

**A Study of
The Book of Acts
(Part 2: Chapters 9-18)**

Lakeshore Baptist Church
Lake Dallas, TX
February 21-22, 2015

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ACTS

(Luke's 2nd Volume)

- Theme:** The Birth and Expansion of the Church (The movement begins!)
- Author:** Luke, the beloved physician (Acts 1:1; Luke 1:1-4)
- Date of Writing:** c. A.D. 61 – 63 (see Acts 28:30-31)
- Purpose:** To provide an accurate, historical and theological record of the spread of Christianity in the first century from Jerusalem to Rome.
- Time Frame:** From Pentecost to Paul's arrival in Rome (about 30 years)
- Key Verse:** Acts 1:8
- Key Personalities:**
1. Peter (chs. 1 – 12)
 2. Paul (chs. 13 – 28)
- Outline:**
1. Preparation for Worldwide Witness (chapter 1)
 2. The Witness of the Church in Jerusalem (chapters 2 – 7)
 3. The Witness of the Church in Judea and Samaria (chapters 8 – 12)
 4. The Witness of the Church to the End of the Earth (chapters 13 – 28)



An Overview of the Book of Acts



“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in *Jerusalem*, and in all *Judea* and *Samaria*, and to *the end of the earth*.” (Acts 1:8)

	Acts 1 – 7	Acts 8 – 12	Acts 13 – 28
Spread of the Church	The church witnessing in Jerusalem	The church witnessing in all Judea and Samaria	The church witnessing to all the earth
The Gospel	Proclaimed in the city (across the street)	Proclaimed in the provinces (across the states)	Proclaimed in the world (across the seas)
Focus	Power and progress of the church	Expansion of the church	Paul’s three journeys and trials
People Addressed	Jews	Jews and Samaritans	Jews and Gentiles (Hellenists)
Key Person	Peter	Philip	Paul
Approximate Time	2 years (c. A.D. 33-35)	13 years (c. A.D. 35-48)	15 years (c. A.D. 48-63)
Development	Triumph	Transition	Travels and trials
Scope	Local Missions	World Missions	

The Conversion of a Spiritual Terrorist!

Acts 9:1-30

- I. No one is too bad to be saved by Jesus 9:1-9

- II. Jesus has a purpose and plan for everyone He saves 9:10-19

- III. As soon as we are saved we should proclaim Jesus 9:20-22

- IV. Proclaiming Jesus can be humiliating and dangerous 9:23-25

- V. Even gifted servants of Jesus sometimes need an advocate 9:26-30

When the Church Enjoys the Grace of God

Acts 9:31-42

- I. The Lord graces us with seasons of blessing 9:31
 - 1) He gives us rest.
 - 2) He builds us up.
 - 3) He grows our worship.
 - 4) He provides the comfort of His Spirit.
 - 5) He multiplies our numbers.

- II. The Lord graces us with extraordinary miracles leading to salvation 9:32-42
 - 1) The Lord Jesus may heal the body to bring people to Himself 9:32-35
 - 2) The Lord may even raise the dead to bring people to Himself 9:36-43

A Gospel For All The Nations

Acts 10:1-48

- I. Those who seek the Lord will be found by Him 10:1-8

- II. God will raise up missionaries to get the gospel to those who seek Him
10:9-23

- III. God seeks the salvation of all nations without partiality 10:23-35

- IV. The good news of the gospel is the only means whereby God saves anyone
10:36-43

- V. God gives the Holy Spirit to all who respond to the word of His gospel
10:44-48

A Missions Report That Glorifies God

Acts 11:1-18

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| I. | <u>Not everyone rejoices in the gospel of God going to the nations</u> | 11:1-3 |
| | 1) The word was received in conversion. | 11:1 |
| | 2) Spending time with sinners was criticized. | 11:2-3 |
| II. | <u>Take the time to explain the heart of God for all peoples</u> | 11:4-17 |
| | 1) Prayer 11:4-5 | 6) Providence 11:13 |
| | 2) Vision 11:5-10 | 7) Gospel 11:14 |
| | 3) Seekers 11:11 | 8) Conversion 11:15, 17 |
| | 4) Spirit 11:12 | 9) Promise 11:16 |
| | 5) Go 11:12 | 10) Holy Spirit 11:15-17 |
| III. | <u>Trust God to shut the mouths of critics and then open them to give Him glory</u> | 11:18 |
| | 1) God inspired silence. | |
| | 2) God glorifying confession. | |

Blessings of Persecution

Acts 11:19-30

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| I. | <u>Persecution scatters the church for evangelism and missions</u> | 11:19-21 |
| | 1) The gospel is for the Jews: don't stop! | 11:19 |
| | 2) The gospel is for the nations: keep going! | 11:20-21 |
| II. | <u>Persecution opens doors for discipleship and more evangelism</u> | 11:22-24 |
| | 1) Rejoice in the evidences of God's grace. | 11:22-23 |
| | 2) Rejoice in the gift of good men. | 11:24 |
| III. | <u>Persecution can provide opportunities for ministry and generosity</u> | 11:25-30 |
| | 1) Disciples are made by faithful teaching. | 11:25-26 |
| | 2) Disciples are determined to help those in need. | 11:27-30 |

The Sovereignty of God In Taking and Giving Life

Acts 12:1-25

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| I. | <u>God allows some faithful servants to be martyred</u> | 12:1-5 |
| | 1) Accept the sovereign will of God. | 12:1-4 |
| | 2) Keep on praying for God to act. | 12:5 |
| II. | <u>God delivers other faithful servants in answer to prayer</u> | 12:6-19 |
| | 1) God often uses His angels as instruments of grace. | 12:6-11 |
| | 2) God's answers to our prayer often surprise us. | 12:12-17 |
| | 3) God's kindnesses may provoke evil men to do more evil. | 12:18-19 |
| III. | <u>God takes the lives of prideful sinners who mock His glory</u> | 12:20-25 |
| | 1) The words of men puff up and destroy. | 12:20-23 |
| | 2) The word of God increases and multiplies. | 12:24-25 |

The First International Mission Trip: What Should We Learn?

Acts 13:1-14:28

- I. Phase 1: The Lord calls out those who are to go 13:1-3
- II. Phase 2: Preach the gospel and confront false teaching 13:4-12
- III. Phase 3: Expect desertion and opposition but keep on teaching the word
13:13-52
- IV. Phase 4: Speak boldly the gospel anticipating mixed results 14:1-7
- V. Phase 5: Do the works of the gospel knowing you may be misunderstood
14:8-19
- VI. Phase 6: Follow up the work of evangelism and missions to strengthen the churches 14:20-23
- VII. Phase 7: Return home to give a report and be revived 14:24-28

The First Great Church Council
Acts 15:1-35

- I. We must confront major theological errors 15:1-5
 - 1) Issues cannot be ignored that threaten the gospel 15:1
 - 2) Men of God will not run from defending the gospel 15:2-4
 - 3) Legalism is always a danger in perverting the gospel 15:5

- II. Spiritual leaders must lead in resolving theological differences 15:6-21
 - 1) Stay gospel-centered as you debate the issues 15:6-11
 - 2) Stay biblical as you debate the issues 15:12-21

- III. The whole Church led by the Spirit should make clear their theological convictions 15:22-35
 - 1) Entrust reliable men to spread the word 15:22
 - 2) Write down clearly what you believe 15:23-29
 - 3) Work to encourage the brothers 15:30-34
 - 4) Keep on teaching and proclaiming the word of the Lord 15:35

Advancing the Gospel Among the Nations

Acts 15:36-16:40

- I. Separating over personal differences can often lead to greater advancement of the gospel 15:36-41
- II. Compromise over non-essentials for advancement of the gospel is a wise and proper strategy 16:1-5
- III. Sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit is essential for the advancement of the gospel 16:6-10
- IV. Advancement of the gospel takes place as God opens hearts that listen to His Word 16:11-15
- V. There will be a price to pay in the advancement of the gospel 16:16-24
- VI. Rejoicing in the midst of suffering and unjust persecution can lead to the advancement of the gospel 16:25-34
- VII. Holding people accountable for wrong doing is not contrary to the advancement of the gospel 16:35-40

Do You Have an Open Mind To What The Bible Says?
Acts 17:1-15

- I. There is power to save if you will consider the evidence 17:1-4
 - 1) As you witness reason from the Scriptures 17:1-2
 - 2) As you witness explain the Scriptures 17:3
 - 3) As you witness give evidence from the Scriptures 17:3-4

- II. There will be opposition to the gospel if your heart is closed to the evidence
17:5-9
 - 1) Jealousy can close your heart to the gospel 17:5
 - 2) Misrepresenting the facts can close your heart to the gospel 17:6-9

- III. There is joy in the Scriptures if you are open to the evidence 17:10-15
 - 1) Those who honestly look at the Bible often come to faith 17:10-12
 - 2) Those who angrily reject the Bible often cause trouble 17:13-15

The Gospel: New and Strange Teaching for Lost Ears
Acts 17:16-34

- I. Gospel proclamation is motivated by a troubled Spirit 17:16
- II. Gospel proclamation focuses on Jesus and the resurrection 17:17-18
- III. Gospel proclamation sounds strange and new to unbelievers 17:19-21
- IV. Gospel proclamation recognizes humans are incurably religious
17:22-23
- V. Gospel proclamation involves theology that makes clear who God is and
who we are 17:24-29
- VI. Gospel proclamation explains God's redemptive plan 17:30-31
- VII. Gospel proclamation recognizes there will be different responses
17:32-34

The Gospel Can't Be Stopped

Acts 18:1-28

- I. Look for people who will work with you in gospel ministry 18:1-4
- II. Keep on proclaiming the gospel until you find receptive hearts 18:5-8
- III. Believe the promise of God that He has many people He will save 18:9-11
- IV. Trust God to work in ordinary ways to keep the work going 18:12-17
- V. Be obedient to the will of God and keep making disciples 18:18-23
- VI. Recognize gifted servants of Christ that you instruct and then turn loose
18:24-27
- VII. Never forget the Scriptures show that Jesus is the Messiah 18:28