

The Book of Acts

Spread of the gospel and growth of the church

Author: Luke

Key verse: Acts 1:8

Purpose and Themes:

1. Inspired account of a few apostles carrying out the great commission.
2. In Luke, the Kingdom was at hand; in Acts, the Kingdom has come. This Kingdom is of God, not men.
3. Christ's reign extends to both Jew and Gentile. Shows relationship of Christianity to Judaism.
4. Demonstrates how people may now turn to Christ for salvation.
5. Holy Spirit's role prominent: demonstrates God's authority in the spread of the gospel.
6. Acts as an apologetic (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3).
7. Confronts Romans, Greeks, Jews, etc. on their terms. Nothing can stop the spread of the Gospel.
8. Key to understanding rest of the NT: the church, Holy Spirit, salvation, historical setting for epistles, etc.

I. Three-part outline:

1. Gospel in Jerusalem: 1-7
2. Gospel in Judea and Samaria: 8-12
3. Gospel to the "remotest part of the earth": 13-28

II. Main characters: Peter and Paul

1. Focus on Peter: 1-12
2. Focus on Paul: 13-28

III. Paul's Missionary Journeys:

1. First: ch. 13-14
2. Second: ch. 15:36-18:22
3. Third: 18:23-21:17
4. Voyage to Rome: 21:18-28:31

IV. Key Points by Chapter:

ONE

1. Ascension of Jesus: 1-11
2. Selection of Matthias: 12-26

TWO

1. Pentecost: Holy Spirit poured out: 1-13
2. Peter's sermon: 14-39
3. Growth of church: 40-47

THREE

1. Healing of lame man at the gate: 1-10
2. Peter's address on Solomon's porch: 11-26

FOUR

1. Peter and John before the council: 1-22
2. Prayer for boldness: 23-31
3. Liberality of believers: 32-37

FIVE

1. Ananias and Sapphira: 1-11
2. Signs and wonders: 12-26
3. Apostles arrested and released: 17-33
4. Gamaliel's speech: 34-42

SIX

1. Seven chosen: 1-7
2. Stephen's arrest: 8-15

SEVEN

1. Stephen's defense: 1-53
2. Stephen stoned: 54-60

EIGHT

1. Persecution and spread of gospel: 1-3
2. Philip in Samaria: 4-25
3. Conversion of Ethiopian Eunuch: 26-40

NINE

1. Conversion of Saul: 1-25
2. Saul at Jerusalem: 26-31
3. Peter heals lame man and raises Dorcas from the dead: 32-43

TEN

1. Conversion of Cornelius

ELEVEN

1. Peter's report to church at Jerusalem: 1-18
2. The church at Antioch: 19-26
3. Antioch's aid to saints in Judea: 27-30

TWELVE

1. James killed: 1-2
2. Peter arrested and delivered: 3-19
3. Death of Herod: 20-25

THIRTEEN

1. Barnabas and Saul begin first missionary journey: 1-3
2. Cyprus; Elymas the sorcerer: 4-12
3. Antioch in Pisidia: 13-52

FOURTEEN

1. Preaching at Iconium: 1-7
2. Paul stoned at Lystra: 8-20

3. Elders appointed: 21-23
4. Return to Antioch of Syria

FIFTEEN

1. Jerusalem meeting on circumcision: 1-35
2. Paul and Barnabas prepare for second journey: 36-41

SIXTEEN

1. Timothy joins Paul: 1-5
2. Macedonian call: 5-10
3. Conversions of Lydia and Philippian jailer: 11-40

SEVENTEEN

1. Uproar in Thessalonica: 1-9
2. At Berea: 10-15
3. At Athens: sermon on Mars' Hill: 16-34

EIGHTEEN

1. Paul at Corinth: 1-21
2. Beginning of third journey: 22-23
3. Apollos at Ephesus: 24-28

NINETEEN

1. Paul at Ephesus: 1-22
2. Riot at Ephesus: 23-41

TWENTY

1. Paul travels to Macedonia and Greece: 1-6
2. Farewell visit at Troas: 7-12
3. Address to Ephesian elders: 13-38

TWENTY-ONE

1. Paul's trip to Jerusalem: 1-9
2. Agabus foretells Paul's trials: 10-16
3. Paul arrested in temple: 17-36
4. Paul's defense: 37-40

TWENTY-TWO

1. Paul's defense before Jewish mob: 1-21
2. In roman custody: 22-30

TWENTY-THREE

1. Paul before the council: 1-11
2. Plot against Paul's life: 12-22
3. Paul sent to Felix (the governor): 23-35

TWENTY-FOUR

1. Paul's defense before Felix

TWENTY-FIVE

1. Paul appeals to Caesar: 1-12
2. Paul's before Agrippa II: 13-27

TWENTY-SIX

1. Paul's defense before Agrippa II

TWENTY-SEVEN

1. Paul sails to Rome: 1-12
2. Storm and shipwreck: 13-44

TWENTY-EIGHT

1. On island of Melita: 1-10
2. Arrival at Rome: 11-16
3. Paul preaches to those in Rome: 17-31