THE GOSPEL ‘   
   
   
 ACCORDING TO   
   
   
 LU K E.   
   
   
   
   
   
 I. | ForasmucH as many have taken in hand to set forth   
 in order a \* declaration of those things which are most   
   
   
 ® render, narration concerning.   
 Cuar I. 1—4.] PREPAck ADDRESSED TO Introduction to Luke. (4) I believe the   
 THEOPHILUS. e style of preface is only probable interpretation the words   
 purer Greek than contents of Gospel, to be, that many persons, in charge of   
 and also more laboured and formal.—This Churches, or otherwise induced, drew up,   
 may be accounted for, partly it is here and there, statements (narratives)   
 the composition of Evangelist himself, the testimony eye-witnesses and minis-   
 and not translated from Hebrew sources ters of the (see below), far as they   
 like much of the rest, ly\_ themselves had been able to collect   
 prefaces, especially also (I do not believe that either the Gospel   
 are usually in a rounded and artificial of St. or that of St. Mark is to   
 style. 1, many] Much depends on the be reckoned among these; or if they are,   
 meaning of this as guiding, or that St. Luke had seen or used them.)   
 fying, our opinion on ¢! tion and That such narratives should havo come   
 sources of our Gospel histories. That down to us, is matter of surprise:   
 the writers of our present Gospels ex- (1) they would bo absorbed by the more   
 clusively cannot be meant, is evident; complete and sanctioned accounts of our   
 since, even supposing St. Luke to have present Evangelists; and (2) Church tra-   
 seen all three Gospels, one (that of St. dition has preserved few fragments of   
 John) was wholly, and another (that of authentic information the apostolic   
 St. Matthew) was in greater the It is that in almost every   
 production of an eye-witness minister where an eye-witness preached, his   
 of the word,—which would leave only one mony would be taken down, and framed   
 for the many. (2) Gospels ex- into some narrative, or less   
 elusively cannot be for they would of the life and of the Lord. .   
 not be‘ narrations matters have taken in This does not ne-   
 believed among us,’ ‘ delivered eye- cessarily the insufficic of such   
 witnesses and ministers of the word,’ a narrations, some have imagined. The   
 great part of their being excluded fact of that failure indeed implied in   
 by this very author from his own narra- St. Luke’s description his own work—   
 tlon. (3) A combination of these two but that, more because it possessed   
 may be intended—e. g. of the Gospel see pleteness (whereas they were fragmentary)   
 the Gospel according to the Hebrews,— U than from any difference kind.   
 of the former, according to St. to set forth in order] more Properly, to   
 but then also how shall we make out the draw up,—to arrange. a declara-   
 many? Our present apocryphal Gospels tion] a setting and #0 if relation   
 arose far later any likely which to things @ narration—history.   
 can be assigned to St. surely believed] According to some, this   
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