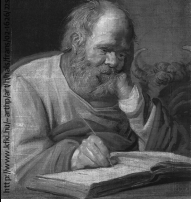
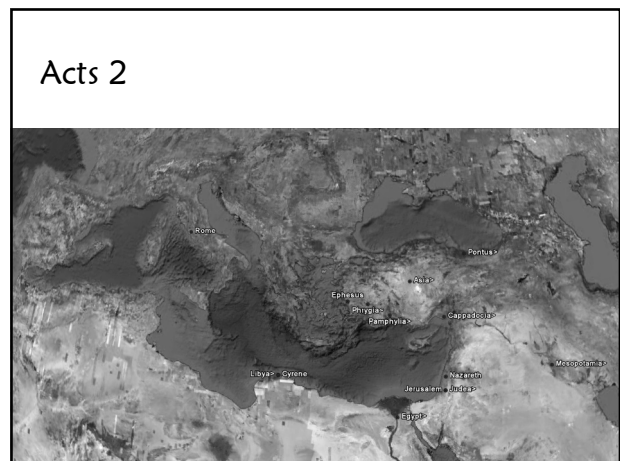
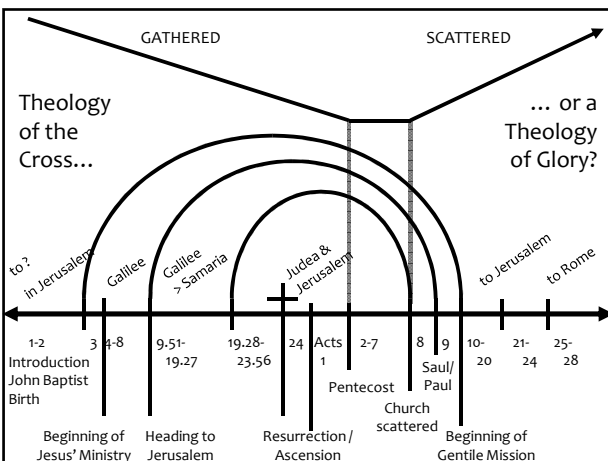
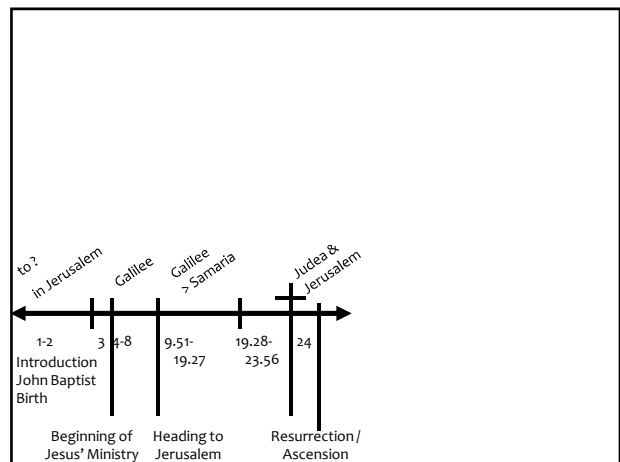


Who was Luke?



- May or may not have been a physician companion of Paul
 - Cf. Col 4.14: *Our dear friend Luke the physician ...*
 - Cf. Acts 16.10...: *After Paul saw the vision, we attempted ...*
- Well-educated second-generation Xn
 - Note grammar and vocabulary
 - Deep knowledge of Jewish Scripture and classical literature
- Either a Hellenistic Jew or a Gentile
- Had access to Mark and Q (or Matthew?)
- Written around 80-90 CE
- Also authored book of Acts
- Where?



Genre

General history of early Christianity

Celebrates accomplishments and heroes

- Christianity's wild growth and acceptance
- Escapes and justification of founding apostles
- Blessings and success of early Christianity

Promotes central community for PR

Problem: How do modern historians evaluate and use ancient historiography?

Slide from Powell, *Introducing the NT*: http://introducingnt.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=25

Reasons for Writing

- To unify a church that was increasingly various
- To demonstrate Christianity is no political threat
- Convert Gentiles to a new faith
- Show how Christianity, a predominantly Gentile religion, legitimately inherited God's favor with Israel
- Present a long-term mission strategy

Slide from Powell, *Introducing the NT*: http://introducingnt.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=25

Key Themes

God controls history

God keeps promises

God is faithful to Israel

Mission extends to Gentiles

Jerusalem at center

Generosity to poor

Jesus' presence

- By Holy Spirit
- In preached word
- In lives of followers
- In use of Jesus' name

Salvation

- Jesus is Lord and Christ
- Present liberation

Spirit's power and presence

Slide from Powell, *Introducing the NT*: http://introducingnt.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=25

Outline

Preface, Ascension, and baptism by Spirit (1:1–2:13)

Peter's speech (2:14–41)

Early church and Peter (2:42–8:1)

Expansion of church (8:2–12:23)

Paul's first mission (13:1–14:28)

Paul's second mission (15:36–18:22)

Paul's third mission (18:23–21:14)

Paul, prisoner, to Rome (21:15–28:31)

Slide from Powell, *Introducing the NT*: http://introducingnt.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=25

Acts

*The Early Church
and the
Church Today*

LTSG Fall 2010

mgvh