

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).

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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.

Introduction To Acts

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.

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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?

27 The voyage to Rome.
20 Paul's trip through Greece.
20 Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders at Miletus.
19 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?

26 Paul before Herod Agrippa II.
3 Peter's second sermon.
14 The healing of the impotent man at Lystra.
19 Demetrius, the silversmith, and his opposition to Paul.
5 Apostolic miracles.
5 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.
- 18 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.
- 14 Paul's flight from Iconium.
- 4 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?

- 13 The blinding of Elymas on Cyprus.
- 6 The problem of the Grecian widows.
- 21 Paul's arrest in Jerusalem.
- 4 Peter and John released and returned to the disciples.
- 11 Famine predicted by Agabus.
- 19 Paul at Ephesus.

Which Chapter Is It In?

- 1 Ascension of Christ.
- 4 Peter's third sermon before the Sanhedrin.
- 23 Paul before the Sanhedrin.
- 14 Conclusion of the first journey.
- 25 Paul before Festus.
- 12 Horrible death of Herod Agrippa I.

Which Chapter Is It In?

- 5 Gamaliel's advice concerning Christianity before the Sanhedrin.
- 2 The first sermon under the gospel by Peter.
- 15 Second evangelistic tour begins.
- 7 Stephen's defense and martyrdom.
- 14 Paul stoned at Lystra.
- 10 Conversion of Cornelius.

Which Chapter Is It In?

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

Which Chapter Is It In?

- 17 Paul's speech on Mars hill in Athens.
- 14 Paul and Barnabas called gods at Lystra.
- 16 The soothsaying maiden cleansed in Philippi.
- 8 Reception of the Holy Spirit gifts through the laying on of the hands of Peter and John.
- 4 The disciples sacrifices of benevolence.
- 12 The martyrdom of James.

Which Chapter Is It In?

- 18 Conversion of Apollos at Ephesus.
- 22 Paul's defense including his own account of his conversion before the people of Jerusalem.
- 9 Healing of Aeneas by Peter.
- 18 Beginning of the third evangelistic tour.
- 24 Paul before Felix.
- 3 Healing of the lame man by Peter and John.

Which Chapter Is It In?

- 28 Paul on Melita with the barbarians.
- 1 Selection of Matthias to succeed Judas.
- 15 Jerusalem discussion concerning circumcision.
- 23 Paul sent to Caesarea.
- 11 Peter's justification of the conversion of Cornelius.
- 8 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.
- 27 The shipwreck.
