**Luke-Acts**

The book of Acts should be considered the second volume in a two-volume set. This point is often overlooked due to the arrangement of the New Testament cannon wherein the Gospel of John is placed between the two volumes.

Consider the following points:

1. The first four verses of Luke, and the first three verses of Acts link the two books together as a set.
   1. Both books are addressed to the same reader/audience (Luke 1:3 & Acts 1:1)
   2. Both books center around the concept of fulfillment.
      1. Luke 1:1 speaks of things “fulfilled among us”
      2. Acts 1:3 speaks of “things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (the fulfillment of God’s kingdom).
   3. Acts 1:1 references the “former account”
      1. This implies a latter account that coincides with the former.
   4. Acts 1:1 states that the former account concerned the things Jesus “began to both do and teach”
      1. This implies that the latter account (Acts) is a continuation of the things Jesus both did and taught through His disciples.
      2. It is no coincidence that a recurring theme of Acts is the phrase “in the name of Jesus”
         1. This phrase indicates that the apostles and disciples were acting under the authority and direction of Jesus as He reigned in heaven.
2. Luke-Acts shares a common theme of Christ establishing His reign and kingdom, and then ruling through His apostles over the church.
   1. In Luke 22:38-39 Jesus stated that the twelve apostles would sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
      1. This verse comes into focus in the latter half of Acts 1 when the apostles fill the vacated seat of Judas with the appointment of Mathias.
      2. Judas’ place must be filled so that Jesus’ words in Luke 22:38-39 can be fulfilled.
      3. The twelve now fill a similar role to the judges in the book of Judges: they lead God’s people into battle and serve as the Heavenly King’s earthly representatives and judges.
   2. Jesus provided training for the twelve and other disciples while He was on earth so that His reign could be established and successful once He ascended back to heaven to begin His reign seated at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33).
3. It is not coincidental that the structure and flow of the apostle’s ministry mimics the structure and flow of the Lord’s earthly ministry. The following outline is provided from Charles H. Talbert’s book “Reading Acts:

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| **Luke** | **Acts** |

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| 3:22  The Spirit descends on Jesus after prayer. | 2:1-13  The Spirit fills the apostles after their prayers. |
| 4:16-30  Jesus’ ministry begins with a sermon involving fulfillment of Scripture and rejection of Jesus | 2:14-40  The church’s ministry begins with a sermon involving fulfillment of Scripture and rejection of Jesus. |
| 4:31-8:56  The fulfillment is illustrated by preaching and healing. Conflicts illustrate rejection. | 2:41-12:17  The fulfillment is illustrated by prophecy and wonders. Persecutions illustrate unbelief. |
| 10:1-12  The mission of the 70, which foreshadows the Gentile mission of the church. | Chapters 13-20  The missionary journeys of Paul to the Gentiles. |
| 9:51-19:28  Jesus makes a journey to Jerusalem, which is a passion journey under divine necessity, and is not understood by the disciples | 19:21-21:17  Paul makes a last journey to Jerusalem, which is a passion journey, under divine necessity, and is not understood by Paul’s friends. |
| 19:37  Jesus receives a good reception, and people praise God for what they have seen. | 21:17-20  Paul receives a good reception, and God is glorified for the things done among the Gentiles. |
| 19:45-48  Jesus goes into the temple with a positive attitude to it. | 21:26  Paul goes into the temple with a friendly attitude toward it. |
| 22:54  A mob seizes Jesus | 21:30  A mob seizes Paul. |
| 22:26; 23:1; 23:8; 23:13  The four trials of Jesus (Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod Antipas, Pilate) | Chapters 23, 24, 25, 26  The four trials of Paul (Sanhedrin, Felix, Festus, Herod Agrippa) |
| 23:16,22  Pilate says he will release (*apolyso*) him. | 26:32  Agrippa says, “This man could have been released” (*apolelysthai*) |
| Chapter 24  Jesus’ ministry ends on the note of the fulfillment of Scripture. | Chapter 28  Paul’s ministry ends on the note of the fulfillment of Scripture. |