# The Book Of Acts

Introduction

# Introduction To Acts

#### Acts is a book of history.

- This book tells of:
  - the final instruction of Jesus to the apostles
  - His ascension
  - the descent of the promised Holy Spirit on the 12 apostles at Pentecost
  - the forming of the church in Jerusalem
  - other cases of conversion
  - the ministry of Philip, Peter, John, and others
  - the missionary journeys of Paul
  - in general the history of the early church.

# Introduction To Acts

### Acts is a book of beginnings.

- This book tells of:
  - Beginning of the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
  - Beginning of the Holy Spirit's work in spreading the gospel.
  - Beginning of the church/kingdom of Christ.
  - Beginning of the message of "remission of sins."
- Note: Acts 2 is to the church what Genesis 1 & 2 are to creation.

# Introduction To Acts

#### Author :

- Acts is designed as a sequel to the book of Luke.
- The author addresses the book to Theophilus (Acts 1:1). The Gospel of Luke is also addressed to Theophilus (Luke 1:1-4). This shows that the *"former treatise"* of Acts 1:1 is the book of Luke and that Luke is the author of Acts.
- Luke is referred to as "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14).

# Introduction To Acts

Author: Note the "we" sections of the book:

- These sections include 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; and 27:1-28:16.
  - The author's presence during Paul's journey to Rome (Acts 27:2; 28:16)
- Luke was with Paul in Rome when Paul wrote to the Colossians and to Philemon (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 23-24). Luke was a companion and fellow-worker with Paul.

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- Date: Let us note a few definite dates upon which we base a chronology.
- 1. Death of Herod, 44 A.D. (Acts 12).
- 2. History shows that Festus was sent to Judea when Felix was recalled in the year 60 A.D. (Acts 24:27).
- 3. Paul's arrest two years previous was at Pentecost, 58 A.D.
- 4. His departure to Rome was in the fall of 60 A.D.
- 5. Reached Rome in spring of 61 A.D.
- 6. Narrative closes in the spring of 63 A.D.
- Therefore, the book was probably written around 63 A.D. from Rome.

# Introduction To Acts

### Date:

- The book covers the ascension of Christ to the imprisonment of Paul, 30-63 A.D., thirty-three years of history.
- Note: Luke 1:3-4 "it seemed good to me also, having traced the course of all things accurately from the first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus; that thou mightest know the certainty concerning the things wherein thou was instructed."

# **Brief Outline**

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

- Acts 1-8:4 "in Jerusalem."
- Acts 8:5-12 "in all Judaea and Samaria"
- Acts 13-28 "the uttermost part of the earth."

# Outline

#### I. The Church In Jerusalem, 1:1-7:60

- A. Preparation For The Work, 1:1-26
- B. Events Of Pentecost, 2:1-47.
- C. The Church Unfolding In Miracles And Enduring Persecution, 3:1-4:47.
- D. The Church Unfolding In Power, 5:1-16.
- E. The Church Caring For Grecian Widows, 6:1-8.
- F. The Church Struggling And Scattering, 6:8-8:4.

## Outline

#### II. The Church in Judea and Samaria, 8:4-12:25.

- A. Philip evangelizes Samaria, 8:5-25.
- B. The new apostle of the Gentiles called, 9:1-30; cf. Galatians 1:17-24.
- C. Gentile induction, 10:1-11:30.
- D. The triumph over Herod's persecution, 12:1-25.

## Outline

# III. The Church in the Uttermost Part of the Earth, 13:1-28:31.

- A. The first missionary journey, 13:1-14:28.
- B. The trouble over circumcision, and the Jerusalem meeting, 15:1-35.
- C. The second missionary journey, 15:36-18:22.
- D. The third missionary journey, 18:23-21:16.
- E. The voyage to Rome, 21:17-28:31.

# Introduction To Acts

#### Importance of studying Acts:

- Furnishes a background for 10 of Paul's epistles. (1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans, Colossians, Ephesians Philemon, and Philippians)
- NOTE:
  - Acts 1-12, Peter is the prominent character.
  - Acts 13-28, Paul is the prominent character.

# Introduction To Acts

#### Importance of studying Acts:

- Records the record for five of Paul's visits to Jerusalem.
  - 1. Acts 9:26-30. cf. Galatians 1:18-19
  - 2. Acts 11:28-30
  - 3. Acts 15:1-29. cf. Galatians 2:1-10
  - 4. Acts 18:21-22
  - 5. Acts 21:15-23

# Illustration of Questions

SUMMARIZE:

1:1-5

1:6-11

1:12-14

1:15-26

# Illustration of Questions

## IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE:

Theophilus:

Apostles:

John:

Men of Galilee: Mary:

Peter:

Judas:

Joseph called Barsabbas surnamed Justus:

Matthias:

# Illustration of Questions

**IDENTIFY THE PLACES:** Jerusalem:

Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth:

Mt. Olivet: Akeldama:

#### QUESTIONS:

- 1. Who wrote the book of Acts?
- 2. To whom is it addressed?

# Which Chapter Is It In?

- <u>27</u> The voyage to Rome.
- **20** Paul's trip through Greece.
- 20 Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders at Miletus.
- <u>19</u> The conversion of the twelve disciples of John.
- **28** Paul at Rome two years.
- **21** Completion of the third tour.

## Which Chapter Is It In?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul before Herod Agrippa II.
- <u>3</u> Peter's second sermon.
- <u>14</u> The healing of the impotent man at Lystra.
- <u>19</u> Demetrius, the silversmith, and his opposition to Paul.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apostolic miracles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The apostles arrested by the Jews and miraculously released.

## Which Chapter Is It In?

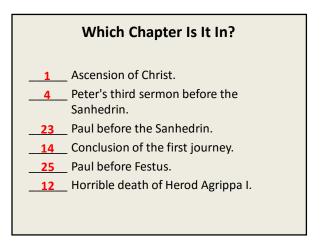
- 9 Raising of Dorcas (Tabitha) from the dead by Peter.
- \_\_\_\_8\_ Simon the sorcerer.
- **18** Completion of the second tour.
- **<u>18</u>** Paul with Aquila and Priscilla at Corinth.
- **13** First evangelistic tour begins at Antioch.
- **17** Paul and Silas at Thessalonica.

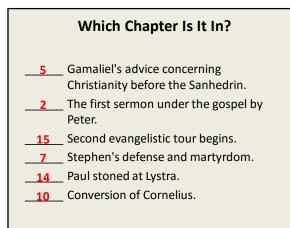
# Which Chapter Is It In?

- 22 Paul's appeal to his Roman citizenship in the face of scourging.
- <u>**14**</u> Paul's flight from Iconium.
- <u>4</u> The disciples' prayer of faith.
- **6** The arrest of Stephen.
- 4 Peter and John arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin.
- **5** Ananias and Sapphira.

## Which Chapter Is It In?

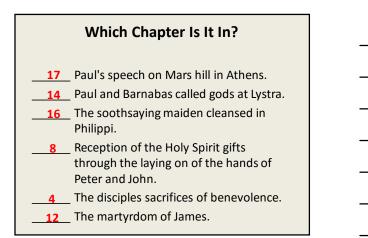
- <u>13</u> The blinding of Elymas on Cyprus.
- \_\_\_\_6 \_\_\_ The problem of the Grecian widows.
- 21 Paul's arrest in Jerusalem.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Peter and John released and returned to the disciples.
- **<u>11</u>** Famine predicted by Agabus.
- <u>19</u> Paul at Ephesus.

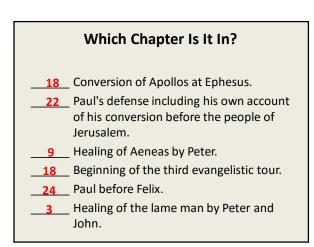




# Which Chapter Is It In?

- **2** The establishment of the church.
- **13** Paul's address at Antioch.
- **8** Persecution of the church by Saul.
- <u>12</u> Arrest of Peter by Agrippa I, and Peter's miraculous release.
- <u>11</u> Saul (Paul) brought to Antioch by Barnabas.
- <u>**16**</u> Paul's vision at Troas.







- **28** Paul on Melita with the barbarians.
- **1** Selection of Matthias to succeed Judas.
- <u>15</u> Jerusalem discussion concerning circumcision.
- **23** Paul sent to Caesarea.
- <u>11</u> Peter's justification of the conversion of Cornelius.
- <u>8</u> Philip preaching in Samaria.

# Which Chapter Is It In?

**15** Disputation concerning John Mark.

- 2 Baptism of Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ.
- **\_\_\_\_** The shipwreck.