

The Prologue of the Gospel of Luke

1:1-4

Background

- ✓ A self-conscious, literary prologue in the manner of Greek historians.
- ✓ cf. Luke 3:1-2, Acts 1:1-2, also Josephus, "The Jewish War," 1st para.
- ✓ One sentence in Greek of two clauses of three phrases each.
- claims (a) to arrange an orderly account, (b) the events are things that have come to fulfillment, (c) used eyewitness, (d) did research, (e) is complete, (f) to demonstrate the true interpretation of events

Issues

- ✓ What is the nature of "an orderly account"?
- ✓ Is Luke criticizing previous writers?
- ✓ What is the nature of the truth Luke claims for this work?

Interesting words

διηγησιν (diegesin), a hapax logomenon in NT, noun of διηγεομαι: an explanation, narrative, report
καθεξης (kathexes), succession, in order

Another prologue:

Josephus, *Against Apion*:

In the history of the *Antiquities*, most excellent Epaphroditus, I believe that I have made sufficiently clear to any who would come upon that work the antiquity of our Jewish race, the purity of its original stock, But since I see that a number of persons, influenced by malicious slander from certain people, discredit statements in my history ... I consider it my duty to write briefly about all these points, to convince our detractors of opprobrium and deliberate falsehood, ...

1-2: subordinate clause:

3-4: main clause:

Επειδηπερ	Since	It seemed good	εδοξε
πολλοι επεχειρησαν	many have undertaken	to me also	καμοι
αναταξασθαι διηγησιν	to compile a narrative	having investigated from the source	παρηκολουθηκοτι ανωθεν
περι	concerning	all things accurately	πασιν ακριβως
των πεπληροφορημενων εν ηυιν πραγματων	the been-fully-carried-out (among us) things,	to write in an orderly way to you, most excellent Theophilus,	καθεξης σοι γραψαι, κρατιστε Θεφιλε,
καθως	just as	in order that	ινα
παρεδοσαν ημιν	delivered to us	you might know	επιγνωσ
οι απ αρχης αυτοπται και υπηρεται γενομενοι	by those from the beginning eyewitnesses and servants being	about which you were instructed of the things	περι ων κατηχηθης λογων
του λογου	of the Word	the truth	την ασφαλειαν.