

STUDY PACK 5

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

“O God, who, through the preaching of the blessed apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world; Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may shew forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*”

“Almighty God, who calledst Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist and Physician of the soul; May it please thee, that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrines delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*”

~~ F. F. Bruce, *Commentary on Acts*, p. 27. ~~

I. THEME

“Our only inspired _____.” C. H. Spurgeon

“Peter’s use of the _____.” C. I. Scofield

“The beginning of the church and the first outreach of the gospel unto the uttermost part of the earth as the believers witness in the power of the Holy Spirit.” G. Coleman Luck

II. KEY WORDS

Witness – 21 times.

III. DATE

A.D. 63 (covers a period of 32 years).

IV. HUMAN AUTHOR

Luke the Physician.

V. RECIPIENTS

Theophilus; it has been suggested that this was first used as a legal brief in preparation for Paul’s first trial before Caesar.

IV. BOOK NOTATIONS

A. Number in Bible – 44.

- B. Number in New Testament – 5.
- C. Chapters – 28.
- D. Verses – _____.

VII. DIVISIONS

- A. Witness in _____: chapters 1-17.
- B. Witness in _____ and Samaria: chapters 8-12.
- C. Witness to _____: chapters 13-28.

VIII. SPECIAL NOTES

- A. Sir William Ramsay declared that Luke was the greatest historian ancient or modern.
- B. _____, _____ and _____ are prominent in the book of Acts.
- C. 110 people are mentioned by name.
- D. Acts records a number of notable conversions.

IX. OUTLINE OF ACTS

- I. Peter and the Church at Jerusalem: Chapters 1-12 (Jews)
 - A. Church empowered in Upper Room: chapters 1-2
 - B. Church established in Jerusalem: chapters 3-7
 - 1. Early persecution: chapters 3-5
 - 2. First martyr: chapters 6-7
 - C. Church extended to Judea and Samaria: chapters 8-9
 - D. Church enlightened concerning Gentiles: chapters 10-12
- II. Paul and the Church at Antioch: Chapters 13-28 (Gentiles)
 - A. Church enjoined to send missionaries: chapter 13:1-3
 - B. Church enlarged to uttermost parts: chapters 13:4-28:31
 - 1. First missionary trip: chapters 13:4-14:28
 - 2. First church council: chapter 15:1-35
 - 3. Second missionary trip: chapters 15:36-21:13
 - 4. Paul's arrest and imprisonment: chapters 21:14-28:31

X COMMENTARY

A. J. Vernon McGee.

“The Book of Acts furnishes a ladder on which to place _____.
It would be an enriching experience to read them together as Acts gives the history of the founding of the churches to which the Epistles are directed.”

B. David Sorenson.

“Introduction to Acts: The Acts of the Apostles is a unique book in the spectrum of the New Testament. If the gospels are considered a transitional period from the dispensation of the Law to the church age, the Acts of the Apostles is the final portion of that transition. Acts therefore is not the final pronouncement of New Testament theology. However, in the Acts of the Apostles is _____.

_____.
It is a divinely ordered pattern of how God organized the local church, its priorities, and how it should operate. Its name accordingly, is the Acts of the Apostles. It could likewise be called the _____.
_____. He was the power behind the scenes.

The author is Luke and essentially picks up where the gospel of Luke left off. It was apparently written about 65 A.D. at the time of Paul’s initial imprisonment at Rome. The Apostle Peter is prominent in the first twelve chapters. From chapter thirteen onward, the focus is upon the Apostle Paul.”

C. F. F. Bruce.

“If Theophilus was a representative of the intelligent reading public (or rather listening public) of Rome, here was Luke’s opportunity to provide such people with a more accurate account of the rise and progress of Christianity than they were likely to get elsewhere, and also to vindicate the innocence of Paul and other Christians in relation to Roman law.”

“Luke is in fact, one of the first Christian apologists. In that particular type of apologetic which is addressed to the secular authorities to establish the law-abiding character of Christianity he is absolutely the pioneer. But other forms of apologetic appear in the course of his work, especially in some of the speeches of Acts. Thus, Stephen’s speech in Ch. 7 is the prototype of _____,
_____, designed to demonstrate that Christianity and not Judaism is the true fulfillment of the revelation given through Moses and the prophets. Similarly, Paul’s speech at Athens in Ch. 17 is one of the earliest examples of _____,
_____ designed to show that the true knowledge of God is given to the gospel and not in the idolatrous vanities of pagans. And Paul’s speech before Agrippa in Ch. 26 is, of course, the crowning *apologia* for his own missionary career.”

D. Josiah Tidwell.

“For Study and Discussion. (1) The first church conference for business, 1:15-26. (2) The coming of the Holy Spirit, 2:1-4. (3) Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, 2:5-47. (4) The first miracle, ch. 3. (5) The first persecution, 4:1-31. (6) Death of Annanias and Sapphira, 5:1-11. (7) The first deacons, 6:1-7. (8) The first martyr, ch. 7. (9) Philip’s work in Samaria, 8:5-40. (10) Conversion of Saul, 9:1-31. (11) Conversion of Cornelius, 10:1-11:18. (12) List the principal churches of the book, their location and what makes them notable. (13) List the principal preachers of the book and note the sermons or miracles, etc., that make them prominent. (14) The sermons and addresses of the book, to whom each was delivered, its purpose, etc. (15) The chief elements of power of these early disciples. (16) The growth of Christianity and the hindrances it had to overcome. (17) The great outstanding teachings of these early Christians. (18) The tact and adaptation of the apostles (give examples). (19) The different plans to kill Paul and the way by which he escaped each. (20) The missionary journeys of Paul and his journey to Rome as a prisoner.”