

**QUESTIONING CHRISTMAS: FAITH ISN'T BLIND – IT SEEKS UNDERSTANDING**  
**LUKE 1:1-4 (ESV)**

- I. Having questions or doubts about Jesus' story is not a uniquely \_\_\_\_\_ problem.
- A. Theophilus was struggling with \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus and His movement.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_) people first give for their doubts are rarely the most fundamental ones.
1. Many people today have doubts about Christianity because of...
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_ reasons: they subscribe to religious or political views that seem \_\_\_\_\_ to their understanding of Christianity.
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_ reasons: anti-supernaturalism (or materialism) is assumed to \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity.
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_ reasons: the exclusive and moral claims made in the Bible are \_\_\_\_\_ and should not be believed.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ is usually what causes people to doubt the truth of the Bible.
1. They've been hurt by a Christian or the institutional \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Something terrible happened, which makes them doubt the existence of a \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  3. They believe that becoming a Christian would impact their life negatively.
  4. They are \_\_\_\_\_ with what the Bible says.

II. Uncertainty about Jesus is best handled in the company of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ who believe.

A. To strengthen Theophilus' faith, Luke wrote two connected \_\_\_\_\_, now known as "The Gospel of Luke" and "The Acts of the Apostles."

B. Luke's historiographical project \_\_\_\_\_ up to \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Luke's \_\_\_\_\_ and writing \_\_\_\_\_ should give us confidence that he is a trustworthy witness.

a. In several Acts narratives, the author \_\_\_\_\_ himself in the story without mentioning his name (see Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16).

b. The author was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Apostle Paul.

c. Third-party accounts \_\_\_\_\_ the physician Luke as the author as early as AD \_\_\_\_\_.

d. Luke 1:1-4 matches, as a literary form, the standard \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for mathematical and scientific works in the first century.

2. Luke's intent to write a well-researched and well-composed historiography shows not only his \_\_\_\_\_, but also his \_\_\_\_\_ with our questions.

C. Faith isn't blind \_\_\_\_\_ of ideas; rather, faith seeks \_\_\_\_\_ and certainty alongside people you trust.