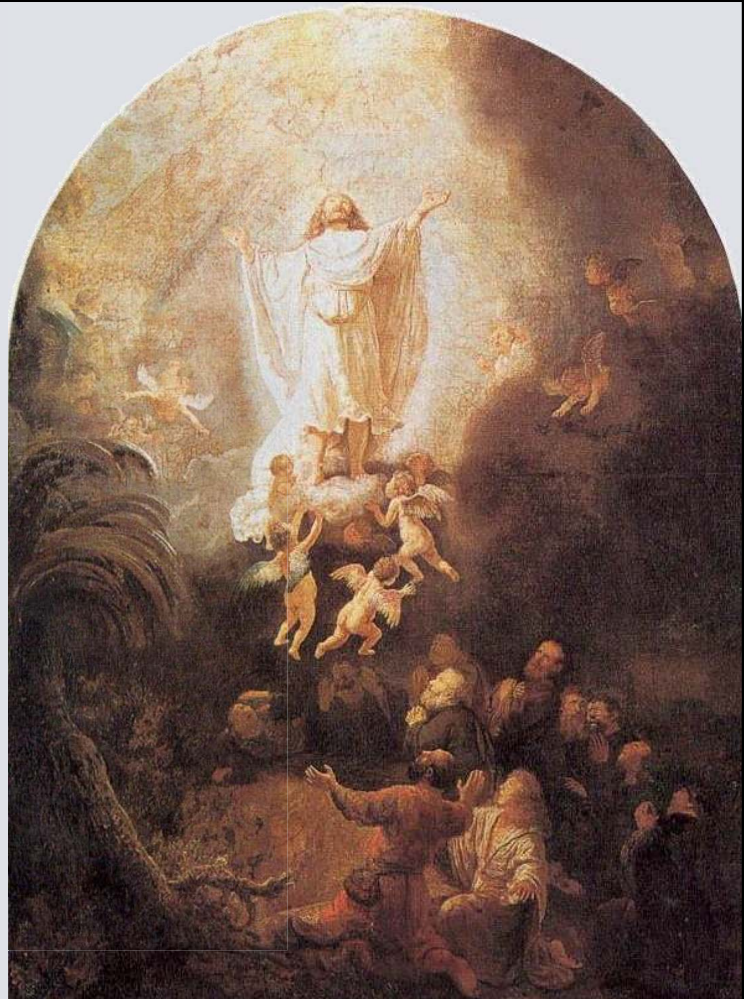


Act V: The Fellowship of Christians



Ascension (1636)
Rembrandt

Luke 2: Journeys of the Believers

- Luke:

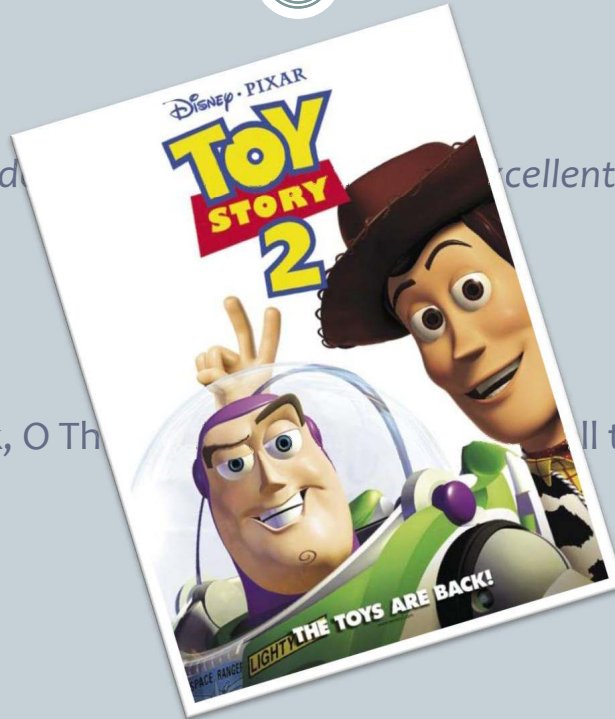
... to write an ord

cellent Theophilus

- Acts:

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The Acts of the Apostles

- What is the book of Acts?

- Volume 2 of a comprehensive account of Jesus and the early Christian community
- Story of the growing early church
- Story of the “deeds” of the early church leaders
- A *theological* history, presenting a model for a Holy Spirit-led church



The Acts of the Apostles



- What are the key themes in Acts?
 - The relationship between Jesus and the Church
 - ✦ The church is the direct continuation of the ministry of Jesus.
 - ✦ The church embodies and maintains the same work, message, and character as Jesus.
 - ✦ This relationship is emphasized through frequent literary parallels between Luke and Acts.

Parallels in Luke-Acts



Luke

- Jesus prays after his baptism (3:21)
- Spirit descends on Jesus after his prayer (3:22)
- Jesus' ministry begins w/ sermon (4:16-30)
- Fulfillment of scripture illustrated by preaching/healing; conflicts illustrate rejection (4:31-8:56)

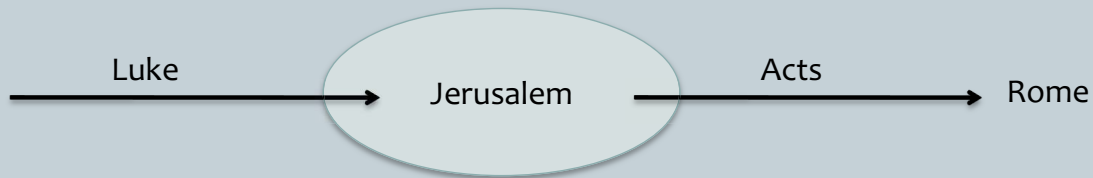
Acts 1-12

- Disciples pray and wait for baptism of the Spirit (1:14, 24)
- Holy Spirit fills disciples after their prayers (2:1-13)
- Church's ministry begins w/ sermon (2:14-40)
- Fulfillment of scripture illustrated by prophecy/wonders; persecutions illustrate rejection (2:41-12:17)

The Acts of the Apostles



- What are the key themes in Acts?
 - The Holy Spirit
 - ✦ The major theme in Acts is that God's spirit empowers the church
 - ✦ The coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) constitutes the initiation of the Christian church.
 - ✦ The holy spirit empowers *all* believers.
 - ✦ The presence of the Holy Spirit is the measure of kingdom membership.
 - The expansion of the church from Jerusalem to Rome:



The Acts of the Apostles



- These themes—the Jesus connection, the Holy Spirit, and the expanding Church—are reflected in Jesus' parting words before ascending into heaven:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

–Acts 1.8

The Acts of the Apostles



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–Acts 1.8

Holy Spirit

Jesus-connection

Expansion

The Acts of the Apostles



- What’s in the book of Acts?
 - The thematic verse of Acts 1.8 also indicates the structure of the book:

*...in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth*

