

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS

The book of Acts is a pivotal book. Many things that happen in the book are a fulfillment of the things that had been prophesied for centuries. There are also things that Jesus foretold that happen in the book. It is a record of the beginning of the Kingdom of Christ. The book explains in lessons and examples such significant topics as:

How to become a Christian.

The beginning and nature of the Kingdom of Christ.

The implementation of the new covenant.

The work of the Holy Spirit.

The worship of the early church.

The workings of local churches under the direction of the apostles.

The expansion of the Kingdom into the world of the gentiles.

The Epistles of Paul find their setting in the book of Acts. The churches and individuals that he addresses in his letters are found in this book. We also see the work of other apostles like Peter. We are introduced to James, the brother of Jesus and his influence among the early Christians.

The growth of the early church is witnessed in this wonderful book. The devotion of the early Christians and their resilience to persecution and opposition is what should inspire our commitment to our Lord today.

I encourage you to dig deep into this wealth of information about true Christianity. We should find examples to follow and truths to spread. It will strengthen your faith and trust in God and his promises.

Overview of the Book of Acts

Intro: Written by Luke (compare Acts 1:1 with Luke 1:1-4)

- I. Significance of the Book
 - a. Hub of the N.T.
 - i. Jesus points forward to it: Mark 9:1
 - ii. Paul's letters given context in Acts
 - b. Practical Applications of Christianity
 - c. Conversions
 - d. Establishment of churches
 - e. Answers questions about prominent leaders of Christianity being imprisoned
 - f. Gives answers to many doctrinal questions: Holy Spirit, law of Moses, baptism, repentance, idolatry, sorcery, etc.
- II. Time of the Book
 - a. Begins with Jesus' last days on earth and ascension
 - b. Ends with Paul in prison in Rome
- III. Outline
 - a. Acts 1:8
 - b. 1-7 Jerusalem
 - c. 8-12 Judea & Samaria
 - d. 13-28 Uttermost Parts of the Earth
- IV. Spreading of the Gospel
 - a. 2 occasions of Holy Spirit Baptism
 - i. Acts 2 – Apostles
 - ii. Acts 10 – Gentiles
 - b. 3 Extended Preaching Trips of Paul
 - i. 1st – Chapters 13-14
 - ii. 2nd – 15:41 to 18:22
 - iii. 3rd – 18:23 to 21:15

LISTS FOR THE BOOK OF ACTS

Please make a list of each of the things below. Keep a separate page or pages for each. These will each be a useful list of things you may need in others studies or discussions. It will also help you to be aware of these things as they occur.

1. **PEOPLE** (This should include every individual mentioned. DO NOT include terms like "multitude", "disciples" etc. DO include all named individuals and those identified but not named like : The Ethiopian Eunuch.) List them by Chapter & verse(s), Name or identification, place & their role or significance
2. **PLACES** (This should include all cities, regions, countries) List them by Chapter and Verse(s), associated region & country (cities), Locate them on a map.
3. **CHURCHES** (any local church mentioned). List them by Chapter & Verse; How it began; Individuals associated with it; what it is known for (if applicable).
4. **MIRACLES** (These should include every overt supernatural miracle. DO NOT include providential meetings or such.) List them by Chapter & Verse; what the miracle was; who was the instrument through whom it was performed; and what happened as result e.g. many believed etc.
5. **CONVERSIONS** This list should include every conversion, whether a group (e.g. 3000 souls) or individual. Include: Chapter and verse; events that led up to the conversion; What they were told to do and by whom: What they did.
6. **CHURCH PROBLEMS** List every problem that the early church faced whether internal (e.g. Judaizing teachers) or external (e.g. persecution) Include: Chapter & Verse; what the problem was; how they reacted or solved the problem; what happened afterward.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

LESSON 1

READ: Acts 1:1-11

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the human author of the book of Acts?
2. What is the evidence for your answer to question 1?
3. To whom does he address the book?
4. With what event does the book of Acts begin?
5. What is the setting at the end of Acts?
6. Using Acts 1:8 as an outline, how may the chapters be divided to follow this?
7. How long was Jesus with his apostles after his resurrection?
8. What topic did Jesus teach them about?
9. What commandment did He give them?
10. What question do they ask?
11. How does He reply?
12. What does He say will happen to them?
13. What then happened to Jesus?
14. How did the apostles react?
15. What did the "two men...in white apparel" tell them? (Were they angels?)

STUDY QUESTION: Find another scripture that connects the beginning of the kingdom with a show of power.

THOUGHT QUESTION: What about these events provide more evidence for the truth of the resurrection of Christ?