

# Luke, the physician, wrote Theophilus

Purpose: to ground him in history of  
Jesus, the Messiah, Lk.1:1-4

1. Luke: companion with Paul during  
journeys and imprisonments
2. Theophilus (God-lover)

*Most excellent*: most noble / excellent.

Used to address officials

(Ac.23:26; 24:3; 26:25)

# Luke, the physician, wrote Theophilus

Lk.24:44-49, power passage

1. Reason to believe gospel
2. Motivation to live for gospel
3. Hope based on gospel

*We never outgrow our  
need for the basics*

Why Did Theophilus  
Believe The Gospel?

# 1. The OT Speaks Of Christ, 44

## He wanted disciples to know . . .

- Things that happened to Him are result of OT prophecies

Earlier attempts to impart this information failed, 18:31-33

Premillennialists still have not learned this lesson



# Sample prophecies of Christ

- Forerunner: Is.40:3 (Mt.3:3)
- Birth: Mic.5:2; Gn.48:7 (Mt.2:1-6)
- Virgin: Is.7:14 (Mt.1:21-25; Lk.1)
- Despised, rejected: Is.53 (Jn.1:11)
- Betrayed: Ps.55:12-14 (Mt.26:49-50)
- Sold: Zec.11:12 (Mt.26:14-15)
- Resurrection: Ps.16:10 (Ac.2:24-32)

# Many prophecies have embarrassed skeptics

- Hittite nation – Hugo Winkler, 1907
- Sargon, Is.20 – Emil Botta, 1843
- Sir William Ramsay
- Nelson Gleuck



## Nelson Gleuck

'The reviewer has spent many years in biblical archaeology, and in company with his colleagues, has made discoveries confirming in outline or in detail historical statements in the Bible. He is prepared to go farther and say that no archaeological discovery has ever been made that contradicts or controverts historical statements in scripture'

1. The OT Speaks Of Christ, 44

2. The Scriptures Can  
Be Understood, 45

# Every prejudice has been removed

They can understand His goal

- 'Opened their mind'
- Scripture interprets Scripture
- Fulfillment shines light on prophecy
  - Ep.3:4; 5:17

God would not write a book we cannot understand. Acts 17:11

1. The OT Speaks Of Christ, 44

2. The Scriptures Can Be Understood, 45

3. The Lord's Death  
And Resurrection, 46

Without His death, we would  
remain spiritually dead

Without His resurrection, we  
would not have newness of life

The disciples could not steal the body

The Jews would not steal the body

The Romans dare not steal the body

Only His appearances... John 20

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3. The Lord's Death And Resurrection, 46

4. The Preaching Of Christ, 47

# Preaching to the preachers – their great commission

1. Repentance: 2 Co.7:9 (Mt.3:8)
2. Remission:
  - a. Divine: blood, Mt.26:28
  - b. Human: obedience, Ac.2:38
3. In His name: 'on basis of'; authority
4. Begin at Jerusalem: significant

# Why Jerusalem?

1. Fulfills Scripture, Is.2
2. Fearless proclamation in city of His murderers, Ac.2:23, 36
3. Forgiveness possible for all



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5. The Witnesses, 48

Witness: one who has seen /  
heard something

Apostles saw Lord...death...resurrection

Our faith rests on credit due these men

Were they honest?

Master was slain

New religion was contrary to all

They were persecuted...killed

Ac.4, 5, 12, 23...

**Witness: one who has seen /  
heard something**

Apostles saw Lord...death...resurrection

Our faith rests on credit due these men

**Were they honest?**

**Were they capable of relating facts?**

**Matthew:** trained as publican

**Luke:** physician; precise observation

**Mark, John:** unlearned; unable to  
fabricate story

**Fishermen:** honest

Witness: one who has seen /  
heard something

Apostles saw Lord...death...resurrection

Our faith rests on credit due these men

Were they honest?

Were they capable of relating facts?

Does testimony agree with contemporary  
witnesses?

Impostors do not commit  
to many particulars

# Contemporary witnesses – death of Jesus

- Pilate (Tacitus; Josephus; inscription)
- Sentence (governors had authority)
- Derision (customary in such cases)
- Scourging (well known...)
- Accusation written (Suetonius...)
- Three languages (common)
- Buried, request of friends (common)

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6. The Promise Of  
The Holy Spirit, 49

# What H.S. did for OT (2 Pt.1:21) did same for NT

- Mt.22:32, present tense
- Gal.3:16, singular, not plural
- Acts 2 records fulfillment of the beginning...