

Acts of the Apostles Scripture Study

Overview – February 7, 2012

Author: St. Luke

- Lucan authorship was supported by St. Irenaeus (180 A.D.), St. Clement of Alexandria (200 A.D.), & Eusebius (325 A.D.)

Date: about 63 A.D.

- After St. Paul's imprisonment in Rome (62 A.D.)
- Before fire in Rome and great persecutions by Emperor Nero (64 A.D.)
- Before martyrdom of Peter and Paul in Rome (mid-60's A.D.)
- Before destruction of Jerusalem by Emperor Titus and Roman army (70 A.D.)

Addressed to: Theophilus

- Both the Gospel of Luke (Lk 1:3) and the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:1) are addressed to Theophilus
 - Theophilus is probably not a real person
 - It comes from to Greek words: *theos* – "God" & *philein* – "to love"
 - It is addressed to those who "love God," namely the rapidly expanding Christian community

Purpose:

1. To explain Christianity to the Roman government.
2. To show the Jews that Christianity was open to all people, especially the Gentiles.
3. To answer Jesus' challenge in Acts 1:8: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Outline:

St. Peter	Church's mission to the Jews	Acts 1:1 – 8:3	Witness in Jerusalem	Center: Jerusalem	2 years
		Acts 8:4 – 12:25	Witness in Judea & Samaria		10 years
St. Paul	Church's mission to the Gentiles	Acts 13:1 – 28:31	Witness to the ends of the Earth	Center: Antioch	17 years

Preface (1:1-5)

From the Ascension to Pentecost (1:6-2:13)

- A. Ascension of Jesus (1:6-14)
- B. Replacement of Judas (1:15-26)
- C. Pentecost (2:1-13)

The Gospel in Jerusalem (2:14-8:3)

- A. The Spirit's Descent on Jerusalem (2:14-47)
- B. Peter's Ministry and First Imprisonment (3:1-4:31)
- C. Donations and Discipline among Believers (4:32-5:11)
- D. Peter's Ministry and Second Imprisonment (5:12-42)
- E. Selection of the Seven (6:1-7)
- F. Stephen's Ministry and Martyrdom (6:8-7:60)
- G. The First Persecution of the Church (8:1-3)

The Gospel in Judea and Samaria (8:4-12:25)

- A. Philip's Ministry in Samaria and Judea (8:4-40)
- B. The Conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
- C. Peter's Ministry in Lydda, Joppa, and Caesarea (9:32-11:18)
- D. Gentile Conversions in Syrian Antioch (11:19-30)
- E. The Persecution and Death of Herod Agrippa (12:1-25)

The Gospel to the End of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

- A. Paul's First Missionary Journey: Cyprus and Asia Minor (13:1-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-35)
- C. Paul's Second Missionary Journey: Asia Minor, Greece, Ephesus (15:36-18:22)
- D. Paul's Third Missionary Journey: Asia Minor, Ephesus, Greece (18:23-21:15)
- E. Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem and Imprisonment in Caesarea (21:16-26:32)
- F. Paul's Journey to Rome (27:1-28:16)
- G. Paul's Ministry in Rome (28:17-31)

Jesus' Life Mirrored in the life of the Church

Jesus in Luke	The Church in Acts
Lk 3:21 Jesus prays after his baptism.	Acts 1:14, 24 The disciples pray as they await the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
Lk 3:21-22 Anointing by the Holy Spirit.	Acts 2:1-4 Anointing by the Holy Spirit.
Lk 4:14-21 Jesus preaches to the Jews.	Acts 2:14-39 Peter preaches to the Jews. Acts 13:16-41 Paul preaches to the Jews.
Lk 4:16-30 Jesus' ministry begins with a sermon about the fulfillment of Scripture and the people's rejection of Him.	Acts 2:14-40 The Church's ministry begins with a sermon involving fulfillment of Scripture and the people's rejection of Jesus.
Lk 4:31-8:56 The fulfillment is demonstrated by preaching and healing. The conflict illustrates rejection.	Acts 2:41-12:17 The fulfillment is illustrated by prophecy and wonders. Persecutions illustrate unbelief.
Lk 5:17-26 Jesus heals a paralytic.	Acts 3:1-10 Peter heals a paralytic. Acts 20:9-12 Paul heals a paralytic.
Lk 4:40 The sick are brought to be healed.	Acts 28:9 The sick are brought to be healed.
Lk 17:11-19 Jesus' healing ministry extends to the Samaritans.	Acts 8:4-8 Philip's healing ministry extends to the Samaritans.
Lk 22:26; 23:1; 23:8; 23:13 The four trials of Jesus (before the Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Pilate).	Acts 23-26 The Four Trials of Paul (Sanhedrin, Felix, Festus, Herod Agrippa).
Lk 22:66-71 Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin.	Acts 22:30 Paul's trial before the Sanhedrin. 23:10
Lk 23:16, 22 Pilate says he will release him.	Acts 26:32 Agrippa says, "This man could have been released."
Lk 23:34, 46 Final surrender to the Father; prayers for forgiveness of persecutors.	Acts 7:59-60 Final surrender to the Father; prayers for forgiveness of persecutors.