

Acts of the Apostles



Author

Luke, physician and companion of the apostle Paul



Written

About AD 63



Audience

Theophilus, and secondarily other Greek-speakers in the Roman empire



Genre

Historical narrative or monograph



Key Ideas

Acts is a whirlwind history of the beginning of the church, covering more than three decades, focusing primarily on the travels of early Christian missionaries to take the good news about Jesus from Israel to the rest of the world.

Witness: Jesus calls his apostles to bear witness to what he did and taught, declaring these things first to the Jews in Jerusalem, and then to the rest of the world.

The Holy Spirit: The Spirit of God empowers and encourages the early church in its sweeping mission to carry the good news about Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles.

Salvation: Remission of sins is promised to all who believe, as they repent, trust in the good news about Jesus, and receive the Holy Spirit.





Lesson 5

Acts of the Apostles

Acts

Part I



I. Author: Luke

A. Compare Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3

B. Compare the themes of each book

C. "We" passages in Acts (16:10-16; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-38; 28:1-16)



II. Outline of Acts

 **III. Introduction (1:1-26)**

 **IV. The church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-8:3)**

A. The new temple founded: the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-45)

1. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread: Jesus dies _____

2. Feast of Firstfruits: Jesus is raised _____

3. Counting the days to the Feast of Weeks: Jesus teaches and ascends to heaven

4. Feast of Weeks (Pentecost): The Spirit is poured out _____

B. The new temple grows (2:46-8:1)

1. Chiastic structure

a. a. 2:46-47 _____

b. b. 3:1-4:31 _____

c. c. 4:32-5:11 _____

d. b'. 5:12-41 _____

e. a'. 5:42 _____

2. Gathering in the old temple (2:46-47 and 5:42) _____

3. Proclamation in the old temple (3:1-4:31 and 5:12-41) _____

4. Generosity of the new temple (4:32-5:11) _____

C. The new temple confronted (Acts 6:1-8:1)

Acts

Part 2



I. The Church in Judea and Samaria (8:2-12:24)

A. The gospel goes to the Samaritans (8:2-25)

1. Who are the Samaritans? _____

2. The Spirit is poured out on the Samaritans _____

B. The gospel goes to foreigners (8:26-40)

C. The gospel goes to the church's enemy (9:1-31)

D. The gospel goes to the Gentiles (9:32-11:18)

1. Peter's vision _____

2. Clean vs. unclean in the Law of Moses _____

3. The Spirit is poured out on Cornelius' household _____

E. A new base of missions: Antioch (11:19-30)

F. The church is scattered and the Word multiplies (12:1-24)



Timeline Instructions

Add each of the following events to the proper place on your timeline, indicating the event and Bible reference.

- AD 33 – Jesus’ followers are baptized in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost: Acts 2
- AD 34 – Stephen is stoned and the church is scattered: Acts 6-8
- AD 34 – Paul is converted on the road to Damascus: Acts 9:1-19
- AD 37 – Paul visits Peter and James in Jerusalem: Acts 9:23-30
- AD 38-43 – Missions to the Gentiles begin; church in Antioch established: Acts 10-11
- AD 44 – The apostle James, son of Alphaeus, is martyred in Jerusalem; King Herod Agrippa dies: Acts 12
- AD 47 – The Jerusalem famine begins; Paul and Barnabas bring relief funds to the church: Acts 11:27-30²

² This is a reference to the famine in Jerusalem described in Acts 11:27-30. The text indicates that Paul and Barnabas brought relief funds to the church in Antioch during this time.