

Acts Overview

Background

Luke wrote two books. See how the Gospel of Luke ends and this book begins. What connections do you see? The Gospel of Luke refers to “Jesus Christ.” Christ is Greek for Messiah. Messiah means Anointed One. The King is the Anointed One. Luke sets up Jesus as king. Acts is about His kingdom expanding. What other connections do you see between these two books?

Kingdom Expansion Israel and Samaria

Chapters 1-9 focuses on the kingdom expanding to the Jews. Jerusalem is the center of this kingdom, so watch how the story always comes back to Jerusalem. It’s like a rubber band being pulled tight and then returning to its original position.

The Temple is an important location to their activities and daily lives. Pay attention to how, when, and where they follow the Torah of Moses. Do they ever say they gave up following the Torah of Moses? Pay attention to what is used against the apostles and what is not used against them.

Introduction to Saul (aka Paul). Setting up this man and his travels, laying a foundation for his letters. Remember his activities and words in Acts when reading his letters.

Kingdom Expansion to the Gentiles

Chapter 10 and beyond. Track Paul’s movements throughout the region as he moves beyond Israel. Pay attention to when he switches over to his Greek name. Where does he go when he first enters a city? If he does not go to the synagogue, it’s because there isn’t a synagogue in that city. What does that tell us about the main inhabitants of the city?

These chapters cover decades, so as you come to the end of the book, see how Paul still refers to himself. Is he still following the Torah of Moses? What is his response when he’s accused of not following it?

Ending???

Paul does not end up back in Jerusalem at the end of the book. What does this “open ending” mean for the kingdom today? How is that fire from chapter 2 spreading today? Just like that rubber band being stretched out, what does that mean for the future?