



JANUARY 17, 2021

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Acts: An Incredible Journey **The Book of Acts**

I. Historical Introduction of Acts

A. Authorship

1. Luke was not one of the _____ Apostles
2. Luke was not a _____
3. Luke wrote _____ of the the New Testament

B. Application

1. History _____
2. We always look _____ within the Bible
3. You are to fulfill the _____ God gave to you

II. Historical Purpose of Acts

- A. Acts emphasizes that Jesus was indeed the _____
- B. Acts shows that salvation is offered to _____ men
- C. Acts highlights the _____ of the Holy Spirit
- D. Acts regularly _____ the NT with the OT

E. Acts elaborates on key _____

1. From the Old Covenant to the New Covenant
2. From OT Prophets to NT Apostles
3. From Israel to the Church
4. From signs and wonders to preaching and teaching
5. From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth

III. Historical Outline of Acts

I. The Witness to Jerusalem (1-8)

- A. The Anticipation of the Church (1:1-26)
- B. The Founding of the Church (2:1-47)
- C. The Growth of the Church (3:1-7:60)
 1. Apostles: Preaching, healing, and enduring persecution (3:1-5:42)
 2. Deacons: Serving, witnessing, and enduring persecution (6:1-7:60)

II. The Witness to Judea and Samaria (8:1-12:25)

- A. The Gospel to the Samaritans (8:1-25)
- B. The Conversion of a Gentile (8:26-40)
- C. The Conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
- D. The Gospel to Judea (9:32-43)
- E. The Gospel to the Gentiles (10:1-11:30)
- F. The Persecution by Herod (12:1-25)

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

- A. Paul's First Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)
- B. The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)
- C. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)
- D. Paul's Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)
- E. Paul's Jerusalem and Caesarean Trials (21:17-26:32)
- F. Paul's Journey to Rome (27:1-28:31)

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. What is your over-all take away from the introduction to the book of Acts? What is something new that you learned? How can that truth encourage and challenge you in your life this week?

2. What are you most intimidated about when you think about launching into a new study in the book of Acts?

Read Acts 1:1-3 and Luke 1:1-4. What comparisons do you see? How do these two passages give internal proof to Luke’s authorship? Why is this more important than external proof?

4. What do you think about the balance of the Holy Spirit’s inspiration as well as Luke’s careful labor to write an orderly account?

5. What encouraged you about the applications of the introduction given in I. B.?

6. Which one of the historical purposes of Acts sticks out to you as being vitally important? Why?

7. How was the outline of Acts helpful for you to see the flow and the geographical emphasis of the spreading of the Gospel?

8. Will you pray that God would change your life as we study the book of Acts? What changes would you like to see?

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Jesus