

A STUDY WORKBOOK FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Simplified Acts Survey

Acts of the Apostles

By
MIKE HUGHES

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THE BOOK OF ACTS

Purpose

The story of the Gospel continues with the founding of the church. Luke's first book is an account of all that Jesus "began to both do and teach" during His life on earth. Acts continues the story of His work after the ascension. The ascension of Jesus concluded His earthly ministry, allowing eyewitnesses to see both the risen Christ on earth and the victorious, eternal Christ returning to heaven to minister and intercede forever at the right hand of the Father.

This book was not given a name by its writer. The book of Acts has been given several names both in manuscripts and by different versions of the Holy Scripture. Among the names that have been ascribed to this book are: "The Acts of the Apostles" as given in the KJV, "The Acts of the Holy Apostles", "The Book of Acts" and "The Acts" as used in the ASV. The better term for the name of the book of Acts would be simply "Acts" or "Some of the acts of some of the apostles." Acts neither contains all the acts of some of the some of the apostles or some of the acts of all the apostles.

Author and Date

The ultimate author of this book is The Holy Spirit, 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The writer of the book is Luke the Physician. There is much evidence which proves his authorship. 1. Both Acts and Luke are addressed to the same individual (cf. Acts 1:1; Luke 1:3). 2. The style of both books are the same. There are fifty words common to both books that are not found anywhere else in the New Testament. 3. Luke was a companion of Paul. (cf. Acts 16:10; 20:4-6; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24).

The date of the writing is fixed by most scholars to be around 63-64 AD. The book closes before the trial of Paul before Nero was completed. The strong inference is that Luke completed the book during Paul's two-year imprisonment and began its circulation before the trial was completed. Since the reign of Nero included the year 63-64 AD, it is safe in assigning the book of Acts this date.

Significant Features

The book of Acts contains the first church history ever written. The book covers roughly 32 years of history in 28 chapters. The book of Acts has commonly been called a book of beginnings much like the book of Genesis. Some of the beginnings in Acts include. The beginning of the Holy Spirit's work in the heart of man, The beginning of Gospel Preaching, The beginning of the church, The Beginning of the Christian dispensation or age, The beginning of Salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and the beginning of world-wide evangelism.

Acts is a bridging of two worlds: The world of Jewish religion and worship and that of Christianity. It serves as a bridge between the four Gospels and the Epistles. It explains the transition of Christ from His earthly work to his heavenly. In Acts one also sees a transition from a national religion to a universal religion.

The book of Acts is centered around the work of two great apostles: Peter an apostle to the Jews and Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. The book takes place in four geographical centers Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus and Rome. The book gives us the divine execution of the Great Commission. Notice Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16 and Luke 24:46-47.

Outline of The Book of Acts

PART I: THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM: 1:1 - 8:4

I. CHRIST ASCENDS AND THE APOSTLES WAIT (ACTS 1)

- A. Luke's Address and Introduction (1:1-3)
- B. The Lord's Promise of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles (1:4-8)
- C. The Lord's Ascension (1:9-11)
- D. Waiting Time in Jerusalem (1:12-14)
- E. Matthias is Chosen to Replace Judas (1:15-26)

II. THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH (ACTS 2)

- A. Pouring Forth of the Holy Spirit (2:1-3)
- B. Speaking With Other Tongues (2:4-12)
- C. The Multitude Responds (2:13-14)
- D. Peter Explains the Events (2:15-21)
- E. The Gospel Proclaimed (2:22-36)
- F. The Great Response (2:37-47)

III. EARLY EVENTS IN JERUSALEM (Acts 3-5)

- A. True Miracle's Nature Depicted (3:1-11)
- B. A Gospel Sermon Clearly and Powerfully Delivered (3:12-26)
- C. Persecution Builds Steadfast Determination (4:1-31)
- D. Saints of Jerusalem Described (4:32-5:11)
- E. Allegiance to God Involves Decisiveness (5:12-42)

IV. SELECTION OF THE SEVEN AND STEPHEN'S BOLD DEFENSE (Acts 6-7)

- A. Appointment of the Seven (6:1-8)
- B. Accusations Made Against Stephen (6:9-11)
- C. The Arrest of Stephen (6:12-15)
- D. The Defense by Stephen (7:1-53)

PART II: THE CHURCH IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA: 8:5 - 12:25

I. SAUL PERSECUTES THE CHURCH AND OBEYS (Acts 8-9)

- A. Saul's Persistent Persecution (8:1-40)
- B. Saul, The Prayerful Penitent (9:1-19)
- C. Saul Becomes a Powerful Preacher (9:20-31)
- D. The Work of Peter Continues (9:32-43)

II. THE GENTILES HEAR THE GOSPEL (Acts 10:11:18)

- A. Cornelius A Good Moral Man (10:1-3)
- B. Bringing the Preacher and the Hearers Together - The First Miracle (10:4-8)
- C. Peter Sees a Vision - The Second Miracle (10:9-11)
- D. Peter Preaches to Cornelius (10:12-43)
- E. The Holy Spirit Falls on Cornelius and Those With Him - The Third Miracle (10:44-48)
- F. Peter Retells the Events to the Jews in General Order of Occurrence (11:1-18)

III. Persecution Continues (Acts 11:12:25)

- A. The Church at Antioch (11:18-30)
- B. Persecution Rages On (12)

PART III: THE CHURCH IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE WORLD 13:1- 28:31

- I. PAUL'S FIRST PREACHING JOURNEY - 1,400 miles -AD 45-47 (Acts 13:1-14:28)
 - A. Barnabas and Saul Sent From Antioch (13:1-3)
 - B. Controversy with Bar-Jesus (13:4-13)
 - C. Paul Preaches In the Synagogue (13:14-50)
 - D. Events at Iconium, Lystra, and Derby (13:51-14:20)
 - E. Return Trip to Antioch (14:21-28)

- II. THE DISCUSSION OVER CIRCUMCISION AND THE LAW (Acts 15:1-36)
 - A. The Problems at Antioch (15:1-3)
 - B. Reception At Jerusalem (15:4-5)
 - C. The Question Debated and Resolved (15:6,7)
 - D. Peter's Presentation (15:7-11)
 - E. Barnabas' and Paul's Presentation (15:12)
 - F. The Summary and Recommendation of James (15:13-19)
 - G. Four Restrictions (15:20-21)
 - H. The Decision of the Whole, The Letter Written (15:22-29)

- III. PAUL'S SECOND PREACHING JOURNEY - 2,800 MILES -AD 51-54 (Acts 15:36 - 18:22)
 - A. Controversy Between Paul and Barnabas Over John Mark (15:36-41)
 - B. Paul and Timothy (16:1-5)
 - C. The Macedonian Call (16:6-10)
 - D. Second Preaching Tour Itinerary (16:11-18:22)

- IV. PAUL'S THIRD PREACHING JOURNEY - 2,800 miles - AD 54-58 (Acts 18:33 - 21:16)
 - A. The Events at Ephesus (18:24-19:41)
 - B. Paul's Work in Macedonia, Troas and Miletus (20:1-16)
 - C. Paul Meets with the Ephesian Elders (20:17-38)
 - D. Paul's Journey Continues (21:1-16)

- V. PAUL IN THE TEMPLE AND IN PRISON IN JERUSALEM AND CAESAREA (Acts 21:17-26:32)
 - A. Paul Observes The Law of Moses (21:17-26)
 - B. Paul's Apprehension By the Jews (21:27-30)
 - C. Paul's Arrest by The Romans (21:31-39)
 - D. Paul's Speech to the Multitude (21:40-22:21)
 - E. The Audience Response and Paul Almost Scourged (22:22-30)
 - F. Paul Before the Council (23:1-11)
 - G. Paul Transferred to Caesarea (23:12-30)
 - H. Paul Before Felix (23:31-24:27)
 - I. Paul Before Festus and His Appeal to Caesar (25:1-12)
 - J. Paul Before Agrippa and Bernice (25:13-26:32)

- VI. PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME AND ROMAN IMPRISONMENT (Acts 27:1-28:31)
 - A. Paul's Perilous Voyage (27:1-44)
 - B. Paul Bitten By a Viper (28:1-10)
 - C. Paul Welcomed By the Saints (28:11-15)
 - D. Paul A Prisoner in Rome (28:16-31)

Chronological of Events in Acts

Event	Date
The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)	33 AD
The stoning of Stephen (Acts Acts 7)	33 - 35 AD
Saul's Conversion (Acts Acts 9)	36 AD
Paul's silent years (Acts Acts 9:19-25) <i>Sojourn in Arabia and Damascus</i>	37-39 AD
Paul's trip to Antioch (Acts Acts 11:22-26)	43-44 AD
Paul's first preaching trip (Acts 13 - 14) <i>Cyprus, Perga, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe</i>	45-49 AD
<i>Some Believe Galatians Written ?? From Antioch</i>	48-49 AD
Jerusalem Meeting about Circumcision (Acts 15)	50 AD
Paul's second Preaching Trip (Acts 15:36 - 18:23) <i>Syria, Cilicia, Galatia, Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica, Bearea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus</i>	50 - 54 AD
Epistles Written During Paul's Second Preaching Trip: From Corinth	
1 Thessalonians	51 - 52 AD
2 Thessalonians	52 - 53 AD
Paul's Third Preaching Trip (Acts 18:23 - 21:16) <i>Ephesus, Macedonia, Achaia, Corinth, Philippi, Troas, Miletus</i>	54 - 58 AD
Epistles Written During Paul's Second Preaching Trip:	
From Ephesus	
Galatians	55 AD
1 Corinthians	56 AD
2 Corinthians	57 AD
From Corinth: Romans	58 AD
Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:18- Ch. 23)	58 AD
Paul's Imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 24 - 26)	58 - 60 AD
Paul's Voyage to Rome (Acts 27 - 28:16)	60 - 61 AD
Paul's first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30)	61 - 63 AD
Epistles written while in Roman prison	
Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon	62 AD
Paul's Prison Release	62 AD
<i>Possible trips to Spain?, Ephesus?, Macedonia?</i>	
Epistles written After His Release	
Hebrews	62 AD
1 Timothy and Titus	66 AD
Paul's second Roman imprisonment	67 AD
2 Timothy	67 AD
Paul's Martyrdom	68 AD

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