

- Luke 1:1-4**
1. Luke is neither an **eyewitness** nor a **minister of the word**. If the eyewitnesses are the same group as ministers of the word, Luke is in the second (or a later) generation of Christianity; if the eyewitnesses are one group and the ministers of the word are another, then Luke is in the *third* (or later) generation of Christianity.
 2. **"Many others"** have tried to tell the story.
 3. Luke plans an **"orderly"** account. This suggests that he thought the other accounts were disorderly.
 4. **"Theophilus"** is either a name (*Godlover*) or a description of the reader (*lover of God*).

- Acts 1:1-2**
1. Luke talks to "Theophilus" about his "first book"--the **Gospel of Luke** is **Volume 1**, the story of Jesus.
 2. Acts is therefore **Volume 2** of Luke's history of Christianity, the story of the Apostles.

Acts 2:1-13 **The Day of Pentecost** -- a *Jewish* festival celebrating the giving of the Law (**Torah**) to Moses on Mount Sinai. For Luke, this is the day the Spirit replaces the Law; this gift fulfills the prophecy of Ezekiel 36:25-7 that GOD would write the law in people's hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit; see also Ezekiel 37:1-14, where the Spirit raises the People of Israel to life. **Christians see themselves as the resurrected, Spirit-filled Israel** promised by Ezekiel.

Note the *signs* which proved that the Spirit was present.

Acts 10 **The Pentecost of the Gentiles.**

Simon Peter has a vision on the roof about clean (**kosher**) and unclean animals (vv. 9-20).

He is then sent to visit **Gentiles** (i.e., non-Jews; vv. 20-24). The Gentiles were *unclean people (not kosher)*--Cornelius is a **Roman centurion** from the Italica cohort (v. 1).

Peter realizes that GOD has declared the unclean people clean (**kosher**; vv. 27-29).

As he preaches the gospel (vv. 36-43), they receive the Spirit just as the apostles did on Pentecost (vv. 44-46)! Note the *signs* which proved the Spirit was present.

Since they had **already** received the Spirit, Peter decided they could be baptized with water and become full-fledged Christians even though **they weren't circumcised and they didn't keep the Jewish Law (Torah = "Law" = the Pentateuch = the first five books of TNK / OT = GELND)**.

Acts 15 **The 'first' Council of the Church.** (*Not included among the "official count" of 21 councils.*)

The **Judaizers** felt that to be *Christian*, one had to be a *Jew* (v. 1). "Christ" symbolizes being "King of the Jews." Jesus was a Jew. He was circumcised and worshiped in the Temple.

His Mom was a Jew.

His 12 disciples were Jews.

He focused His work on Jews living in the Holy Land.

He said that none of the Law (**Torah**) would be lost until it was fulfilled.

The literal meaning of the Law was perfectly clear: **"God wrote it; I read it; that settles it."**

Therefore, the Judaizers argued that men had to be **circumcised** as well as Baptized and that all Christians had to keep the precepts of Torah. When the rabbis counted up all the commandments in the **five books of Moses** (the **Pentateuch**, the first five books of **TNK**, a.k.a. **Torah**), they found **613!**

Many men objected to the approach that the Judaizers took (v. 2), especially Peter and Paul.

Peter tells the story of how the Spirit was given to unclean, uncircumcised, pig-eating, emperor-worshipping Italian soldiers who worked as members of the Army of Occupation (15:8-11). The decision of the Council: **"It seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us"** that no law be imposed, other than the **Famous Four Commandments** (15:28-29; how many of them do you recognize?). In other words, *609 commandments were dropped, just like that*. The **Ten Commandments** were retrieved later.

Old Covenant (Old Testament)	New Covenant (New Testament)
First sign of acceptance: circumcision (surgery).	First sign of acceptance: Baptism (a bath).
Salvation came through obedience to Torah (Law).	Salvation came as a grace (a free gift, unearned).
Messiah (Christ) was a human king who would marry, father an heir, win battles, and die.	Messiah is the God-Man who conquered sin and death and now lives and reigns forever (fulfilling Psalm 89).
Life was regulated by 613 commandments in the Torah.	Life was regulated by the Holy Spirit .
The official place of worship was the Temple in Jerusalem: one God, one People, one Holy Land, one Holy City, one Temple.	The official place of worship is the Body of Christ : "wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I" (Mt 18:20; Acts 9:5, 22:8, 26:15).

