

# Contents

*List of Tables* | ix

*Foreword* by Thorsten Moritz | xi

*Preface* | xiii

*Acknowledgments* | xvii

*Abbreviations* | xix

**Introduction** | 1

The Genre of Luke–Acts 3

The Dating of Luke–Acts 4

Luke’s Prefaces 5

The Authorship of Luke–Acts 7

Luke’s Purpose(s) 9

Scholarly Precedent 11

**Chapter 1: Social Identity in the Early Church** | 13

Cultural Memory and the Early Church 14

Social Identity: A Survey of the Scholarship 16

Social Identity Theory 27

The Social Function of Group Beliefs 34

Group Beliefs in Acts 36

Narrative and Intertextuality 46

Conclusion 52

**Chapter 2: God-Fearers as Luke’s Audience** | 53

God-Fearers in Acts 54

God-Fearers in Scholarship 58

Minor Characters and Decentralization 63

The Critic-Response Type-Scene 78

Conclusion 88

**Chapter 3: The Gospel and Decentralization in Luke-Acts | 89**

The New Exodus in Luke-Acts 91

The Rhetorical Use of Names in Luke-Acts 93

Promise and Fulfillment in Luke 95

Promise and Fulfillment in Acts 129

Conclusion 141

**Chapter 4: Luke's Use of Prototypes and Exemplars | 142**

What is a Prototype? 143

Prototypical Figures in Acts 144

Minor Characters 158

Excursus: Angels and Visions in Luke's Writings 165

Sinai and Pentecost: Forming a New Covenant 168

Exemplars and Anti-Exemplars 170

Conclusion 181

**Chapter 5: Luke's Identity-Forming Rhetoric and the Speeches in Acts | 183**

Rhetoric in the First Century 187

The Use of Names in the Historiographical Speeches in Acts 192

Stephen's Identity-Forming Rhetoric 194

The Rhetorical Function of The Land 208

Stephen's Critique of the Temple 216

Rhetorical Method in Paul's Speech 219

Conclusion 231

**Conclusion | 232**

*Bibliography | 239*