

ALSON – BIB 115 – THE BOOK OF ACTS

STUDY GUIDE for the FINAL EXAM

*All of the statements on this Study Guide are **true** statements about the Book of Acts, taken from your textbook, lecture, or collateral reading assignments. Approximately one-half of these statements will be on your final exam.*

Almost 90% of the New Testament was written by men who were very well educated for their day in Scripture, the history of Israel, literary composition, and theology.

Luke-Acts was a two volume work written by Luke, a Greek physician, who used his education and experience to help in his careful investigation, interviewing, researching, and composing his gospel and the Book of Acts.

The English word “apologetics” refers to a defense of our faith and comes from a Greek word “apologia” means “to speak in defense.”

The Greek word “ethnos” means “a people” or “nation”, from which we get the English word “ethnic” meaning “having to do with a particular people.”

Acts is not strict chronological history, but is written in the genre of Apologetic Ethnography, which means it is a creatively composed explanation and defense of the origins and history of a people, highlighting particular events, themes, and theological truths.

The early Christians were NOT primarily uneducated, illiterate, or slaves, but WERE primarily freedmen, merchants, artisans, and landowners, from the middle class, who were better educated and more literate than the average person in the Empire.

The primary theme of Luke-Acts is Promise-Fulfillment: God fulfilled all of his Old Testament promises and prophecies to Abraham, David, and Israel through Jesus and the Church.

The second main theme of Acts is Movement of the Gospel: Geographic movement from Jerusalem to Rome, and ethnic movement from Jews, to Samaritans, to Gentile God-fearers, to Gentiles from all nations.

Another theme of Luke-Acts is the close connection between Jesus and the Holy Spirit: The outpouring of the Spirit validates Jesus’ claims to be God and Messiah.

The best title for the Book of Acts is not the Acts of the Apostles but is The Acts of the Holy Spirit.

Acts serves as a bridge between the Gospels and Paul’s letters.

In Acts the Church grew and moved from Jerusalem to Rome.

Acts can be divided into two major divisions based upon the ministries of Peter and Paul.

According to Acts, the last command given by Jesus was to wait for the gift the Father promised.

Concerning the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, Luke mainly emphasizes the Spirit's empowering for Christian service.

The Ascension of Jesus took place on the Mount of Olives.

Pentecost is also known as the Feast of Weeks.

On the Day of Pentecost, after they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, the 120 believers began to speak in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and a regular means of personal prayer.

The biblical word used to describe the nature or import of speaking in tongues is "sign" meaning a thing or event that points beyond itself to signify a greater meaning.

The words "physical" and "evidence" are not words used in Scripture to describe speaking in tongues, but are words relating to empirical evidence taken from the world of modern science.

The Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths originally used the biblical word "sign" to describe speaking in tongues.

Luke used several words as synonyms to describe the coming of the Spirit in power upon God's People, including "coming, came upon, poured out, baptized, and filled."

Every time the Gospel moved beyond previous boundaries and into major new categories of people – Jews, Samaritans, God-fearing Gentiles, followers of John the Baptist – the Spirit was poured out as he had been upon the Apostles, with signs following, including on several occasions, speaking in tongues.

Through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, demonstrated great boldness in preaching the Gospel.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter quoted from the prophet Joel.

According to Acts 2:42, the Early Church devoted themselves to doctrine, fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of bread.

Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead by God because they lied to the Apostles and to the Holy Spirit.

Signs and wonders are still happening today, especially when the gospel is being preached where it has never been preached before.

Paul was one of the most brilliant and well-educated Jewish men in the Roman Empire, well educated in the Old Testament and in Greek culture.

The way the Old Testament and the life and work of Jesus are interpreted and preached in Acts is the God-given pattern for Christian biblical interpretation and preaching for all time.

For almost 300 years most churches met sometimes in rented halls, sometimes in the open air, but most of the time in the homes of believers, often the larger homes of the more affluent members of the local church.

Peter told the Sanhedrin, "We must obey God rather than men."

According to Acts 6, the seven men chosen to serve the widows of the Hellenistic Jews were to be men of good reputation, full of wisdom, and full of the Holy Spirit.

After Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious leaders had him stoned.

As Stephen was being stoned, the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of Saul of Tarsus.

According to Acts 8, the Church began evangelism efforts outside of Jerusalem due to the persecution that followed Stephen's death.

Simon of Samaria was rebuked by Peter because he wanted to by the gift of God, the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

When Philip approached him, the Ethiopian eunuch was reading from the prophet Isaiah.

In Acts and the rest of the New Testament, studying, understanding, and obeying the Scripture was by far the most important task of the Church, for proper life and doctrine all flowed from that.

The resistance of the Jews and of Jewish leaders to the gospel gradually increased throughout the New Testament period, with Jews and Jewish leaders often leading in the persecution of the Church.

The best estimate for the total number of Christians in the Roman Empire by 100 AD is between 7,530 and 10,000.

To highlight his themes of Movement, Promise-Fulfillment, and the Nations, Luke organized Acts into Six Panels or Sections.

Luke closes each of his Six Panels in an intentionally similar way, and in the next section showing the Gospel moving geographically or ethnically into a new region or people-group.

Paul was uniquely fitted for missionary service because he was a product of two cultures and educations.

God revealed to Ananias that Saul would be his chosen instrument to bear his name before kings, the Gentiles, and the sons of Israel.

Luke describes Cornelius as devout, generous, and God-fearing.

When the Gentiles at Cornelius' house began speaking tongues it signified that they had been saved, baptized in the Holy Spirit, because God had extended salvation to all people, including the Gentiles.

On their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas ministered in the Roman province of Galatia.

Paul first ministered in Galatia because he fell sick, did not improve quickly, and was taken by his team away from the coastal lowlands and up into higher elevation of Galatia.

Paul's sickness that led to him being taken into the Galatian highlands to recuperate is one of several examples in the New Testament where Christians with faith, holiness, and anointing were still not immediately healed because of God's sovereign will.

Prior to their second missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement over whether or not they should take Mark with them, because he had left Paul's missionary team on a previous journey.

In Thessalonica, because the Jews were jealous, they found some bad characters and started a riot.

In his sermon on Mars Hill, Paul addressed deism, pantheism, and polytheism.

Like Priscilla and Aquila, Paul provided for his financial needs in Corinth by making tents.

In Corinth, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, encouraging him to remain faithful, because he would protect him.

The speeches and sermons of Acts were based on the Old Testament and how the life, work, and resurrection of Jesus fulfilled God's promises to redeem Israel and people from every nation.

The writers of the New Testament books, including Luke, wrote primarily to the Pastors and Elders of the churches, so that they could then explain the book to the congregation.

The Pastors, Elders, and leaders were expected to know the Old Testament, the history of Israel, and the literary conventions used in the New Testament well enough to fully understand the meaning and theology the writer was trying to communicate.

Because of the many gods (principalities/powers) and hostilities among most ethnic and economic groups, the concept of people from all nations and social levels gathering and living as one new People worshipping one new God in loving fellowship, worship, harmony, and aid was revolutionary.

A vital lesson from Paul regarding team ministry is mentoring future leaders.

In Ephesus, the man to whom Priscilla and Aquila taught the Scriptures more adequately was Apollos.

A citywide uproar resulted when Asian Jews accused Paul of teaching against the Jewish people, their Law, the Temple, and of defiling the Temple by bringing Gentiles inside.

According to the Jewish worldview, Gentiles must be kept at a distance from anything considered pure and holy.

While on trial before king Agrippa, Paul could have been released if he had not already appealed to Caesar.

In Paul's day, the largest and most influential city in the Roman Empire was Rome.

The Day of Pentecost originally celebrated God coming down in wind, glory, and fire on Mount Sinai to give the Law to Moses, his covenant for Israel in the Promised Land.

God poured out the Holy Spirit on Pentecost with wind and fire to show the Spirit would write his law on people's hearts, enabling his covenant for his Renewed People, Jews-and-Gentiles, throughout the Earth.

Some charismatics and Pentecostals have misused Acts 2 and Acts 15 to teach heresies about an elite end-time generation of especially powerful believers (such as a Joel generation), and elite end-time especially powerful worship music (restoring David's fallen tent).

Judaism in the period leading up to and including the New Testament was divided into many sects – such as Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, and others – all considering themselves to be True Israel and considering the other Jewish groups to be apostates.

God's progressive revelation of his plan to be PRESENT in glory is traced from Creation, into the Tabernacle, Temple, Incarnation, Resurrection, Pentecost, the Church, the Second Coming, and the New Creation New-Heavens-and-New-Earth.