

The Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apostles is Luke's second letter to his friend Theophilus. Luke had been a long time traveling companion of the apostle Paul and wrote this letter in approximately 62-63 A.D.

Two themes underlie the Book of Acts: the rejection of the Gospel by the Jews and its reception by the Gentiles; and the treatment of the early church by local and Roman officials. Luke's main purpose, therefore is to explain to Theophilus how it came about that the Gospel which began with the promise of the restoration of the kingdom of Israel ended with the establishment of the church.

The primary emphasis in the Book of Acts is the activity of the Holy Spirit. In fact, some have even suggested the title "The Acts of the Holy Spirit." This is especially significant because Luke actually wrote a two-volume work, "Luke" and "Acts", with the first volume concentrated upon the ministry of Jesus in the "days of his flesh", and the second volume continuing that ministry through the Holy Spirit. Luke makes it clear that he intends to trace the continuing ministry of Jesus in the very first words of the Book of Acts: "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach..."

The primary role of the Holy Spirit is simply amazing. The disciples are told by Jesus that they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence (1:5). They are instructed to wait in Jerusalem until they are endued with this Power from on high. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit sweeps in upon them like a rushing wind, and they are enabled to speak the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ in all the languages of the Mediterranean world. The Holy Spirit falls upon the Gentiles while Peter is preaching. The Spirit catches up Philip and takes him into the desert region to witness to the Ethiopian eunuch. The Spirit directs the church in Antioch to set apart Saul and Barnabus as missionaries. The Holy Spirit guided the church in Jerusalem in their letter to the churches of the Gentiles: "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us..." (Acts 15:28). Acts is our best guidebook in understanding the working of the Holy Spirit through the church and in the world.

Acts gives us a profound understanding of the nature and mission of the church. Jesus founded the church (Matt. 16) and his followers who formed the church were required to wait and pray in Jerusalem until they were empowered to be witnesses unto Christ (Acts 1:8). Thus, Pentecost is the day of the church's anointing with Power for her mission. This parallels the experience of Jesus himself. At his baptism Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit for his Messianic mission.

Chapter Themes and Notes

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Acts 1

Who wrote the Book of Acts, to whom did he write it and Acts of whom?

How long had Jesus been with the disciples after He rose?

What command had Jesus given the disciples?

As they were watching Jesus ascend who appeared to the disciples?

How will Jesus come again?

Where did the disciples return, who was all present and what did they do steadfastly?

One day Peter stood up and spoke to how many believers?

Who did David prophesy about? (Psalm 41:9)

How did Judas purchase a field? (Matt. 27:7)

What apparently happened to Judas when he hung himself?

What were the requirements when choosing a replacement for Judas?

Who were the two men that were proposed?

Who did Jesus choose?

Acts 2

What Jewish holiday arrived and what does it mean?

What happened to the apostles and what could they do?

Who was amazed by this?

How did some people mock the apostles?

Who prophesied this would happen?

Who did Peter begin to speak about?

What did David prophesy about?

What had Jesus poured out upon them?

When the people realized what they had done what important question did they ask?

What was the even more important answer?

What would they receive if they followed through with the apostles and Jesus command of repentance and baptism?

How many people accepted this command and were baptized?

What kingdom did Christ establish on that day which is still in existence today?

Acts 3

Where were Peter and John going?

Who did they see?

What did they have to offer him?

By whose name did the apostles perform miracles?

What did the man do?

How did Peter scold the Jews?

Peter said that he knew that the people acted out of what?

What had Moses, Samuel and the prophets foretold?

What promise to Abraham was in the process of coming true?

Acts 4

Who came and what did they do to Peter and John?

Many people believed and the number of men increased up to around what number?

Who did Peter and John go before on the next day?
What did the Council ask them?
How did Peter boldly answer?
How many names are there by which you can be saved?
For what two reasons were the Pharisees speechless?
What did the Council decide to tell Peter and John?
Was it possible for Peter and John to obey the Council's wishes?
How come the Council did not punish them?
How old was the man that had been healed?
What did the apostles pray for?
Was their prayer answered?
How did the church sustain itself?
What did the apostles call Joseph and what does it mean?
What did Barnabus do?

Acts 5

What was Ananias and Sapphira's sin?
Did Ananias have to give money to the church?
What happened to Ananias?
When Peter asked Sapphira if what she gave to the church was how much they sold the land for did she tell the truth?
What happened to Sapphira?
Where was the earliest church meeting?
What were people doing with their sick?

What was happening to all the sick and demon-possessed?

What did the high priest and Sadducees do?

How did the apostles get out of jail?

When the Sanhedrin finally found the apostles what did they complain about?

How did Peter boldly respond?

What did the Council want to do to the apostles?

Who stood up before the Council and what advice did he give?

What did the Council do to the apostles?

How did the flogging affect the apostles?

Acts 6

What was the difference between the Grecian and Hebraic Jews?

What complaint did the Grecian Jews have?

How did the apostles solve the problem?

What were the names of the seven chosen?

A large number of who became obedient to the faith?

What was the description of Stephen?

What group of people opposed Stephen?

How did they do in their debate with Stephen?

What things did the Council accuse Stephen of saying?

What did Stephen look like when he was before the Council?

Acts 7

Stephen recounts Hebrew history starting with who?
How many years were the Hebrews enslaved in Egypt?
Who was Moses raised by?
Because of who was Moses powerful in speech and action?
How old was Moses when he fled to Midian?
How old was Moses when he led the people out of Egypt?
How old was Moses when he died?
Who had Moses prophesied about?
Who was the leader after Moses?
Who wanted to build a dwelling place for God?
Who did build the dwelling place for God?
Where is God's dwelling place now?
What was the point of Stephen's recounting of Hebrew History?
What did Stephen see and proclaim that sent the people into a fury?
When they were stoning Stephen who guarded the clothing of the murderers?
What did Stephen pray at the close of his earthly life?

Acts 8

Who approved of Stephen's murder?
What begin happening to the church?
Who tried to destroy the church?
Where did Philip go and what did he do?
Who had been in that city for some time and amazed the people?

Who all was baptized when they heard the good news?

Why did Peter and John go to Samaria?

How come Philip couldn't give them the Holy Spirit?

Specifically what ability did Simon try to buy?

What was Peter's response to Simon?

Where did the angel of the Lord direct Philip?

Who did Philip meet?

What was the man reading and who was he reading about in his chariot?

What good news did Philip tell him?

If the eunuch didn't understand anything he was reading how did he now know that he needed to be baptized?

What happened to Philip?

What did the eunuch do?

Acts 9

What was Saul still doing?

What did Saul ask the high priest for?

What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?

Who did Paul hear speaking?

Where did Jesus tell him to go?

What happened to Saul and for how many days?

Who did Jesus talk to next and what did he tell him?

What was Ananias worried about?

What did Jesus tell him about Saul?

What did Ananias tell Saul when he saw him

When his sight was restored what did Saul get up and do?

How did he know he was to be baptized?

What did Saul begin to do in the synagogues of Damascus instead of what he had planned to do?

How did Saul escape the Jews?

In what city do we next see Saul?

Why was he having trouble being accepted by the disciples?

Who tried to help get Saul accepted?

Where did the brothers send Saul?

How did the church prosper during this time?

Who did Peter meet and what was his problem?

What did Peter do for him and in whose name?

Who lived in Joppa and what was she known for?

What did the people show Peter while they were mourning?

What did Peter do for the woman?

Who did Peter stay with while in Joppa?

Acts 10

Who lived in Caesarea and what is the description of this man?

Who appeared to Cornelius and what did he tell him to do?

What time the following day did Peter have a vision?

What was in the vision and what was Peter told to do?

How did Peter respond?

What did the voice say to Peter about the unclean animals?

How many things in Peter's life have happened in threes???

The Spirit told Simon that how many men were looking for him?

What did the men tell Peter?

What did Cornelius do when he saw Peter?

What did Peter say to Cornelius?

What did Peter tell the Gentiles about Jewish beliefs about Gentiles and why was Peter violating that law?

What did Peter realize and what history did he begin to preach?

While Peter was speaking what came on the Gentiles and why did it happen this way?

Because the Holy Spirit had fallen upon the Gentiles this enabled Peter to not have any argument when he commanded them to do what?

Acts 11

What news spread through the countryside?

When Peter went to Jerusalem what did the brethren complain about?

Peter recounted the story starting with his vision of what?

How many time did this vision appear to Peter?

As Peter was speaking to the house of Cornelius what came on the people?

Because of this Peter felt he couldn't oppose God. How would he have opposed God? (refer to ch. 10 on what he asked the people if they could do)

How did the people react to Peter's story?

What had happened to the Jews after Stephen's murder and was this bad

or good?

Who did the the apostles send to Antioch to encourage the brethren there?

Where did Barnabus go and who did he look for there?

How long did they stay in Antioch?

What were followers of Christ first called in Antioch?

What was the name of the prophet in this chapter and what did he foretell?

What did the Christians do because of this prophecy?

Acts 12

King Herod, son of Aristobulus and grandson of Herod the Great who tried to kill Jesus as a baby, started doing what?

Who did Herod murder and who did he arrest?

How many guards were assigned to watch this one prisoner?

What did the church begin to do for Peter in earnest?

What miracle happened the night before Peter's trial?

Where did Peter go?

Who answered the door and how happy was she to see Peter?

Who did Peter say to go tell about his release?

What happened to the 16 soldiers the next morning when they couldn't find Peter?

What city did Herod go to live for a while?

Why did the people of Tyre and Sidon want to meet with Herod and who was giving them support?

After Herod gave a speech, what did the people say he was?

What happened to Herod?

Barnabus and Saul went back where and who did they take with them?

Acts 13

Who were some of the members of the church of Christ at Antioch?

What did the Holy Spirit say?

On this first of three missionary journeys, to what island did Saul and Barnabus go to first and who did they take with them?

To what city on the far side of the island did they go to?

What was the name of the governor of this island and what was the name(s) of his evil attendant?

In verse 9 the scriptures stop using the Hebrew name Saul and begin using the Greek name of what?

What did Paul do to Elymas and why is this ironic?

To what city did they go next and who left them?

To what city did they go next and what were they asked to do in the synagogue?

What men does Paul mention in his recounting of Hebrew History?

What was read every Sabbath day in the synagogues?

What was a major difference between King David and King Jesus?

Paul proclaimed what to them through Jesus?

What did the people ask Paul and Barnabus to do again?

How many people came out to hear on the next Sabbath day?

Who was upset and who was happy? How is this like the story of the prodigal son?

Who did the Jews incite to persecute Paul and Barnabus?

To what city did they go next?

Acts 14

Where did Paul and Barnabus usually go when they entered a town?

What did the unbelieving Jews do again?

What plot arose?

To what two cities did Paul and Barnabus flee to?

In Lystra what did Paul do?

What gods did the people think Paul and Barnabus were?

How did Paul and Barnabus react to this?

Who had followed Paul and Barnabus from the previous cities and what did they do to Paul?

To what city did they go next?

After they converted many people they returned back through all the towns appointing what in all the established churches?

Eventually they made it back to where and did what?

Acts 15

What message were some of the brethren teaching?

Who sharply disagreed with them?

Who did Paul and Barnabus go to and discuss this teaching with?

How did Peter respond to this teaching?

Who spoke up next and what did he suggest as a compromise?

Who did they choose to send with the letter to the Gentiles?

How did the Gentiles accept this message?

What did Paul and Barnabus decide to do?

What was the argument between Paul and Barnabus that made them go their separate ways?

Did Barnabus do the right thing by taking John Mark? (2 Tim 4:11)

Where did Barnabus and Mark go first?

Where did Paul and Silas go and what did they do?

Acts 16

On Paul's second missionary journey what two cities did they arrive at first?

Who did Paul meet there and what was his family life like? (2 Timothy 1:5)

What did Paul have done to Timothy and why?

The Spirit didn't allow them to go where?

When they reached Troas what vision did Paul have?

What was the Roman colony that they eventually arrived at?

On the Sabbath who did Paul speak with?

Who did Paul meet and what was her occupation?

How does it say that she and her household responded to Paul's message?

What was the problem with the slave girl?

If the spirit was saying true things why did Paul cast it out of her?

Why were the owners of the slave girl upset?

How were Paul and Silas punished?

What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight?

What shook the prison and what happened to the prison doors and chains?

What did the jailor almost do to himself?

What important question did the jailor ask Paul and Silas?

What was the answer and what did the jailor and his family immediately do?

When it was daylight what was the jailor ordered to do?

What did Paul and Silas tell them that they were which made them nervous?

Where did they go once they were let out of jail?

Acts 17

What city did they go to next and how many Sabbaths did Paul preach there?

What did some jealous Jews do?

Whose house did they look for Paul and Silas in?

What were the accusations made against Jason and the brethren?

Where did Paul and Silas go next?

What made the Bereans of more noble character than others?

When the Thessalonican Jews showed up who stayed in Berea and who went to Athens?

What about Athens distressed Paul?

Where was Paul brought to speak?

What inscription had Paul seen on one of the idols?

If we are offspring of God then why would we think that God is made of what?

What two people believed Paul's preaching?

Acts 18

Still on his second missionary journey, Paul left Athens for what city?

Who did Paul meet there and why were they there?

What profession did they share with Paul?

What did Paul do on the Sabbaths?

Who finally caught up to Paul?

When the Jews did not believe him who did Paul say he was going to go to then?

What had many of the Corinthians done once they believed?

What did the Lord say to Paul about Corinth?

How long did Paul stay in that city?

Who did the Jews take their complaints about Paul to?

When the proconsul wouldn't listen who did they beat up out of frustration?

Where did Paul finally go and who did he take with him?

What did Paul have done in what city before they sailed?

How long did he preach in Ephesus?

Eventually he made it back to where?

Who arrived in Ephesus after Paul had left and what were the characteristics of this man?

What did Aquilla and Priscilla do for Apollos?

Where was Apollos sent to preach?

Acts 19

When Paul starts his third missionary journey where does he go first?

What did the 12 men do again to make sure it was done right?

How long did Paul speak in the synagogues?

How long and where did Paul preach after this

God worked through Paul with so much power that what happened?

What were the seven sons of Sceva doing and what happened to them?

Because of the seven sons of Sceva many sorcerers did what?

While Paul stayed in Ephesus, who did he send to Macedonia?

What was Demetrius's profession and what was he worried about?

Who did the Ephesians capture and take into the theatre?

What were the people chanting?

What did the city clerk explain to the people to get them to calm down and to leave?

Acts 20

After finally leaving Ephesus where did Paul go and how long did he stay?

Because the Jews plotted against him which way did Paul go?

Who were Paul's traveling companions?

Where did they meet up and how long did they stay there?

What happened in Troas when Paul was preaching?

What city did Paul want to bypass and why?

What had the Holy Spirit been warning Paul?

What did Paul tell the elders to do and what did he warn them about?

Why were the Ephesian elders so sad to see Paul go?

Acts 21

How long did Paul stay with the brethren in Tyre?

What did they warn Paul?

Who did they stay with at Caesarea?

What was unusual about Phillip's family?

What prophet showed up again and what did he demonstrate and prophesy?

What did Paul say he was willing to do?

Whose house did they stay in before they went into Jerusalem?

Who is this James?

How did the brethren try to appease the Jews?

Why did the Jews think Paul had taken a Gentile into the temple?

Why did the people of Jerusalem stop beating Paul?

Who did the commander think that Paul was?

What does "a citizen of no ordinary city" mean?

In what language did Paul speak to the Jews?

Acts 22

Who was Paul's teacher?

What story did Paul tell?

Did Paul's companions understand what was said from the Light?

How did Ananias tell Paul his sins could be washed away?

What part of Paul's speech upset the Jews?

What did Paul ask the centurion before he was flogged?

How had the commander received his citizenship? and Paul?

Who did the commander make Paul appear before?

Acts 23

Who was the high priest and what did he have ordered done to Paul?

What did Paul call him?

What did Paul realize and how did he use this to his advantage?

Where did the Lord say Paul would be going?

What plot was created and how many people were involved?

Who heard about this and told Paul?

How many people did the commander surround Paul with and to whom did he send Paul to?

How was Commander Lysias's letter not completely the whole truth?

Where was Paul kept prisoner?

Acts 24-25

Who went to Caesarea to accuse Paul?

How did Tertullus flatter the governor?

How did Paul answer?

What hope did he say he shared with his accusers?

Who did Paul say should be at this trial?

What thing had Paul said that he felt he was being tried for?

When did Felix say he would make a judgment?

What did Felix order the centurion to do?

What was the name of Felix's wife?

Why did Felix call for Paul often to hear from him?

How many years was Paul in prison in Caesarea?

Who was governor after Felix?

What is the first thing Festus does in Jerusalem?

What did Festus ask Paul and why?

Who did Paul appeal his case to?

Who showed up at Festus's palace a few days later?

What did King Agrippa ask?

Why did Festus announce he was having Paul speak before Agrippa?

Acts 26

What did Agrippa say to Paul?

What did Paul say he was the strictest of?

26:3 Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

What main topic did Paul say the controversy was about?

What things did the Lord tell Paul on the road to Damascus?

What did Paul say would happen to the Christ?

What did Festus accuse Paul of being?

What question did Paul ask Agrippa?

What question did Agrippa ask Paul?

What did Paul pray and hope for?

What conclusion did Agrippa come to about Paul?

Acts 27

Who was Paul handed over to?

Who all was with Paul?

Where did they land the next day and where did Julius allow Paul to go?

Where did they change ships?

What advice did Paul give the men?

Where did they plan to wait out the winter?

What kind of a storm hit them?

What did an angel of God tell Paul would happen?

How many nights were they in the storm?

What was the difference in depth between the first and second soundings?

What did some of the sailors try to do?

What did Paul tell them would happen if they left the boat?

What did Paul do in front of all the men on board?

How many were on the ship?

What happened to the ship?

What did the soldiers plan to do and how was it stopped?

How did everyone get to shore?

Acts 28

Where had they crashed?

What happened to Paul?

What did the people think about Paul because of this at first and then later?

Who was the chief official of the island and what did Paul do for his father and many others on the island?

How long did they stay on Malta?

What was the figurehead on the new ship?

Where had some of the brothers traveled from to get Paul?

How was Paul allowed to live in Rome?

What did Paul tell the people?

What questions did the people have of Paul?

What did Paul say that made many of the unbelievers leave?

How long did Paul stay under house arrest?