

Context

1] The writer – Luke

- a) the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament
- b) doctor - Paul calls him 'the beloved physician' (Col 4:14)
- c) Fellow traveller with Paul from (Acts 16:10)

2] The sequel to his first account - Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:1-4)

The sequel (1,2a)

1] **The first book, O Theophilus (1a)**

I.e. 'lover of God' - may be an individual person or general term of address

Be a lover of God / His Word

2] **I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach (1b)**

Nb Teach - 'and He taught in their synagogues being glorified by everyone' (4:15)

do - Then all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him and He laid hands on everyone and healed them all (Lk 4:40)

nb Jesus promised 'greater works than these He will do as I am going to the Father' (John 14:12)

In following Jesus' example we do and teach simultaneously

JESUS **began means that He 'continues to do and teach' to this day**

3] Until the day He was taken up (2)

Nb the passive voice – 'He was taken up' – He did not go up' – The Father 'reached down'

His instruction (2b)

1] **After He had given commands**

I.e. summary - love your neighbour (Jn 13:34) Go into all the world + the Gospel (Mt 28:19)

Note – the Apostles message is the Word of God

2] **Through the Holy spirit**

Nb the Holy Spirit had come on Jesus (Lk 3:22,) full of the Holy Spirit He returned to the Jordan (Lk 4:1)

Jesus lived His first 30 years in anonymity without being full of the Spirit – then what a difference the Holy Spirit made!

Note – Jesus needed the Holy Spirit for His ministry. So do we.

* Note - Love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5)*
? What about us? How important is the Holy Spirit? Would we know if the Holy Spirit had been removed?

3] To the apostles who He had chosen

Nb (He) spent the night praying to God. In the morning ...(He) chose twelve of them and named them 'Apostles'(Lk 6:12)
the 'sent ones' - His 'spearhead'

His appearances (3)

1] He presented himself alive to them, after His suffering, by many proofs

*Nb Luke uses same word as when (Peter) **presented** (Tabitha) alive (Acts 9:41)*
Cf The (apostles) were startled and frightened thinking they had seen a ghost... (He said) Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have (Lk 24:39)
Cf later it is reported - more than 500 brothers at the same time (1 Cor 15:5ff)

JESUS presents Himself to us, alive.

Let Jesus present Himself to you

2] Appearing to them during forty days

Nb 40 days represented a time of instruction, testing, proving?

3] Speaking about the 'Kingdom of God'

? What is the Kingdom of God? –

UK = everywhere our monarch reigns. Kingdom of God – where Jesus reigns

Nb We pray for His Kingdom to come - it comes where His is acknowledged and submitted to.

God's Kingdom is the message

His promise (4)

1] while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem (4a)

Nb It was to have an identifiable beginning –a time and a place - Jerusalem

2] But to wait on the promise of the Father which you heard from me (4b)

Cf I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49)

The Father has promised the Spirit – receive Him

3] For John baptised with water (5a)

I.e. immersion in water

4] But you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit (5b)

I.e. Immersion in the Holy Spirit

Nb John the Baptist promised He (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Lk3:17)

I.e. He gives His Spirit without measure (Jn 3:34)

GRACE God baptises us in His Spirit / gives without measure

5] Not many days from now (5c)

Nb He did not give a specific time for the Spirit was to be received by faith

Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law or by hearing with faith Gal3:2)

Expect the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

1] Is Jesus speaking to you? Have you been promised the Holy Spirit? Have you received Him? Do you know Him? Has He / is He revolutionising your life?

2] If you are of Christ and the answer is 'no', you are majorly missing out

3] Oh and remember in the 'queue', Jesus said, 'the last shall be first' and all you need to do is have faith in Him. Even I receive on that basis. How about you?

MP. Having been taught by the Jesus, faithfully wait on the Spirit to engulf you

KV. But you will be baptised with the Spirit not many days from now (5)