History Lessons from the Good Doctor
Luke-Acts; @ CF Tucker; February 12, 2012

Intro:

Luke -

1) Col 4:14 tells us the Luke was a physician. As such, he was well educated. His Greek is some of the best in the N.T. (surpassed only by the author of Hebrews) The most prolific writer in the N.T.
2) He was the companion of Paul beginning on the 2nd missionary journey and stayed with him until he was executed. So, like Mark, Luke is largely the product of Paul's theology.
3) Relies on Mark as his basic document source. [Or "Q" as the case may be]
4) When? probably about 60-62 a.d. [Luke accompanied Paul to Rome in 60 a.d.]
5) Acts is part 2 of the original book. (John was placed in between to put the 4 canonical gospels first in the N.T.) to the great hurt of both books as they necessarily complement and to some extent explain each other.

What's distinctive?

1. An orderly historical approach. see 1:1-4. Luke is careful to give clear sites and locations which gives greater credibility to his account. [ex] 2:1-2; many in Acts
2. He is in a unique position to write an authoritative gospel. With Paul (as we've said) but he writes from the perspective of one who has experienced the results of Pentecost, seen the church established, and the Gentile mission in full process. [hindsight]
3. Luke emphasizes the Jewish conception of the Ages [Αιων]
   This is seen in his emphasis on John the Baptist. The final act of the present age - in least in terms of salvation history.
   7:28 - no one greater than John - except those in the kingdom
   16:16 - the law and prophets were until John . . .
   John is the last word of the old covenant
   Jesus is the breaking in of the Age to Come or Age of Spirit. This is clearly seen in the Luke's emphasis on the Spirit.
4. The temple and its changing nature and place are recorded by Luke
   a. The temple is the center of Israel's worship from the Exodus on
   b. It becomes *"icabod"* at the time of the Babylonian captivity
   c. The temple is no longer where God dwells, yet God still uses it as a central place: Jesus' early life and ministry are wrapped up with it.
      1- Elizabeth and Zechariah are devout in their faithfulness in their temple service. 1:5-6
      2 - Zechariah receives a visitation from an angel there 1:8-20
      3 - Jesus is presented in the temple - 2:22-24
      4 - Simeon prophesies over Jesus n the temple - 2:25- 35
      5 - Anna proves her faithfulness to God by praying and fasting in the temple 2:36-38.
      6 - Jesus teaches in the temple when he's 12 - 2:41-52

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      7 - Next series of refs are when Jesus clears the temple and begins teaching in its precincts. 19:45-48; 20:1-8; 21:37-38

8- It's where the disciples after Pentecost meet to worship and study - Luke 24:53; Acts 2:46; 3:1

9 -Steven makes it clear that Herod's temple is not a holy place, that God does not live in man-made structures Acts 7:48-50. cmpr. Hebrews 9:11-14.

10 - By chpt. 22, Paul is taken captive and nearly killed in the temple. From being the place where God's glory dwelt, it now has become a place of hostility to Christ and the new Xtian faith. ***Remember that it was over Jesus' words about rebuilding the temple in 3 days that was the trumped up charge before the Jewish court.

11 - By 70 a.d. when Titus destroyed the temple to the utter devastation of Judaism, it has little impact on the Church.

5. The dynamics of Peter's confession and the immediate following of the announcement of his death and resurrection are pretty much the same. 9:18-22, then again in 9:43-45. But it's not until chpt 18 (vs. 31) that they begin the trip to Jerusalem. Chpts 19-23 cover the last week (the passion), much shorter than the other gospels.

Main Themes

1. God's sovereign rule over history. The promises of God made through the prophets are already being fulfilled in Christ and in the church. 13:33; 22:22,42; Acts 1:16-17; 2:23; 4:28, etc.

2. The arrival and actual presence of the Kingdom of God in the person of Jesus Christ. However, it still awaits consummation in the blessed hope of the church. 11:2, 20; 16:16; 17:20-21; 18:1-8; 21:27-28; 34-36; Acts 1:11.

3. The coming and indwelling of the Holy Spirit on Jesus and subsequently, the church. The Spirit is present from beginning to end in Luke. From the birth narratives to Jesus' final words before his ascension. 1:15-17; 35; 2:25-27; 3:16-17; 22; 4:1, 14, 18; 5:17; 24:49.

[The Spirit is present at Jesus birth, conceived by the Spirit, He is present at his dedication, baptism, temptation, early ministry, first sermon, and ascension.] - Acts of course could be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit"

4. The Great Reversal is taking place in the world with coming of Christ and the gospel. In which the first are becoming last, the last first, the proud are being brought low, the humble are being exalted. Luke place emphasis on God's love for the poor, tax collectors, outcasts, sinners, women, Samaritans, and Gentiles, Christmas shepherds, a prodigal son, etc. 1:48, 52-53; 6:20-26; 13:30; 14:11; 18:14.

5. Believers are to live a life of prayer and practice stewardship. Prayer is happening at every important juncture of Jesus' life and ministry. [baptism, selection of the twelve, Peter's confession, the transfiguration, the Lord's prayer, Peter's denial, the crucifixion, etc.

6. The danger of riches. This is a constant theme in Luke. Love of riches chokes out the seed of the gospel. The danger is so great that Jesus often warns about setting one's heart on riches and to give generously to the poor. The woes pronounced on haughty rich people stand in stark contrast to the blessings pronounced on the poor and humble. 6:20-26; 8:14; 12:13-21; 16:10-14, 19-31; 18:22; 21:3-4, 34; (5:11; 14:33); Acts 2:44-45; 4:32.

7. The Gentiles and the Gentile mission are front and center of God's plan
   4:16-30 [only one who records this event]
   All of Acts [is a movement to the Gentile mission/ 1/2 way through we leave Peter and Paul and the Gentile mission takes front seat.

So What and For What?

1. *The Holy Spirit does everything!* He works in power when we are committed to godliness. [baptism of Spirit is at salvation, but can be subsequently filled]

2. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. This is lived out in a life of prayer and steward of our possessions. [get off the American dream!]

3. This is connected to properly understanding the danger of riches. [the desire to get rich ruins people!]

4. Mission, in particular the Great Commission is still front and center of God's will for the church.