

# Introduction to Acts

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# Prophets

The prophets of old foretold of the last days when the Christ would come into the world, establish the Lord's kingdom, and reign as king.

Though Christ came into the world, as was prophesied, His kingdom had not been established at the point of His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven (Acts 1:6-7).

# Prophets

The book of Acts fills in all the details regarding God's promise to establish His kingdom (the church) and forgive man of his sins.

Acts details instructions regarding what one must do to be added to the kingdom.

| <u>Prophecy</u>                       | <u>Scripture</u>                                    | <u>NT Scripture</u>   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| He would be rejected                  | Psalms 118:22,23<br>Isaiah 28:16<br>Isaiah 8:14, 15 | Matt 21:42,43<br>Acts 4:11<br>Romans 9:32,33<br>Ephesians 2:20<br>I Peter 2:6-8 |
| He would be meek & mild               | Isaiah 42:2,3<br>Isaiah 53:7                        | Matt. 12:18-20<br>Matt 26:62,63   |
| He would suffer & bring salvation     | Isaiah 53   | The 4 Gospels   |
| He would be pierced                   | Zechariah 12:10<br>Psalm 22:16                      | John 19:34,37   |
| He would be forsaken by His disciples | Zechariah 13:7                                      | Matthew 26:31,56  |
| Lots would be cast for His garments   | Psalm 22:19   | Luke 23:34  |

| <u>Prophecy</u>                           | <u>Scripture</u>                              | <u>NT Scripture</u>                          |
|---|---|--|
| He would be a King (of the seed of David) | Psalms 132:11,12 Jeremiah 23:5,6 Psalms 2:6-9 | Matthew 1:6 Romans 1:3 Acts 2:30             |
| He would be a prophet like Moses          | Deuteronomy 18:15, 19                         | Matt. 21:11 John 1:45 John 6:14 Acts 3:22-23 |
| He is the Son of God                      | Psalms 2:7 Proverbs 30:4                      | Luke 1:32 Matthew 3:17                       |
| He is God                                 | Jeremiah 23:5,6                               | Acts 2:36                                    |
| Homage would be given Him by great Kings  | Psalms 72:10,11                               | Matt. 2:1-11                                 |
| He would be born of a virgin              | Isaiah 7:14                                   | Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:26-35                 |
| He would perform miracles                 | Isaiah 35:5,6                                 | John 11:47 Matthew 11:3-6                    |

# **1. How does one become a Christian?**

- 1. Hear the Word – Romans 10: 17**
- 2. Believe – John 8:24**
- 3. Repent – Luke 13: 3-5, Acts 2:38**
- 4. Confess – Romans 10: 9-10,  
Matthew 10: 32**
- 5. Be Baptized – Acts 2: 38, Mark 16: 16,  
Romans 6: 3-6**
- 6. Live Faithfully – 1 Peter 3: 21**

## 2. Who was the author of Acts of the Apostles?

Luke is the author.

He was a Greek and the only Gentile Christian writer of the New Testament.

He was an educated man.

He was a physician (Colossians 4:14).

Luke was not one of the 12 disciples.

## 2. Who was the author of Acts of the Apostles?

Luke never names himself as the author.

In 170 AD, the Muratorian Canon asserts Luke (Lucan) is the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Also, the early church fathers (100-500 AD) affirm that Luke wrote Acts.



### **3. When was the Book of Acts written?**

**62 - 63 A.D.**

**The book of Acts is an historical account written to meet the needs of the Gentiles as well as the Jews.**

**This reflects Luke's association with Paul and becomes the basis of what is often thought to be Pauline influence on the record.**

## 4. To whom was the Book of Acts addressed?

Theophilus – Lover of God

**Theo = God**

**Philius = Lover of**

**Acts 1:1**

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

**Luke 1: 3**

3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus.

# Parallels between Luke and Acts

## LUKE

Begins with an address to most excellent Theophilus

Announcement made by angel Gabriel

Begins in Jerusalem

Birth of Jesus as the Spirit comes to Mary

## ACTS

Begins with an address to Theophilus

Announcement made by two angels

Begins in Jerusalem

Birth of the Church as the Spirit comes on believers

# Parallels between Luke and Acts

## LUKE

Luke is the only Gospel which refers to the trial of Jesus before Herod Antipas (Lk 23: 7-12)

The ministry of Jesus as He was on earth

Teachings of Jesus

Introduction of the Gospel

Christ revealed historically

Christ for us

## ACTS

Acts comments about the trial of Jesus before Herod (Acts 4:27) and provides stories of the later Herod's concerning the Gospel

The ministry of Jesus from heaven

Teachings of the apostles

Progress of the Gospel

Christ revealed by teaching

Christ in us

# Parallels between Luke and Acts

## LUKE

Begins with the events surrounding the coming of Christ to the earth

Disciples are chosen

Jesus is judged before the high priest

Ends with the disciples in Jerusalem

## ACTS

Begins with the ascension of Christ into heaven

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Deacons are chosen

Peter and Paul are both judged before the high priest

Ends with the Apostle Paul in Rome

5. How does the Gospel of Luke describe other appearances of Jesus after His resurrection?

**Luke 24:36-39**

36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and \*said to them, "Peace be to you."

37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

5. How does the Gospel of Luke describe other appearances of Jesus after His resurrection?

## **Luke 24:50-53**

<sup>50</sup> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

<sup>51</sup> While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

<sup>52</sup> And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

<sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple praising God.

## 6. What was the purpose for writing Acts?

A. The common purpose of both the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles is expressed in Luke 1: 4 and Acts 1: 5

### Luke 1:4

<sup>4</sup> so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

### Acts 1:5

<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."



# **6. What was the purpose for writing Acts?**

## **B. The establishment of the Church**

### **1. The church is not a physical structure**

- i. The church feared (Acts 5: 11)
- ii. The church was persecuted (Acts 8:1)
- iii. The church was edified (Acts 9:31)
- iv. The church prayed (Acts 12:5)
- v. The church needs to be shepherded (Acts 20:28)

## **6. What was the purpose for writing Acts?**

**2. The beginning of the church** (Acts 2: 1-5)

**3. The importance of the church**  
(Acts 2: 16-17)

**4. The organization of the church**

i. The church had apostles, in the beginning, serving as leaders (Acts 4: 33-35, 6: 2-6)

ii. Elders were appointed in local churches (Acts 11: 30)

**6. What was the purpose for writing Acts?**

**5. The unity of the church.**

- i. The door of God's Kingdom is open to all people of every nation (Acts 2: 36-41)
- ii. God shows no partiality (Acts 10: 34-35)
- iii. In Christ, Jew and Gentile come together as one (Gal. 3: 26-29)

**6. What was the purpose for writing Acts?**

**6. The church's growth and the spread of the Gospel**

- i. The church grew in number (Acts 4: 4)
- ii. The church grew in spiritual strength (Acts 15: 41)
- iii. The church grew in new areas (Acts 14: 21-23, 16: 5)

## **7. Who are the key characters in the Book of Acts?**

**Peter – Acts 1-12**

**Paul – Acts 13 - 28**

8. What are some of the events and issues found in the Book of Acts?

**A. Important topics and events:**

1. The role of the Holy Spirit
2. Missionary outreach to new fields
3. Conversions
4. The growth of the church
5. Life in the Christian community

8. What are some of the events and issues found in the Book of Acts?

**B. Significant problems:**

1. Conflict between Jews and Gentiles

2. Persecution of the church by some Jewish elements

3. Trials before Jews and Romans

4. Confrontations with Gentiles

5. Hardships in the ministry

8. What are some of the events and issues found in the Book of Acts?

## **C. Geographical advances:**

1. Acts 1-7 - The Gospel in Jerusalem
2. Acts 8-12 - The Gospel in Judea and Samaria
3. Acts 13-28 – The Gospel to the ends of the earth



## 9. What are some key verses in the Book of Acts?

### Acts 1: 7-8

7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

## 9. What are some key verses in the Book of Acts?

### Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

## 9. What are some key verses in the Book of Acts?

### **Acts 5:41-42**

<sup>41</sup> So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

<sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.

## 10. How can Acts be encouraging to us?

1. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit:  
Jn.16: 7, 12, 13.
2. Jesus promised to let the apostles open the doors to the church: Mt.28: 18-20
3. Jesus promised to give the apostles miraculous abilities Lk. 24: 46-49
4. Jesus promised that opposition would come: Jn.15: 18-25
5. Jesus's promise of ultimate victory: Jn.14: 1-3

### Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Gospels**  
Teachings,  
death, burial  
and  
resurrection of  
Jesus

Acts

**Epistles**  
Instructions  
on how to  
conduct  
yourself as a  
Christian

### Acts 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

<sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

# Jackson St Church of Christ

## The Book of Acts By Chapters

1. Heavenly ascension of Christ
2. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
3. Lame man is healed
4. Yield from public preaching commanded
5. Sapphira & Ananias lie
6. Providing servants ends problem
7. Intensive defense by Stephen
8. Rising persecution scatters the church
9. Introducing Saul to the gospel
10. Taking the gospel to Cornelius
11. Word spreads to the Gentiles
12. Outbreak from prison of Peter
13. Relaying the gospel to Antioch
14. Kingdom spreads to Iconium, Lystra & Derbe
15. Investigation by Jerusalem council
16. Need for Timothy's circumcision
17. Gospel presentation in Athens
18. Influence of Priscilla & Aquila
19. New baptism in Ephesus
20. Touching farewell from Ephesian elders
21. Holy Spirit warns Paul of arrest
22. Effect of Paul's testimony
23. Council of the Sanhedrin
24. Hearing held by Felix
25. Urgent appeal to Caesar
26. Reasoning with King Agrippa
27. Ceasarea to Malta Island
28. Heralding the gospel in chains