

ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #1 – Introduction and Acts 1:1 - 11

Introduction to the Book of Acts:

Author: **Luke** (writer of the Gospel of Luke, physician, Supporter of Paul)

Date: **63-67 AD** (prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD)

Recipient: **Theophilus** (same as the Gospel of Luke; Probably a Roman high official)

Theme and Purpose:

- 1) To present a **history** of the origins and basis of the Christian movement.
- 2) To present a **defense** against Jewish and Gentile (Roman) opposition to Christ and Christianity. Luke may have written this letter while preparing a defense for Paul in Rome.
- 3) To provide a **guide** to the establishment of churches and the confrontations in culture for all future Christian organizations.
- 4) To **prove** that Christianity will thrive as the Holy Spirit works and empowers them in the face of persecution.

Key Verse: Acts 1:8

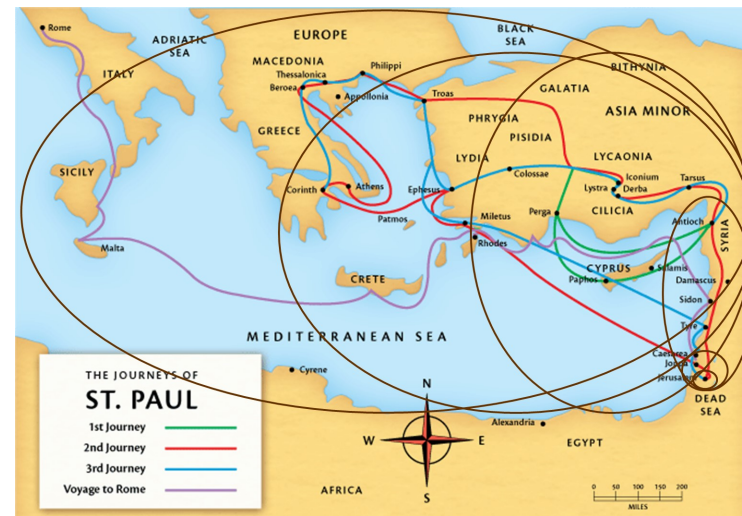
*"But you will receive **power** (dynamis) – Supernatural ability when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you; - An ACT of the Holy Spirit and you will be my witnesses (martyrs) – An act of submission*

- 1) in **Jerusalem**,
- 2) and in **all Judea**
- 3) and **Samaria**,
- 4) and to the **ends of the earth.**"



Six Movements Within Acts:

- 1) 1:1 - 6:7 – The Church at **Jerusalem**
"The word of God increased"
- 2) 6:8 - 9:31 – The Church extends **through Samaria**
"...the church ...was built up...it was multiplied"
- 3) 9:32-12:24 – The Church extends **through Antioch**.
"the word of God grew and multiplied"
- 4) 12:25 - 16:5 – The Church extends **through Asia Minor and Galatia**
"The churches were strengthened and increased in numbers daily"
- 5) 16:6 - 19:20 – The Church extends **to Corinth and Ephesus**
"The word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily"
- 6) 19:21 - 28:31 – The Church extends **to Rome** and prepares to go to all the world!
"...preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly and unhindered"



The Book of Acts

Focus	Foundation of the Church												Founder of Churches												
Divisions	Spirit of the Church			Growth of the Church		Persecution of the Church		Expansion of the Church			First Journey of Paul			Second Journey of Paul			Third Journey of Paul			Arrest of Paul		Trials of Paul		Imprisonment of Paul	
	1	4	5	7	8	9	10	12	13	15	16	18	19	20	21	23	24	26	27	28					
Topics	Jerusalem To the Jews			Judea and Samaria		Antioch To the Samaritans			Asia Minor and Galatia			Europe Corinth and Ephesus			To the Gentiles		Rome								
Place	Jerusalem			Jerusalem & Samaria		Antioch & Sumaria			Asia Minor and Galatia			Europe Corinth and Ephesus			Uttmost Parts										
Time	2 Years (A.D. 33-35)			14 Years (A.D. 35-48)																	14 Years (A.D. 48-62)				
Author													Luke the Doctor												

Verse 1

I wrote about
all that Jesus
began (archo) to do
and to teach

Luke's first work (The Gospel of Luke) told of the "beginning" of Jesus' work, this book tells the continuation of Jesus' influence.

Verse 2

after giving instructions (entello = commandments)
through the Holy Spirit (means - over 50 times in Acts)
 to the apostles

Important note: Christ was in his resurrected body, but used the power of the Holy Spirit to do his work.

3) Presence of God within us to encourage, convict, and empower – I Cor. 3:16

Verse 3

He appeared (optanomai = allowed inspection) to them
over a period of forty days
and spoke
about the kingdom of God.

II. The Ascension of Jesus (1:4 – 11)

Verse 4

On one occasion,
while he was eating with them, (synalizo = gathering them together)
he gave them this command:

*my Father promised,
which you have heard
me speak about.*

The “comforter”
(paracletos) will
“guide” you into all
truth. John 14:26

Waiting is essential for effectiveness. (Isa. 40:31) The promise was made by Jesus but they had to wait by faith in that promise.

Verse 5

For

John baptized (baptizo = immersion cleansing through water)
with water,

John's baptism was for repentance – the Jewish understanding of “washing your hands” (negel vasser) (Matt. 3:6-11; Acts 19:4) and this set the stage for the one who came after John who would baptize for a deeper and permanent purpose.

but in a few days

you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

To be “baptized” with the Holy Spirit is to be immersed or overwhelmed by Him. I believe persons who accept Christ are given the overwhelming presence and “sealed” at that time.

Verse 6

So

when they met together,
they asked him,

"Lord,

are you at this time (chronos = human time)

going to restore (apokathistemi = return to a former state or position)

the kingdom to Israel?"

They knew that Jesus had instituted the "new covenant" (Lk. 22:20) and they knew that the restoration of Israel was a part of the New Covenant (Jer. 23; Ezek. 36,37) – they were thinking that it would be very soon rather than in the Millennial Kingdom.

Verse 7

He said to them:

"It is not for you to know (ginosko = understand)

1) *the times* (chronos)

2) *or dates* (kairos = God's time)

the Father

3) *has set* (tithemi = fixed in time)

by his own authority. (exousia = right)

Christ did not rebuke their question, but he clearly turned their focus from when the Kingdom would be restored to the work at hand – taking the message of Christ to the world!

We can get so excited about the end times (Kairos) that we ignore the present times (chronos) where we are to sacrifice now.

"So heavenly minded that we are no earthly good!"

Verse 8

But (alla = transitional introduction comparison)

You can't know when - but you can know what!

you will receive power (dynamis = ability to do miraculous)

when the Holy Spirit (hagios pneuma = third person of the Trinity)

comes (eperchomai = to overtake/overwhelm) *on you;*

and you will be (fact) *my witnesses* (martyrs = willing to die)

1) *in Jerusalem,* (Jesus was murdered here!)

2) *and in all Judea* (The Jews hate Jesus here!)

3) *and Samaria,* (Nobody likes the Samaritans!)

4) *and to the ends* (eschatos = the remote part) *of the earth."* (We don't even know where these parts are!)

The Whole Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18b – 20

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore

- 1) go
- 2) and make disciples of all nations,
- 3) baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 4) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

The Whole Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18b – 20 and Acts 1:8 combined

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
go and you will be my witnesses and make disciples,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Verse 9

After he said this,

he was taken up (Lk. 24:50)

before their very eyes,

and a cloud (nephele) hid (hypolambano = to receive) him from (apo = out of) their sight.

The cloud was similar to the cloud of glory at the tabernacle (shikinah) and the cloud that led the people out of Egypt, and the cloud that covered Mount Sinai.

Verse 10

They were looking
intently up (atenizo = to fasten your eyes)
into the sky
as he was going,
when suddenly [BEHOLD!]
two men
dressed in white
stood beside them.

Are these the two who Jesus met on the Mount of Transfiguration (Moses and Elijah) or the two prophets from Revelation?

Verse 11

*"Men of Galilee,"
they said,
"why do you stand here
looking into the sky?
This same Jesus,
who has been taken from you
into heaven,
will come back
in the same way (tropos = mode or style)
you have seen him
go into heaven."*

How did he go?
And How will he
return?

- Physically
- Visibly
- From the Mount of Olives
- In the presence of his disciples
- Blessing his church

The church begins with a clear expectation of Jesus' Return in glory!