustrating His design and uniqueness of It. The consistency of the Teaching's of Jesus are inherent in all congregation. The leadership's were alike and in accord with the Holy Spirit's directives. The spread was complete in their world and constant for generations. And all was with the Grace of God constantly active with them. The fact that only a small number of Apostles and Prophets were followed in the Treatise, are to the student or reader, evidence of the typical work of 'all' Jesus' chosen and loyal disciples. They all went, ultimately, to various parts of the known world (as secular history reports), and worked accurately, as did the revealed workers in Dr. Luke's contemporary history of the early years of Jesus' Kingdom and Its development. This Treatise is not just 'history', It is the foundation for the expectations of each new generation of Jesus' Kingdom. It is the guide to see that Jesus' Teaching is perpetuated from generation to generation, until He returns, to end time. Each of the written Letters of other contemporary historians, through John's last five (completed in around A.D.96), fill in the various reforms and important parts of information concerning the King and His Kingdom. The efforts and Teaching remained constant, consistent, unique, and equal in every place, such that, Jesus' Kingdom can clearly be seen to be one unified Body, with one unique Father and Lord, having one unique Faith, teaching one unique Way, consistent from when one enters Jesus' Kingdom;

and one unique method of living and worshiping, all to God's pleasure, and in accord with His "Plan", designed in eternity. It was not only a magnificent feat in a difficult time, it was a perfect new Way. No one has ever offered a greater reward for doing their bidding than Jesus, nor has proved that He can deliver it, which Jesus did at His resurrection.

Note: * follows the Apostles in the first few divisions of 'Thoughts' by noting all the pronouns referring to them. Thus, there is no confusion about whether the mentioned 120 received the immersion of the Holy Spirit. It was only the "12".

Date: A.D. 63

Dr. Luke's 2nd Treatise:

(1st) I wrote the previous Book Theophilus, concerning all the things which Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day that He was taken up, after He had given orders through the Holy Spirit to His chosen Apostles*, to whom* He presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, being seen by them* for forty days, and speaking the things about God's Kingdom. He assembled with them*, and commanded them* not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise, "which you all* heard from Me, that John indeed immersed in water, but in a few days you all* will be immersed in the Holy Spirit."

Those* who gathered with Him asked Him, "Lord, are You restoring Israel's kingdom at this time?" He said to them*, "It is not for you* to know the times or seasons which the Father has placed in His own authority, but when the Holy Spirit comes upon you all*, you* will receive power, and you* will be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth." He said these things, and while they* were looking, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him up, out of their* sight. As they* were staring into heaven, while He was going away, behold! Two men in white clothing stood by them*, and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you* standing and peering into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you* into heaven, will come in the same way that you* saw Him go into heaven." Then, they* returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. They* came in, and went to the upstairs room, where they* were staying: Peter

and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. All these* were devoting themselves unitedly in prayer with the women, and with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

And in those days Peter stood up among the brothers (about one hundred and twenty), and said, "Men, brothers, the Scripture must be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through the mouth of David predicted about Judas (who was the leader for those who seized Jesus), because he was numbered among us*, and received a place in this service. He acquired a field with the wages of wrongdoing, and falling headfirst, he burst open in the middle, and all his entrails were poured out. (This has become known to all who live in Jerusalem, and that field is called in their language Akeldama, that is, "The Field of Blood.") It is written in the book of Psalms {69:25, 109:8}, 'Let his house be empty, and let no one live in it,' and 'Let another take his overseership.' It is therefore necessary to choose one of those who have accompanied us* all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us* (beginning from the immersion of John until the day that He was taken up from us*), to become a witness with us* of His resurrection. They put two forward, Joseph (called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus) and Matthias. Then they* prayed, and said, "You, Lord, knower of all hearts, show clearly of these two the one whom You have chosen to take the place in this service and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." They* gave lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven Apostles. {1:26}

1st thought Questions:

1. In our Introduction, who is the contemporary historian we are using for your Master Level English Lessons? ___ Dr. Paul, ___ Professor John, ___ Dr. Luke
2. T/F ___ Dr. Luke's 2nd contemporary history covers the "Acts" of the first 30+ years of the establishing of Jesus' Kingdom upon Earth?
3. Y/N ___ Were the Apostles (12 of them) the 1st sent out into Jerusalem to evangelize Jesus' new Way (Jesus' New Covenant Faith)?
4. Y/N ___ Was this Dr. Luke's 4th contemporary History?

5. Y/N ____ In his review of the 1st Treatise does Dr. Luke confirm that it was all about Jesus' activities, until Jesus ascended?
6. Y/N ____ They were a revealing of what Jesus: did and said for 3+ years?
7. Y/N ____ He had given orders concerning the Holy Spirit's coming work with them (the 11) after He leaves. Jesus presented Himself alive after His resurrection and presented many convincing proofs and instruction over a 40-day period after His resurrection?
8. T/F ____ Jesus spoke to these 11 about His Kingdom?
9. Y/N ____ Jesus' final assembly with them was when He ascended in full view of them near Jerusalem?
10. T/F ____ He commanded them to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit (their new Helper) in which they (only them) would be immersed, came to them?
11. Y/N ____ It is clear that these 11 men continued to believe that Israel was God's goal until the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Then, they will understand the Truth about Jesus' Kingdom?
12. Y/N ____ This is Jesus' last remark to them as a group on Earth, then they watch Him ascend until He disappears into the clouds?
13. Y/N ____ Their watching was interrupted by two men in very white clothing, who asked them (11 men) why they continued to gawk at an empty sky?
14. Y/N ____ They assured them that Jesus would return one day the same way He left?
15. Y/N ____ The eleven went back to Jerusalem and united with others that now believed that Jesus was God's Son, which now included Jesus' mother and siblings?
16. Y/N ____ We know that these men devoted themselves to prayer and worship of Jesus, while they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit?
17. Y/N ____ Sometime after Jesus ascended and before the Holy Spirit comes upon the Apostles (11), they recognized a twelfth Apostle has to be appointed to replace poor Judas. Jesus obviously explained the necessity and supplied the Scripture to back it up. They decide upon two and appoint by lots, Matthias?
18. Y/N ____ They asked by prayer for the Lord Jesus' help in the selection between these two men who had been involved since the beginning. This means that they had

been among Jesus' disciples while He did signs, taught and was in difficult situations with the Jewish Rulers, including Jesus' murder, burial, resurrected sightings and likely His ascension?

19. Y/N ____ This first thought is Dr. Luke's opening review and set-up for the rest of the Book about the beginning "Acts" that explain Jesus' Kingdom, which Jesus explained in Prof. John's history in the private time with the Apostles (to be) prior to His crucifixion. The tie between the various other Historians as well as his 1st report seem to be for those beyond Theophilus' time, because of the dates of their writing?

(2nd) The day of Pentecost came, and they* were all together at the same place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven as of a rushing, violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they* were sitting. Divided tongues as of fire appeared to them* and rested on each one of them*. All were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit was inspiring them*. {2:4}

Now Jews were dwelling in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven. This sound was heard, and the multitude came together, and was bewildered, because each one heard them* speaking in his own language. They were amazed and were wondering, saying, "Behold! Are not all these* men who* are speaking Galileans? How do we hear, each one of us in his own language, in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those who live in Mesopotamia, and in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, and in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and portions of Libya about Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and Proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them* speaking in our languages the mighty acts of God!" They were all amazed and greatly perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others were sneering, saying, "They* are full of new wine." {2:13}

Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and declared to them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, this must be understood by you all, so you must give an ear to my words: these men* are not drunk as you imagine, for it is nine o'clock; but this is what has been spoken through Joel the Prophet [Joel 2:28], 'It shall be in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see appearances, and your older men shall have visions in dreams. In those days I will pour out of My Spirit on my bondservants and on my bondmaidens.' (And they will prophesy.) I will give wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. Everyone who calls on the Lord's name shall be saved.'" {2:21}

“Men of Israel, it is imperative that you all hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene has been attested by God through miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him among you, as you yourselves know. The One Who was delivered up by God’s fixed ‘Plan’ and foreknowledge, you have nailed to the cross and killed by the hands of lawless men. God brought the pains of His death to an end, and raised Him up, because death could not hold Him. David spoke about Him [Ps.16:8-11] ‘I foresaw the Lord always before Me, because He is at My right hand, that I should not be moved.’ ‘My heart rejoiced, and My tongue was glad; and My flesh also will yet live in hope, for You will not abandon My corpse in a grave, neither will you allow your Holy One to experience decay. You have made known to Me the ways of life; You will fill Me with joy with Your presence.’ {2:26}

Men, brothers, it is necessary to speak boldly to you of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. He was a prophet, and he knew that God had sworn to him to set One of his descendants on his throne. He foresaw Christ’s resurrection and spoke of it, that He was not left in the grave, neither did His flesh experience decay. God raised up Jesus, of Whom we* all are witnesses. He has been exalted to God’s right hand and has received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, and He has poured out what you see and hear. David did not go to heaven, but he himself said [Ps.110:1], ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’ Therefore, it is imperative that all the house of Israel understand that God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!” {2:36}

They heard this, and were stabbed in their heart, and cried out to Peter and the other Apostles, “Men*, brothers, what should we do?” [displaying genuine repentance] Peter said to them, “All of you must willingly reform in mind and life, and each one of you must allow yourself to be immersed in the Name of Jesus Christ, ‘so that your sins may be forgiven’ {1973 NIV}. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is to you and to your children and to all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God may call.” {2:39}

Then he testified and exhorted them with many other words, saying, “You all must be saved from this crooked generation.” The ones who gladly accepted his Message were immersed, and about three thousand souls were added in that day. {2:41}

They were holding fast to: The teaching of the Apostles and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles. {2:43}

All the believers were together and had all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, as anyone needed. They spent much

time everyday in the Temple with one mind, and broke bread from house to house, sharing food in gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. The Lord was adding together daily the ones who were being saved. {2:47}

2nd thought Questions:

1. Y/N ____ Ten days after Jesus' ascension was Pentecost (God's commanded Festival), which is when the Jews come to Jerusalem to worship as their Law required at the Temple. Thousands were gathered in the Temple area, as usual. The Twelve were among them in the Temple in the section of the Temple for just Jewish men. In this massive crowd there began a terrifying noise like a tornado but without the wind, which filled this part of the Temple. Then, in view of the crowd, fire came and divided over the heads of the Twelve and stayed upon them. The Holy Spirit filled the Twelve and they began to speak in many of the foreign languages of the countries the Jewish men came from?
2. Y/N ____ The Jewish crowd in the men's section of the Temple were devout worshipers from many parts of the Earth. They all had native languages they knew as well as Hebrew, which was used in the Temple areas. These men were astonished and amazed at this event. They heard the Twelve speaking in their native tongues! The Twelve were all Galileans and known to not be very good at any language except Greek and Aramaic. They recognized them by the clothes they wore, as all areas had recognizable clothing. This further amazed them. Also, the Twelve were walking among the crowd speaking recognized mighty acts or quotes of God's Scriptures. This was an incredible and unusual event, to which the crowd wondered what it could mean?
3. Y/N ____ They talked about it among the crowd until someone suggested that these Twelve must have gotten drunk early?
4. Y/N ____ The crowd began, likely, to laugh at that possibility. Peter with the eleven others went to a raised area to speak. The Temple had great acoustics built into its structure, so a raised voice can be heard a great distance. Peter teaches the 1st (key) Message about the new King (Jesus) and the Kingdom being established 'TODAY', May 28, AD30?
5. Y/N ____ Peter ask for their attention, so he might explain this event?
6. Y/N ____ He says that they 'must' hear what he is to say. These Twelve men are not drunk! This is what the Prophet Joel said would begin the establishment of God's new Way, the new Kingdom?

7. Y/N ____ Peter then quotes from Joel's prophetic Letter from centuries before. It was a wellknown passage among them. Yahweh (the Jew's God's Name) had said at the beginning of His new Kingdom, would arrive His Holy Spirit, who would be given unto all people in His Kingdom. Joel then explains how many will be affected by the Spirit's work among them?

8. Y/N ____ The Holy Spirit adds a short confirmation. "And they shall prophecy!)" in the middle of the quote from Joel?

9. Y/N ____ Then, in Joel's prophecy, a spectacular group of 'signs' are given, that seems to match the last days of Jesus, surrounding His crucifixion and resurrection. They were to happen, likely as metaphors, "before" the specific 'Day' is to happen. Peter is saying this event is the beginning of that Day. And more exciting is that from 'this' Day every person that "calls on the Lord's Name shall be saved"! Would you say, since Jews had been waiting for centuries for the Messiah and His Kingdom, that these folks were excited?

10. Y/N ____ So, there it is. The Holy Spirit has taught through Peter the first lesson the world will hear, share or read, using a Jewish Old Law Prophet to teach it. This took about a minute and now these devout Jews understand what this event means and that the New Covenant of God is now to replace the Old, not to mention that they only need to call upon the Lord's name to be saved. Wow! So, does "calling upon the Lord's Name" mean call upon Jesus and His authority?

11. Y/N ____ They think they know, but Peter is not finished. Now he begins to explain Who the "Lord" is. Peter exhorts that they must continue to listen, closely?

12. Y/N ____ Jesus came from God and performed countless miracles for 3+ years, which God obviously approved! Peter speaks, "All of you men are aware of this." His murder was always "known by God" and His Plan included it! You set the plan to have the Romans "crucify Him!" Then, due to Jesus perfectness, God, as Planned, "resurrected Him because 'death' cannot hold a Spirit that has no SIN!" God had to resurrect this sinless Son? (So, Jesus was resurrected, OK, so what?)

13. Y/N ____ Peter goes on and quotes a Psalm that describes Jesus' ordeal, His resurrection by God, He being seated at God's right hand (part of the Ruler position), and face to face with God for eternity? (So, Jesus is ruling from heaven with God, so what?)

14. Y/N ____ Now Peter (actually the Holy Spirit is presenting the lesson) says he must bring something up they probably had not thought out carefully. David wrote some of the Psalms (73), so you might have missed that his tomb (in which he was physically

buried) can be seen just outside the Temple walls! Right now! So, David was revealing that the Christ was to be resurrected from death! He then had to be living upon Earth! David was not resurrected. Only the Christ was resurrected by David's Psalm and David revealed it would happen. He knew what would happen, but we, Today "are witnesses (the Twelve) having seen Jesus resurrected!" He has since left and is ruling with the Father. Too, He has given this event as evidence of His Kingdom?

15. Y/N ____ Peter confirms that Jesus was the 'Lord' of David's Psalm as he quotes another, which defines David's Lord as ruling beside God in heaven?

16. Y/N ____ Peter says that, thus, you must conclude by Scripture, Jesus' activities and His Resurrection/ascension witnesses, that Jesus was and is the expected "Lord" and "Christ", and you all murdered Him. Which says to them that they are in a seriously difficult position by that sin, with their God?

17. Y/N ____ You have to ask yourself as you read this historical report by Dr. Luke as to whether these Jewish men believed what Peter concluded. Jesus does seem to have fulfilled these prophecies and had been all that was expected of their Christ and Lord, but they murdered Him! The only way they or anyone would plead "Guilty" to that offense against God's Son would be that they had to have been deeply convinced by these events, the three minute sermonette by the Spirit (not Peter except as the mouthpiece), Who knows all men's hearts because He is God, and was aware of what was needed to be said to these Jewish men, such that, it would move some to be in tremendous remorse and sorrow, thus, they were stabbed in their consciences for their part in the murder. If you had been guilty of this horrendous crime against the living God and His Son, Jesus, would you be as affected as these men?

18. Y/N ____ Dr. Luke both reports their remorse (or repentance) and their response to Peter's words. They were "stabbed in their hearts". Then a large number of them turned to these Twelve and asked if there was any way to correct their obvious serious status with God, "... what should we do?". No way all these Jews responded that way, but in such a large crowd several thousand felt compelled to seek these disciples out, instead of priest or other Jews for any "Word from God", hopeful they might ease their grief for offending God so deeply?

19. Y/N ____ Once again the Holy Spirit picked Peter to be His mouthpiece for the opening Kingdom statement that will be repeated thousands of times by every correct evangelist, prophet, elder, and member of Jesus' new Way/Kingdom/called-out group, over the next roughly 60 years. To be one that "calls upon the Lord's Name" is about to be concisely explained by Jesus from His Throne in heaven through Peter (he, remember, is Jesus' key) for these desperate men to consider. You see

they had no competing denominations or cults. Only one competent inspired Message that they agree to do or not do, depending on, if they being reconciled to God was important to them. These are hungry and begging for His answer, not Peter's?

20. Y/N ____ Peter reveals to them two things as being absolutely necessary, that the Holy Spirit reveals through this Galilean fisherman, that is now Jesus' new Way to be reconciled with God: 1) All of you MUST willingly reform your mind and life!, 2) Each of you MUST allow yourself to be immersed in the Name of Jesus Christ. If you do these two things will God forgive all their past sins and allow them to be reconciled to Him?

21. Y/N ____ Then, Peter announces another wonderful thing God will give these Kingdom people. It appears that this 'gift' is at the same moment these folks are immersed. God sees your repented mind, and your willingness to reform completely to do to His Will. He sees these things in each person coming into someone's hands, and allowing themselves to be immersed in water, where God seeing these right-minded beings, coimmersed (with Jesus) or co-buried souls, He transferred them into His Son's Kingdom. He and only He, at that nanosecond, forgives all past sins, adds them to His Son's Kingdom and has an additional 'gift' for them. He gives to each of them the Holy Spirit, Who is His heavenly 'seal', assuring each one of the inheritance of eternal life with God. This guarantee cannot be broken by anyone except the receiver of the gift, falling from God's Grace by their later rejection of Jesus and His new Way. This is part of the Joel expectation, but not all?

22. Y/N ____ Their great hope was that there was some means of reconciliation with God and the Holy Spirit gave them the only, unique, new Way God will accept anyone, anywhere, in any generation as being "born again"; and He is the only One that can 'add' or transfer anyone into His Son's Kingdom?

23. Y/N ____ Did they immediately seek to be immersed?

24. T/F ____ Dr. Luke reveals that those determined to seek God's new Way, met with the Apostles, where Peter continued to testify and exhort them with needed information about willingness to reform to God's Will in this new Way, what is accomplished in the water grave, and information concerning this special 'gift' of the Holy Spirit, because their present way (under Moses Law) was not acceptable anymore, if they were to be in Jesus' Kingdom?

25. Y/N ____ Of however many thousands that assembled with the Apostles and stayed through these instructions, were there any of this crowd of men that gladly responded to this new Way?

26. Y/N ____ Is the pronoun “They”, describing the three thousand that were immersed and added that first day?

27. Y/N ____ These ‘held fast’ in joining the Apostles for hearing and discerning continuing information that they needed for reforming to the new Kingdom life?

28. Y/N ____ Dr. Luke gives a breakdown of four areas they received teachings in: 1) All the Teachings of the Apostles, 2) of the new ‘fellowship’, 3) of the breaking of ‘the bread’, 4) of the new ‘prayers’?

29. Y/N ____ The ‘Apostles teachings’ would recognize their authority, their words and their likeness to Jesus that all must reform their ways to be like?

30. Y/N ____ The new ‘fellowship’ was to be stronger than family, community or Jewish bonds and needed, thus, many details?

31. Y/N ____ The ‘breaking of “the” bread’ was concerning the Lord’s Supper. The importance of Jesus’ ‘body’ and ‘blood’. The old Law was dead, but the new Way had one weekly event Jesus expected all to participate in, together until His return. (He was in spirit among them and they weekly were to remember His actions until He returned for the Kingdom for the beginning of the eternal Kingdom.)?

32. Y/N ____ ‘the Prayers’ were now only to be in Jesus’ Name. And prayer was much different in this new Way, as God (their Father) loved to hear from all and each. Who to pray for was new. And much more?

33. Y/N ____ The genuineness of each and all of this new Kingdom was seen by their togetherness over their old ways. Needs came up due to Jewish rejection of them and they all contributed to each other with shelter and goods?

34. Y/N ____ Their time together and with the Apostles daily, utilizing the Temple, was done by all. Many ‘confirming’ miracles were done by the Apostles. They then shared meals together and shared their faith together?

35. Y/N ____ There was a general shared attitude and expression of praise to God for what He and Jesus had done for man and the city took notice of them?

36. Y/N ____ More were added to them by the Lord that accepted His new Way. Daily this Kingdom grew as more folks were being saved and added by God?