

Exegetical Notes - Luke 1:1-4
“Outside the Bible”

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Luke 1:1-4

Verse 1-2

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

- This is the prologue, or introduction, to Luke and Acts. In it, the author tells us what he intended to do when he wrote what follows in these two books of the Bible.
- He starts by acknowledging that others have written accounts of the events that were “*fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down.*” He is talking about the events surrounding the life of Jesus that were foretold in the Old Testament.
- He acknowledges that these things were “*handed down*” by eyewitnesses and by people who were scholars of the Old Testament. While Luke accompanied the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys some of the time, he was not an eyewitness to the events surrounding the life of Jesus.

Verse 3-4

Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- Not being an eyewitness himself to these events, he made a careful examination of all the sources himself. He investigated all of the available material and reports available on the subject.
- Having done so, his intention is to prepare a detailed and historically accurate history of the events he studied.
- He is preparing this history for a person named Theophilus. The name is a composite Greek name. “Theo” is the Greek word for God.

“Philus” means lover of . Put together the name means “Lover of God.” It is probable that this was a friend of the author’s and that this is a private history written for Theophilus by Luke. However, some scholars contend that the name is a literary device used by Luke, and the audience of these books is all those who love God.

- Regardless of that, Luke’s purpose in writing is clear. It is to confirm with certainty the teachings concerning Jesus. His careful study and his interview with the eyewitnesses are convincing. About this matter there can be no doubt.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Outside the Bible*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)