

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Continuing Education**  
**Springfield, Missouri**  
**June 9-13, 2003**

**BTHM 640 THE CHARISMATIC THEOLOGY OF LUKE-ACTS**  
**Updated April 8, 2003**

Roger Stronstad

Summer 2003

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a biblical-theological exposition of the pneumatology of the Lucan literature. It evaluates the relevant Lucan data historically, grammatically and contextually. It discusses and applies appropriate hermeneutical principles for the interpretation of historical narrative. Where appropriate, modern interpreters of Lucan pneumatology will be critically evaluated.

**OBJECTIVES**

When you complete this course you should be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate the different approaches to the hermeneutics of historical narrative and develop an awareness of how they affect one's understanding of Lucan pneumatology.
2. Describe the principle of historical precedent, identify its role in Luke-Acts, and evaluate whether it functions legitimately to determine normative belief and practice.
3. Describe the didactic and theological purposes of Luke's narrative.
4. Identify the narrative structure in Luke-Acts and explain how Luke's narrative strategy focuses the reader's attention on the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit.
5. Discuss the doctrine of the prophethood of all believers as it unfolds in Luke's portrait of Jesus, his disciples and their converts.
6. Explain the Holy Spirit's role in the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to Samaria and Western Judea and to the ends of the earth; in other words, from Jews to Samaritans to Gentiles.
7. Explain the characteristic Lucan term, "X was filled with the Holy Spirit."
8. Evaluate, with regard to your exposition of the pneumatology of the Lucan literature, the secondary literature on the subject.

**TEXTBOOKS** (please note change in text)

**Required:**

Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

**Recommended:**

Menzies, Robert P. *The Development of Early Christian Pneumatology With Special Reference to Luke-Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1991.

Shelton, James B. *Mighty in Word and Deed: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

Stronstad, Roger. *The Prophethood of All Believers: A Study in Luke's Charismatic Theology*, JPTSup 16. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. HERMENEUTICS
  - 2.1 Genre and Theology
  - 2.2 Guidelines for Interpreting Luke-Acts
3. EXPOSITION: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LUKE-ACTS
  - 3.1 Jesus: The Anointed Prophet (Luke 1-24)
    - 3.1.1 Introduction
    - 3.1.2 The Restoration of Prophecy (Luke 1-2)
    - 3.1.3 The Anointing of Jesus (Luke 3-4)
    - 3.1.4 Jesus' Prophetic Ministry (Luke 4-24)
  - 3.2 The Disciples: The Community of Spirit-Baptized Prophets (Acts 1-28)
    - 3.2.1 The Origin of the Charismatic Community (Acts 1:1-2:41)
    - 3.2.2 The Acts of the Community of Prophets (Acts 2:42-6:7)
    - 3.2.3 The Acts of Six Charismatic Prophets (Acts 6:8-28:31)
4. LUKE'S CHARISMATIC THEOLOGY
  - 4.1 Luke's Didactic Purpose
  - 4.2 Luke's Charismatic Motifs/Themes

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Pre-Session**

Read carefully the Stronstad text. This will give you a basic understanding of the interpretative, the exegetical and the theological issues related to Luke's narrative theology. In proper/formal style (typed, double-spaced, etc.). Summarize the essential aspects of Luke's pneumatology (about 5-7 pages).

**B. Session**

During the class sessions, we will work through the material in the syllabus outline. Please consult the required and recommended texts as we proceed.

**C. Post-Session**

Prepare a formal research paper of 10-12 pages in formal style on two of the topics listed below. Thorough research, adequate documentation, a clear sense of purpose and clarity of presentation are expected. The paper should contain a title page, an outline of contents, an introduction and a conclusion/summary.

Sources: the student should use different kinds of sources: commentaries, journals and New Testament Theology books. Specific books on Lukan pneumatology also are necessary.

Topics: All students will write on assignment number 1. Students will then choose any one of the options for assignment number 2. The student who wishes to write on another topic for assignment 2 must have his or her topic approved by the instructor during the one-week visit to campus.

1. Discuss the debate about hermeneutics of historical narrative in contemporary biblical scholarship. Briefly summarize and contrast the two main positions in this debate and come to a conclusion about which position leads to the better interpretation of Luke-Acts.
2. Choose one of the following four options:
  - A. Discuss Luke's inauguration narrative (Luke 3-4). This is programmatic and shows that Jesus' entire ministry, and not just its inauguration, is Spirit-anointed, Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, and Spirit-empowered. Notice how Luke reinforces the programmatic function of the inauguration narrative by reporting about the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life on the principle of inclusion (n.b. Luke 3-4; 24; Acts 2-3).

- B. Write a critical evaluation of a commentary on Acts 2:1-21, which is written by a non-Pentecostal. Analyze not only what is written about the pouring forth of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, but also what has been ignored by the commentator, which is often just as important to observe.
- C. Discuss Luke's data about being baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will also note and assess the major contemporary interpretations (Reformed and Pentecostal) of Luke's data.
- D. Compare and contrast the charismatic (i.e., Spirit-filled) ministries of both Peter and Paul.

All post-session assignments must be postmarked no later than September 13, 2003. Submit all assignments to:

Dr. Roger Stronstad  
P. O. Box 1700  
Abbotsford, BC  
V2S7E7  
wpbcpr@uniserve.com

**COURSE METHODOLOGY**

Class sessions combine lectures, discussions, question-answer times and other techniques. Class interaction and participation is expected. Reading and writing assignments are required.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading assignment report..... 30%  
Paper ..... (2x35%) 70%

**NOTE: Late work will be penalized at the discretion of the professor. Late assignments will be subject to a change of grade fee (\$15.00), even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.**

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Barrett, C.K., *Luke the Historian in Recent Study* (London: Epworth, 1961).

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Bruce, R., *Secondary Prophecy as an Aspect of Luke's Charismatic Theology* (Portland: Grace Publishers, 1990).

Bruner, F. D., *A Theology of the Holy Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970).

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