

THE EARLY CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

July 4, 2013 – Intro Lecture
Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Summer 2013

Policies and Requirements

1. Classes are free, but all students seeking a certificate or degree must purchase books (paper, not electronic), which will be made available by the Institute.
2. Students in certificate or degree tracks may miss no more than one class per course, without arrangements made in advance with the teacher to make up missed work (at the discretion of the teacher).
3. Students in certificate or degree tracks will be required to take a pass/fail final exam in each course, based on study guidelines provided by the teacher.
4. Students in certificate or degree tracks must make a passing grade (based on "pass/fail") in each course in order to receive credit towards a certificate or degree.
5. Candidates for degrees (Master of Theology and Master of Theology & Ministry) must be approved by the Institute Director before final admission into a degree program.

Early Church in the Book of Acts (NT4)

1. Introduction To the Book of Acts
2. The Birth of the Church
3. Persecution and Expansion
4. Peter and the Conversion of the Gentiles
5. Paul, Barnabas & the Council of Jerusalem
6. Outreach to the West
7. Trials and Witness of Paul
8. The Message of Acts; Final Exam



— Boundary of the Roman Empire AD 325

Expansion of Christianity in the Roman Empire AD 325

What's in a Name?

- The Acts of the Apostles – *2nd century*
- The Book of Acts – *Codex Sinaiticus, 4th century*
- The Acts of the Holy Spirit – *18th century*
- The Continuing Words and Deeds of Jesus
by his Spirit through his Apostles – *21st cent.*

The Acts of the Apostles

- Author: Luke, companion of Paul
- Date: c. AD 62-69
- Theme: Written by a Gentile, Acts tells the story of the Early Church and its growth, especially through the work of the Holy Spirit & the ministries of Peter and Paul.
- Purpose: To show the Old Testament promises of God are fulfilled, and that Jesus was and is the Messiah, as shown in the miraculous way God blesses and expands the Church.
- Outline:
 - *Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-8:4)
 - *Witness in Judea & Samaria (8:5-12:25)
 - *Witness to Ends of the Earth (13:1- 28:31)

Reasons Luke Wrote the Book of Acts

- 1. As a Christian historian.
 - Historical events had occurred.
 - There were contemporary eye-witnesses.
 - Luke did his own personal research.
 - Others had written accounts (including Mark).
 - Luke wants to add an orderly account to those others that have been written.

Prologue to Luke-Acts

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1:1-4

Reasons Luke Wrote the Book of Acts

- 1. As a Christian historian.
- 2. Luke writes as a diplomat , especially working to improve the relations between the Church and the State.
 - A. Roman officials had been consistently friendly to Christianity.
 - B. Roman authorities could find no fault with Jesus or his apostles.
 - C. Roman authorities had conceded that Christianity was a legal religion (*religio licita*).

Reasons Luke Wrote the Book of Acts

- 1. As a Christian historian.
- 2. Luke writes as a diplomat , especially working to improve the relations between the Church and the State.
- 3. Luke writes as a theologian-evangelist.
 - A. Focused on a theology of salvation.
 - i. Prepared by God
 - ii. Bestowed by Christ
 - iii. Offered to all people.

Prologue to Acts

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Acts 1:1-2

Outline of the Book of Acts

I. The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-8:4)

A. The Power of the Church (1:1-2:47)

1. Prologue to Acts (1:1,2)
2. Appearance of the Resurrected Christ (1:3-8)
3. Ascension of Christ (1:9-11)
4. Anticipation of the Spirit (1:12-14)
5. Appointment of Matthias (1:15-26)
6. Filling With the Holy Spirit (2:1-4)
7. Speaking With Other Tongues (2:5-13)
8. Peter Explains Pentecost (2:14-41)
9. Practices of the Early Church (2:42-47)

Outline of the Book of Acts

I. The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-8:4)

B. The Progress of the Church (3:1-8:4)

1. Peter Heals the Lame Man (3:1-11)
2. Peter's Second Sermon (3:12-26)
3. Peter and John Are Arrested (4:1-4)
4. Peter Preaches to the Sanhedrin (4:5-12)
5. Sanhedrin Commands Peter Not to Preach (4:13-22)
6. Apostles' Prayer for Boldness (4:23-31)
7. Early Church Voluntarily Shares (4:32-37)
8. Ananias and Sapphira Lie (5:1-11)
9. Apostles Mighty Miracles (5:12-16)
10. Apostles' Persecution (5:17-42)
11. Deacons Are Appointed (6:1-8)
12. Stephen is Martyred (6:9-7:60)
13. Saul Persecutes the Church (8:1-4)

Outline of the Book of Acts

II. The Witness in Judea and Samaria (8:5-12:25)

A. The Witness of Philip (8:5-40)

B. The Conversion of Saul (9:1-31)

1. Saul is Converted and Blinded (9:1-9)

2. Saul is Filled with the Spirit (9:10-19)

3. Saul Preaches at Damascus (9:20-22)

4. Saul Witnesses in Jerusalem (9:23-31)

C. The Witness of Peter (9:32-11:18)

D. The Witness of the Early Church (11:19-12:25)

1. The Witness of the Antioch Church (11:19-30)

2. The Persecution of Herod (12:1-25)

Outline of the Book of Acts

III. The Witness to the Ends of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

A. Paul's 1st Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)

1. Barnabas and Paul Sent from Antioch (13:1-3)
2. Ministry at Cyprus (13:4-13)
3. Ministry at Antioch (13:14-50)
4. Ministry at Iconium (13:51-14:5)
5. Ministry at Lystra (14:6-20)
6. Ministry on the Return Trip (14:21-25)
7. Report on the 1st Journey (14:26-28)

B. The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)

C. The 2nd Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)

1. Contention Over John Mark (15:36-41)
2. Derbe and Lystra (16:1-5)
3. Troas: Macedonian Call (16:6-10)
4. Philippi: Extensive Ministry (16:11-40)
5. Thessalonica (17:1-9)
6. Berea: Many Receive the Word (17:10-15)
7. Athens (17:16-34)
8. Corinth (18:1-17)
9. Return Trip to Antioch (18:18-22)

Outline of the Book of Acts

III. The Witness to the Ends of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

D. Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)

1. Galatia and Phrygia (18:23)
2. Ephesus: Three Years of Ministry (18:24-19:41)
3. Macedonia (20:1-5)
4. Troas: Eutychus Falls from Loft (20:6-12)
5. Miletus: Paul Bids Farewell (20:13-38)
6. Tyre: Paul is Warned (21:1-6)
7. Caesarea: Agabus Prediction (21:7-16)

E. The Trip to Rome (21:17-28:31)

1. Paul Witness in Jerusalem (21:17-23:33)
2. Paul Witnesses in Caesarea (23:34-26:32)
3. Paul Witnesses in Rome (27:1-28:31)

The Acts of the Apostles – Key Verses

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him... ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... ³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

¹⁹ Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36

The Acts of the Apostles – Key Verses

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

