

The book of Acts, a historical-theological narrative-record, was written to give an accurate & orderly account of the development & spread of the first thirty years of Christianity by means of ministry of the risen Jesus Christ through the person & work of the Holy Spirit (1:8). Twenty Eight chapters with a total of 1,007 verses, Acts forms an inseparable link between the Gospels & the Epistles. Probably written after 59 A. D. but prior to July 19, 64 A. D. to Theophilus by Luke, the Greek physician, historian, & missionary.

Early Christianity (1:1-6:7): Day of Pentecost; Peter's Sermon; ministry of Peter & John; early persecution & controversies in the church (Ananias & Sapphira; neglect of widow)

6:7

Church Spreads (6:8-9:31): Throughout Palestine; Martyrdom of Stephen; struggle with Jews.

9:31

Church Spreads to Gentiles (9:32-12:24): Spread of Church to Antioch; conversion of Cornelius of Caesarea; more struggle with Jews.

12:24

Church Spreads to Asia Minor (12:25-16:5): Paul's First Missionary Trip

16:5

Church Spreads to Europe (16:6-28:31): Paul's 2nd. & 3rd. missionary trip; resolve to go to Rome; arrest & hearings in Jerusalem & Caesarea; voyage & stay in Rome.

19:20

CHURCH EST.; GOSPEL GIVEN TO JEWS

GOSPEL EXTENDED TO JUDEANS & SAMARITANS

GOSPEL EXTENDED TO GENTILES OF ALL RACES

Crucifixion, Resurrection, & Ascension of Christ & Church Established in 30 A. D.

Stephen Martyred & Paul's Conversion approx. 33-35 A. D.

The Church grows in Judea & Samaria: 35-47 A. D. Death of Agrippa I 44 A. D.

Paul's missionary trips: 1st (47/48); 2nd. (49-51); 3rd. (52-56); Council at Jerusalem & Jews Expelled from Rome (49 A. D.) Peter & Paul Martyred in 67 or 68 A. D.

SUMMARY OF ACTS

- I. Introduction (1:1-2:4)
 - A. Prologue (1:1-5)
 - B. Ascension of Christ (1:6-11)
 - C. Preparation for the Witness (1:12-2:4)

- II. The Witness in Jerusalem (2:5-8:3)
 - A. At Pentecost (2:5-47)
 - B. Of Peter & John (3:1-4:31)
 - C. Of the Apostles (4:32-5:42)
 - D. Of Stephen (6:1-8:3)

- III. The Witness in Judea & Samaria (8:4-12:25)
 - A. Of Philip (8:4-40)
 - B. Of Saul [Paul] (9:32-11:18)
 - C. Of the Church (11:19-12:25)

- IV. The Witness to the Uttermost Parts of the Earth (13:1-28:31)
 - A. The First Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)
 - B. The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)
 - C. The Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)
 - D. The Journey to Rome (21:17-28:31)

Ch. 1: Resurrection Ministry of Christ; apostolic commission; promise of H.S.; waiting for H.S.
 Ch. 2: Holy Spirit's arrival on Day of Pentecost; Gospel given to Jews; Peter's Sermon on the resurrected Christ; & Conviction of Jews.
 Ch. 3: Lame man healed at gate
 Ch. 4: Christian persecution begins; Peter's sermon to Sanhedrin; Preaching in Jesus' name is forbidden; Christians filled by H.S.; condition of the church in Jerusalem;
 Ch. 5: Sin & death of Ananias & Sapphira; 2nd. persecution of Christians; apostles' answers to Jews; warning of Gamaliel; apostles beaten.
 Ch. 6: 1st. deacons; 3rd. persecution; Stephen before council.
 Ch. 7: Address of Stephen before council; Stephen martyred
 Ch. 8: Saul persecutes Christians; The 1st. missionaries; account of Simon the Sorcerer; Philip & the Eunuch
 Ch. 9: Conversion of Saul of Tarsus; Paul preaches, visits Jerusalem, & returns to Tarsus; Peter heals Aeneas; Tabitha raised from the dead.
 Ch. 10: Peter extends gospel to Gentiles; Cornelius sends for Peter to Caesarea; Peter's sermon to Gentiles in Cornelius' house; Holy Spirit fills Gentile believers
 Ch. 11: Peter defends ministry to Gentiles; the name, "Christian" first applied at Antioch
 Ch. 12: Persecution of church & arrest of Peter; Prayer for deliverance & miraculous release; Death of Herod
 Ch. 13: Paul & Barnabas called; Satanic opposition from a sorcerer; Paul's sermon in synagogue of Antioch; opposition from Jews; Paul & Barnabas' ministry to Gentiles
 Ch. 14: Gospel preached at Iconium, Derbe, & Lystra; impotent man healed at Lystra; Paul stoned; elders appointed in the churches;
 Ch. 15: Council of Jerusalem; question of circumcision; Paul's 2nd. missionary journey; Silas appointed
 Ch. 16: Paul finds Timothy; Paul's Macedonian vision; first convert in Europe; Demons cast out of lady; Paul & Silas beaten; conversion of Philippian jailer.
 Ch. 17: Est. of church at Thessalonica; Jewish opposition; Paul & Silas at Berea; Paul's message on Mars Hill
 Ch. 18: Paul at Corinth; Careless Gallio; Paul's Jewish vow; Apollous at Ephesus.
 Ch. 19: Paul at Ephesus; disciples of John the Baptist become Christians; Paul in synagogue & school of Tyrannus; miracles; uproar of silversmiths.
 Ch. 20: Paul travels to Macedonia, Greece, Troas; Miletus; Paul's meeting w. Ephesian elders.
 Ch. 21: H.S. forbids Paul to Jerusalem; Paul travels to Jerusalem; Paul takes Jewish vow; seized in temple by Jews & is bound in chains.
 Ch. 22: Paul's defense; recounts conversion.
 Ch. 23: Paul before Sanhedrin; foiled conspiracy to murder him; sent to Felix.
 Ch. 24: Paul before Felix & defense
 Ch. 25: Paul before Festus; Paul's appeal to Caesar
 Ch. 26: Paul before Agrippa;
 Ch. 27: Paul sent to Rome; hurricane; God's assurance to Paul
 Ch. 28: Paul reaches Miletus; miracle of the viper's bite; healing of Publius' father; arrival at Rome; ministry before Jews & Gentiles.

Prologue: Luke's Gospel summarized the earthly ministry of Christ (1:1) is complemented w. a 2nd. vol. concerned w. the words & works of Christ following His ascension; the future ministry given to the apostles for the dev. & spread of the one gospel to both Jews & Gentiles; the divine enablement to perform this transitional task (1:8) through the baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit. Luke notes the factuality of the resurrection & post-resurrection ministry of Christ (1:3) & His specific instructions to His apostles (1:1-5). Prior to the Ascension of Christ (took place on the eastern side of the Mount Of Olives cf. Luke 24:50). He notes the future restoration of the Kingdom will take place in God's own timing & commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, divinely empowered by the Holy Spirit. The ascension implies the approval of the Father concerning the work of the Son. It was supernaturally attended by two angels who proclaimed that the Lord Jesus Christ will return again (1:6-11). **Preparation for the Witness:** The apostles were instructed to return to Jerusalem & wait (1:8). The apostles prayed (1:14) with other believers, replaced Judas Iscariot, & Peter took leadership (Ps. 69:25; 109:8). 2 essential req. for replacing Judas: (1) witness of both Christ's resurrection & His ministry from the time of John the Baptist until the ascension. Only two men met these qualifications. The apostles left the final decision to God & Matthias became a member of the twelve apostles (1:23-26 cf. Matt. 19:28). The apostles were expecting the Holy Spirit more than likely on the feast day of Pentecost (1:5 cf. 2:1a). On the Day of Pentecost (harvest celebration), the Holy Spirit was announced (2:2-4) & filled the disciples and they authenticated that manifestation by the miracle of known languages (2:1-4).

At Pentecost: Dispersed Jews over the known world came in great numbers to celebrate Pentecost, the "Feast of Weeks," the Firstfruits of the Wheat Harvest, "or the "Day of Firstfruits." Pilgrims were astounded that several Galileans were speaking in their own languages (2:6-8). Having their attention, Paul immediately drew them to Joel 2 & proclaimed the gospel, reminding them Israel had killed the Messiah, who both authenticated His Messiahship by His words & works and ultimately His resurrection (2:36). Jews responded, asking "What shall we do?" (2:37). Three thousand responded by faith to Peter's message & were publicly baptized. The church became the center of Christian worship & thought (2:42-47). Noting the apostles' working for many signs (2:43), Luke records Peter & John's healing of a layman near the temple gate (cf. 4:22). The response gave Peter the opportunity to preach the resurrected Christ (3:11-26). Church increased to 5,000 (4:4). Apostles' faced persecution. Peter responded to the questioning observing that the Jews were guilty of murdering the Messiah who resurrected from the dead; the only path for salvation (4:8-12). Not able to deny the resurrection of Christ & amazed by the apostles' boldness & usage of Scripture, the Jews ordered that they cannot not preach the name of Jesus of Nazareth (4:18). Peter & John ignored order (4:1-20), prayed, & asked God for boldness (4:23-31). Sharing all things (4:32-35), the apostles faced both external persecution by the Jews & internal corruption within church (5:1-11). After God's judgment on Ananias & Sapphira, the church dramatically grew (5:12-16). Apostles' preaching & performing miracles in the temple were arrested once more. Peter confronted them again with the same message. Jews wanted to kill the apostles as a result (5:33), but Gamaliel, a great teacher of the law, was used to protect them; allowing them to be flogged. The apostles continued to proclaim salvation through Christ (5:42). Stephen, a man of excellent integrity & wisdom (6:3), ministered the Scripture & performed miracles. Attending the Synagogue of Freedman (6:9), he debated the claims of Christ w. unbelievers. Unable to answer him, he was falsely accused w. blasphemy & brought before Sanhedrin. Stephen acutely refuted & denounced the rulers which led to his death, the first martyr of the church (7:2-53; 8:2). The persecution was led by Saul (8:3) of Tarsus.

Philip: The church spreads from Jerusalem to Judea & Samaria. Philip traveled to Samaria & preached the gospel. Multitudes responded positively to salvation. Peter & John were sent to verify the event. Through the apostolic miracles, the salvation of Samaritans was genuine. **Saul:** Luke returns to Saul (8:3), noting his request to further his persecution found in other places outside of Jerusalem. On his way to persecute Christians in Damascus, Saul was met by the glorified, risen Christ. Saul came to faith in response to his (alone) encounter w. Christ. Temporarily blinded, Saul was led to Ananias & was healed. Saul then spent time in Arabia & later returned to Damascus (cf. Gal. 1:15-17), where he, Paul, began proclaiming Jesus Christ as Messiah. Desiring to kill Paul, & having been revealed that he was appointed for a special ministry among Gentiles, Paul fled Damascus, went to Jerusalem, and then to Tarsus (9:26-30). **Peter** (9:32-11:18), ministering broadly in Israel, was used to convert Gentiles to Christ. Authenticated by the H.S. through supernatural signs, it was made rather clear that both Gentiles & Jews are united into one body. **The Church** enters into a new transition as the gospel is extended to the city of Antioch of Syria. Paul's evangelism to Gentiles is central (11:19-26) to the spread of the church. Paul, joined by Barnabas, extensively ministered the gospel. Persecution against the church increased through the leadership of Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great. James was murdered by the sword & Peter was sent to prison. Gospel continued to be spread (12:24).

First Missionary Journey (13:1): Observing that the church of Antioch was well established & equipped (1), the Holy Spirit sent Barnabas & Paul to Cyprus (2-3). Arriving on the island of Cyprus (Salamis & Paphos), encountered Elymus (Bar-Jesus) (4-8) where Paul places a curse of blindness upon Bar-Jesus (9-11). Sergius Paulus trust in Christ (12). They then sailed to Asia Minor & traveled to Iconium, Lystra, & Derbe, extending the gospel & starting churches while experiencing persecution from the Jews. Returning to Antioch of Syria, they reported all the wonderful things God had done. **Jerusalem Council:** Confronted by Jews from Judea who were teaching that in order to be saved, every person had to be circumcised and maintain the Mosaic law. This conflict was so great that they traveled to Jerusalem to solve this very important problem confronting the church. After Peter, Paul, & Barnabas decided that Gentiles do not have to keep the law to be saved, Gentile believers were encouraged to respect & not offend Jewish Christians. **Second Missionary:** Paul & Barnabas realized they needed to revisit the newly established churches. However, a division was caused between Barnabas & Paul due to Barnabas' desire for John Mark to join them. Paul & Barnabas split with Paul taking Silas with him to Asia Minor where Timothy joined them while Barnabas & Mark revisited Cyprus. After being kept by the H. S. from entering into certain provinces (16:6-7), the missionary group arrived in Troas, where they were joined by Luke. They traveled to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, & Corinth. If a synagogue was found, Paul first preached Christ there. Paul spoke there until forced to leave. Following, Paul preached to Gentiles, with whom he typically received a greater response to Christ. Paul remained in Corinth approx. 1 1/2 yrs. **Third Missionary:** Paul traveled from Corinth to Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus (ministered there approx. 3 yrs. cf. 19:20), Macedonia, Greece, Troas, & Jerusalem. While traveling to Jerusalem Paul was warned that conflict was awaiting him. Paul was arrested in Jerusalem & this began approx. four yrs. of imprisonment. **Journey to Rome:** Paul gave a number of defenses before both Jewish & Roman authorities. With his life being in danger in Jerusalem, Paul was moved to the Roman city of Caesarea. Paul defended himself before Festus, Felix, & Agrippa, where Paul appealed to Caesar. On his way to Rome, Paul's ship was caught in a terrible storm & was driven some 435 miles to wreck on the isle of Miletus. After being comforted, staying there about three months, Paul was taken to Rome where He preached the gospel to all who came to him (28:31).

THEMES

- The "Acts" of the Holy Spirit:** 1:2; 1:5; 1:8; 1:16; 2:4; 2:17; 7:51; 8:18; 8:39; 9:31; 10:19; 11:15; 11:28; 13:52; 16:6; 19:6; 20:23; 20:28.
- Authority of the Apostles & Jerusalem Church:** 1:15-20; 21-22; 23-26; 2:14-41; 2:47-2:47; 3:11-26; 4:1-22; 4:23-31; 5:1-11; 5:12-16; 5:27-32; 6:1-7; 7:1-53; 11:1-18; 12:6-11; 15:1-35; 21:37-22:31; 24:1-27; 25:1-12; 25:13-27; 26:1-32.
- Authentication of the New Faith by the Holy Spirit:** 1:5-8; 2:1-47; 5:1-11; 6:5; 8:14-17; 10:44-47; 12:1-4; 19:1-7.
- Distinction of Israel from the Church:** 1:6b; 2:22; 2:36; 3:12; 4:10; 4:27; 5:21; 5:31; 5:35; 7:23, 37, 42; 9:15; 10:36; 13:16; 13:17; 13:23; 13:24; 21:28; 28:20.
- Gospel Extended to Jews First:** 13:5; 14; 14:1; 16:11-13; 17:1-2; 10, 16-17; 18:1, 4, 19; 19:1, 8; 28:17.
- Initial Fulfillment of Great Commission:** 1:15; 2:41; 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 13:49; 16:5; 19:20; 28:31.
- Israel under Divine Judgment:** 2:22-23, 36; 3:13-18; 4:10-11.
- Opposition to the Spread of the Gospel:** Pentecost (2:1-47); Peter & John (5:1-42); Ananias & Sapphira (5:1-11); Peter (4:3; 5:18; 12:3) Stephen's Death (7:54-8:1a); Saul's Persecution (8:1-3; 9:1-5); Paul (9:29; 16:23, 24; 21:27-36; 22:23-11; 24:1-27; 25:1-12; 25:13-27; 28:17-31).
- Suffering Messiah:** 3:18; 4:11 cf. Psalm 118:22; 8:32-35; 17:2-3; 26:22-23).
- Uniting Jews & Gentiles into One Body:** 1:5, 8; 2:9, 14, 38; 8:1, 4-25; 9:1-19, 9:31, 36-43; 10:2, 37; 19:1-7; 26:20; 28:31.

God: Existence (heaven at Lystra: 14-15; Mars Hill (17:22); Creator (14:15; 17:24 cf. 4:24); sovereign (4:24, 28; 13:48 cf. Rom. 6:12); Ruler of all nations (17:26); Beneficent (natural blessings, 14:17; temporary delay of judgment 17:30); Revelation: near to all mankind (17:27); cf. Deut. 4:29; Ps. 145:18); manifested & spoke (7:2, 6, 31); providential workings, often employing angels (5:19; 7:53; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7); providential workings (5:19; 7:53; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7); direct revelation (seen of Stephen, 7:56); Paul, 9:5; Ananias, 9:10); revealed through written Word (4:25); Works ascribed to God: resurrection of Christ (4:10; 5:30; 13:37); salvation of Gentiles (2:21; 13:47; 26:18; 28:28); rebuilding of tabernacle (17:16); future judgment (17:31); sending of Spirit (2:17); anointing of Jesus (10:38); exalting of Christ (2:33-35; 4:11).
Ecclesiology: belongs to Christ (work of H.S. as promised by Christ, 1:5; 11:15-16; exalting of Christ & sending of H.S., 2:33; formation of the church at Pentecost, 2:38; Peter called Pentecost the beginning, 11:15) organization (apostles, 2:42; elders, 11:30 cf. 4:5; 6:12; 25:15; deacons, 11:7; 25:6, 12; 2:4; 11:29; 12:25; 19:22; 20:24; 21:19); life of church; doctrine, 2:42, where teaching was combined w. preaching, 4:2; 5:21, 25, 28, 42; 28:31 & was prominent in their groups, 11:26; 15:35; 18:11; 25: 20:20; Fellowship (2:42; 4:32; 5:4); Lord's Supper (2:42; 20:7, 11); prayers (1:24; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4, 6; 9:40; 10:4, 31; 12:5; 12: 13:3; 14:23; 16:13; 16: 20:36; 28:8); persecution (4:5; 7; 8; 12; 15; 21); discipline (5:1-11)
Psychology: Kingdom preached basically as sovereign ruling power of God (8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, twice linked w. name of Jesus, 8:12; 28:23); synonym for the Gospel of the grace of God (20:25); preached to both Jews & Gentiles (19:8; 28:23); promise of future Messianic kingdom reaffirmed (Jesus, 1:6-7; Peter 3:12-26); program of the Ages outlined (15:13-18 cf. Amos 9:11-12).
Israelology: Israel rejected Christ; therefore that generation was under divine judgment (2:22-23, 36; 3:13-18; 4:10-11); Second Coming was preconditioned on Israel's acceptance of Jesus, and until Israel accepts Him there will be no second coming (3:19-20); Israel will be restored to Israel (1:6; 3:21); Hebrew & Gentile Christianity are valid expressions of the new faith (15:1-20); circumcision is valid for Jewish believers (16:1-3); gospel is given to the Jew first (1:16) as evidenced by Paul's evangelism (13:5; 14: 14:1; 16:11-13; 17:1-2; 10:16-17; 18:11-19; 1; 8; & 28:17); Israel is not confused or intertwined with the church (1:6b; 2:22; 2:36; 3:12; 4:10; 4:27; 5:21; 5:31; 5:35; 7:23, 37, 42; 9:15; 10:36; 13:16; 13:17; 13:23; 13:24; 21:28; 28:20).
Jesus Christ: Human (2:23; 2:36; 8:32; 10:38); Divine (13:13; eternal sonship affirmed); rejected & suffering Savior (4:11 cf. Psalm 118:22); Resurrected One (2:25-28; 13:32-35 cf. Ascension 1:9-11 cf. exaltation 2:33-35); Coming One (1:9-11; 3:21); His Ministry (Abrahamic Covenant of Gen. 12:3 cf. Acts 2:31; 3:25-26; 10:43; 13:46-47; 26:23; 28:23); Exclusivity (2:36; 4:12; 13:39); Instruction by Christ (1:3-9; 13:31).
Holy Spirit: Divine (Peter uses God & H.S. interchangeably, 5:3-4 cf. His coming an act of sending by Christ, 2:33); His work related to Christ (anointed Lord during His ministry on earth, 10:38); His work related to future (Joel 2 in Acts 2); His work related to the church (baptizes, 1:5; 11:15-16; governs early church, 13:2-4; fills servants for witness, 1:8; 2:4; 4:31; 5:32; 9:11-20 cf. normal expectation of the church, 6:3; 5; 11:24); guided early church leaders (Philip, 8:26-30, Peter, 10:19, 11:19; Paul, 16:7; 20:23; 21:4; 11; prophet Agabus, 11:28; 21:4) Tongues (Pentecost, 2:6; Caesarea, 10:46; Ephesus, 19:6; possibly Samaria in 8:17).
Salvation: Faith must be in Christ (10:43; 11:17; 14:23; 16:31; 18:8 cf. faith toward God was revealed in His Son, 16:34); message of faith is made known through God's people (word of mouth, 13:7), deed, & life (13:12); act of belief is through grace and therefore is rooted in the eternal counsels of God (13:48; 18:27); faith is a synonym for repentance (repent, 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 11:18; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20 cf. 5:31; 11:18); faith alone is sufficient (15:5 cf. 15:19); consequences of salvation: eternal life, 13:48; justification, 13:39; remission of sins, 2:38; 10:43; 22:16; constraints of salvation (baptism in the name of Jesus, 13:24; 19:4, typically by immersion on the basis of faith); testify of Christ, 2:47; 8:4; 9:20; 18:5, 26; 26:19-20; help one another, 2:44; 11:27-30; 15:36; 18:23; 21:20-26; restrict liberty for the brethren, 15:19-29).

LUKE 24:47-49: ANTICIPATION OF BOTH SALVATION TO ALL NATIONS BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM & THE PROMISE OF THE INDWELLING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Paul R. Shackley, 1997