

Luke 1.1-4 & The Foundations of Faith

This material was originally used to explore the foundations of apologetics, the defense of biblical faith. During our lesson this morning (10/25/2020) we used the same material to accentuate Luke's purpose for writing. It was, as we learned from the text, to give **certainty** to Theophilus and, eventually, to give certainty to all those who read his account. We hope that you find it beneficial.



the finished house

Firm Footing

The Foundations of Apologetics

2



the starting place²

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2

the starting place¹

5

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several hands working on architectural blueprints. One hand is holding a pen, another is pointing at a drawing, and a third is using a compass. The blueprints are spread out on a wooden table, and a white folder is visible in the upper right corner.

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“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:”

Luke 6:47



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“He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.”

Luke 6:48



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“But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

Luke 6:49

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foundation - verb

2311 θεμελιωω themelioo them-el-ee-o'-o

from [2310](#); TDNT - 3:63,322; v

KJV - found 2, ground 2, lay the foundation 1, settle 1; 6

1) to lay the foundation, to found

2) to make stable, establish

foundation - adj.

2310 θεμελιος themelios them-el'-ee-os or θεμελιον
themelion them-el'-ee-on

from a derivative of [5087](#); TDNT - 3:63,322; adj

KJV - foundation 16; 16

1) laid down as a foundation, the foundation (of a building, wall, city)

2) metaph. the foundations, beginnings, **first principles**

2a) of institution or **system of truth**



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“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

I Corinthians 3:11

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“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”

Ephesians 2:20



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“for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

Hebrews 11:10

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We must have a firm foundation for our:

- faith • doctrine • salvation
- kingdom • Christian life
- hope • love • suffering

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Where Do I Start?



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**“that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

2 Timothy 3:17

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complete

739 **αρτιος** artios ar'-tee-os

from [737](#); TDNT - 1:475,80; adj

KJV - perfect 1; 1

1) **fitted**

2) **complete, perfect**

2a) having reference apparently to “special aptitude for given uses”

thoroughly equipped

1822 **εξαρτιζω** exartizo ex-ar-tid'-zo

from [1537](#) and a derivative of [739](#); TDNT - 1:475,80; v

KJV - accomplish + [1096](#) I, thoroughly furnish I; 2

l) to complete, finish

la) to **furnish perfectly**

lb) to finish, accomplish, (as it were, to render the days complete)

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“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,”

2 Timothy 3:14

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An Introduction To Christian Evidences

“and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:15

The background of the slide is a photograph showing several pairs of hands working on a large sheet of architectural blueprints. One hand is holding a pen, another is pointing at a specific part of the drawing, and others are resting on the paper. The blueprints are spread out on a wooden table, and a white folder or box is visible in the upper right corner. The overall scene suggests a collaborative and focused work environment.

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“and that from childhood you have known **the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

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Start With Scripture

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several hands working on architectural blueprints. One hand is holding a pen, another is holding a compass, and others are pointing at the drawings. The blueprints are spread out on a wooden table. In the top left corner, there is a white rectangular box with a torn edge containing the text 'Firm Footing' and 'The Foundations of Apologetics'.

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2

“Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,”

Luke 1:1

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The Foundations of Apologetics

“just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,”

Luke 1:2

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“it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,”

Luke 1:3



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“that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”

Luke 1:4

certainty - adjective

804 ασφαλής asphales as-fal-ace'

from α (as a negative particle) and sfallw sphallo (to "fail");
TDNT - 1:506,87; adj

KJV - certainty 2, certain 1, safe 1, sure 1; 5

- 1) firm (that which can be relied on)
- 2) certain, true
- 3) suited to confirm

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make sure - verb

805 ασφαλίζω asphalizo as-fal-id'-zo

from [804](#); TDNT - 1:506,87; v

KJV - make sure 3, make fast 1; 4

1) to make firm, to make secure (against harm)

2) to be made secure

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safely/assuredly - adverb

806 **ασφαλως** asphalos as-fal-oce'

from [804](#); TDNT - 1:506,87; adv

KJV - safely 2, assuredly 1; 3

1) safety (so as to prevent escape), assuredly

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Luke 1:1

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order (*anatassomai* - to put together, arrange, compose) a narrative (*diegesis* - declaration, narration, from *diegeomai* - to lead or carry a narration to the end, thus, relate in full) of those things which have been fulfilled (KJV - which are most surely believed - *plerophoreo* - to bring full, to make full, to cause a thing to be shown to the full, to carry through to the end, cf. *anatassomai*; to make certain, to persuade, to be fully persuaded, fully convinced) among us,

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Luke 1:2

just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses (*autoptes* - seeing with one's own eyes) and ministers of the word delivered (*paradidomi* - give into the hands, custody, of another) them to us,

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Luke 1:3

it seemed good to me also, having had perfect (*akribos* - exact, accurate, diligent) understanding (*parakoloutheo* - to follow after, to follow close, to follow up a thing in mind so as to attain to the knowledge of it, to examine thorough, investigate) of all things from the very first (*anochen* - cf. *arche* earlier), to write to you an orderly account (*kathexes* - one after another, successively, in order), most excellent Theophilus,





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“that you may know the **certainty** of those things in which you were instructed.”

Luke 1:4

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- tar
- pitch
- paving
- blacktop
- macadam



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asphalt



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asphalt |'asfôlt|

noun

a mixture of dark bituminous pitch with sand or gravel, used for surfacing roads, flooring, roofing, etc.

- the pitch used in this mixture, sometimes found in natural deposits but usually made by the distillation of crude oil.

verb [trans.]

cover with asphalt.



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ORIGIN late Middle English :
from French *asphalte*, based on
late Latin *asphalton, asphaltum*,
from Greek *asphalton*.

safety/certainty - noun

803 **ασφαλεια** asphaleia as-fal'-i-ah

from [804](#); TDNT - 1:506,87; n f

KJV - safety 2, certainty 1; 3

- 1) firmness, stability
- 2) **certainty, undoubted truth**
- 3) security from enemies and dangers, safety

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opposites

theism



atheism

gnosticism



agnosticism

sphallo



asphallo

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Luke 1:4

that you may know (*epiginosko* - to become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, to know accurately, know well) the certainty (*asphaleia* - firmness, stability, undoubted truth) of those things in which you were instructed (*katecheo* - lit. to sound down, i.e. to teach, instruct by word of mouth, cf catechism).

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Luke 1:4 translations

“know the **certainty**” (ASV, KJV, NKJV, NIV)

“that you may have **certainty**” (ESV)

“might have certain **knowledge**” (BBE)

“may/might know the **exact truth**” (NAS95, NASB)

“may know the **truth**” (NRSV, RSV)

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Luke's Perspective



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“just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word delivered them to us,”

Luke 1:2



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“just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to **us**,”

Luke 1:2

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Observations:

- Luke was not part of “those”
- Luke was not “from the beginning”
- Luke was not an “eyewitness”
- Luke was part of “us”
- Luke’s knowledge was “second hand”

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Questions:

- how could Luke write an “orderly account”
- how could Luke provide “certainty”
- how does Luke compare with other writers
- how/why can we trust Luke

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Answers:

- Luke wrote with accuracy (ακριβως)
- Luke wrote an “orderly account”
- Luke received the message from “those”
- Luke wrote by inspiration (2 Pet 1:21)

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I'm Not Luke



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“just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word delivered them to us,”

Luke 1:2



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“just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to **us**,”

Luke 1:2

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Observations:

- We were not part of “those”
- We were not “from the beginning”
- We were not an “eyewitness”
- We were part of “us”
- Our knowledge is “second hand”

eyewitness - noun

845 **αυτοπτης** autoptes ow-top'-tace

from [846](#) and [3700](#); TDNT - 5:373,706; n m

KJV - eyewitness 1; 1

1) seeing with one's own eye, an eye-witness

1a) a medical term: autopsy, a detailed examination

The background of the slide is a photograph showing several pairs of hands working on a large sheet of architectural blueprints. One hand is holding a pen, another is pointing, and a compass is visible on the paper. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a professional or academic setting.

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2

“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”

2 Peter 1:16

The background of the slide is a photograph showing several pairs of hands working on a large sheet of architectural blueprints. One hand is holding a pen, another is pointing, and a compass is visible on the paper. The scene is brightly lit, emphasizing the texture of the paper and the skin.

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“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty.”

2 Peter 1:16

eyewitness - noun

2030 **εΠΟΠΤΗΣ** epoptes ep-op'-tace

from [1909](#) and a presumed derivative of [3700](#); TDNT - 5:373,706; n m

KJV - eyewitness 1; 1

1) an overseer, inspector

2) spectator, eye witness of anything

eyewitness - noun

First aorist passive participle of ginomai, "but having become eye-witnesses." ΕΠΟΠΤΑΙ, old word (from ΕΠΟΠΤΩ like ΕΠΟΠΤΕΥΩ in 1Pe 2:12; 3:2), used of those who attained the third or highest degree of initiates in the Eleusinian mysteries (common in the inscriptions). Cf. ΑΥΤΟΠΤΗΣ in Lu 1:2. ... Peter clearly felt that he and James and John were lifted to the **highest** stage of initiation at the Transfiguration of Christ. [RWP]

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“whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,”

I Peter 1:8

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Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

(2 Peter 1:1-2)

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Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained **like precious faith** with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

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Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:29



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