

ACTS

(Luke's 2nd Volume)

Theme: The Birth and Expansion of the Church

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)



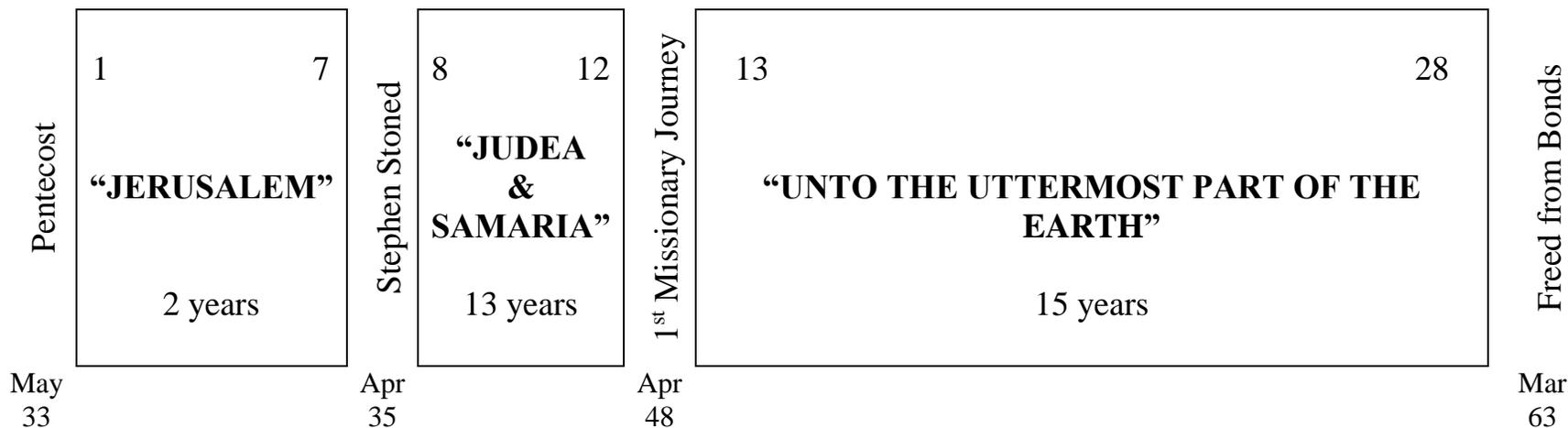
An Overview of the Book of Acts



“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

A Proposed Chronology of the Book of Acts



13:1	14:28	15:1	15:35	15:36	18:21	18:22	18:23	21:14	21:15	24:26	24:27	26:32	27:1	28:15	28:16	28:30
1st Missionary Journey		Furlough 1		2nd Missionary Journey		Furlough 2		3rd Missionary Journey		Caesarean Imprisonment (Festus) (Agrippa)		Travel to Rome		1st Roman Imprisonment		
Antioch Jerusalem Council Antioch				Jerusalem Antioch				Caesarea Jerusalem (Sanhedrin) Caesarea (Felix)								
48	49	50		52		53	57	57	59		60				63	

Keeping First Things First: Word-Driven Disciple Makers
Acts 19:1-10

- I. The gospel message is incomplete without the good news about Jesus.
19:1-4

- II. Our response to the gospel involves receiving the Holy Spirit and being baptized
19:5-7

- III. The gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed to all in spite of opposition
19:8-10

“A Demon Beatdown”
Acts 19:11-20

- I. Our God is in the miracle working business 19:11-12

- II. Our God makes clear who are His and who are not 19:13-16

- III. Our God delights in extolling the name of Jesus 19:17

- IV. Our God continually changes lives through the power of His word
19:18-20

Riot or Revival? The Gospel May Bring Both!
Acts 19:21-41

- I. People who love “money” more than God will not welcome the gospel
19:21-27

- II. People who buy into a “mob mentality” more than sound reasoning will not welcome the gospel
19:28-34

- III. People who worship “idols” more than the true God will not welcome the gospel
19:35-41

A Pattern for Ministry
Acts 20:1-16

- I. Be an encourager and exercise wisdom 20:1-6

- II. Preach the Word and demonstrate grace 20:7-12

- III. Make your plans and stay devoted 20:13-16

A Pastoral Manifesto: 10 Marks of the Man of God
Acts 20:17-38

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|-------|---|----------|
| I. | <u>Live an exemplary life</u> | 20:17-21 |
| II. | <u>Trust in the providence of God</u> | 20:22-23 |
| III. | <u>See your life in proper perspective</u> | 20:24 |
| IV. | <u>Complete the ministry God has given you</u> | 20:25-27 |
| V. | <u>Protect the people of God from the wolves</u> | 20:28-31 |
| VI. | <u>Trust the Word to do its work</u> | 20:32 |
| VII. | <u>Serve with proper motivation</u> | 20:33 |
| VIII. | <u>Be generous in giving and helping others</u> | 20:34-35 |
| IX. | <u>Pray with others</u> | 20:36 |
| X. | <u>Shed some tears in compassionate love for others</u> | 20:37-38 |

Suffering For The Advancement Of The Gospel:
The Cost of Discipleship

Acts 21:1-36

- I. Friends who love you may sometimes get in the way of your faithfulness to Christ 21:1-16
 - 1) Feelings of friends must be faced 21:1-6
 - 2) Fear of the future must be faced 21:7-16

- II. Brothers who appreciate you may challenge your devotion to Christ 21:17-26
 - 1) Don't be surprised when people misunderstand and misrepresent you even when you have been faithful to Christ and the gospel 21:17-22
 - 2) Be willing to be a servant to all as long as it does not compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ 21:23-26

- III. Enemies who hate you will seek your harm and even your death for staying true to Christ 21:27-36
 - 1) Stirred up the mob 21:27
 - 2) Laid hands on him 21:27
 - 3) Falsely accused him 21:28-29
 - 4) Seized him 21:30
 - 5) Dragged him away 21:30
 - 6) Sought to kill him 21:31
 - 7) Beat him 21:32
 - 8) Arrested him 21:33
 - 9) Bound him with chains 21:33
 - 10) Called for his death by authorities 21:34-36

Acts 22-26

Between his arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27-39) and his departure for Rome (Acts 27:1-2), the Apostle Paul delivered six separate speeches in defense of his faith in Jesus Christ. Below is a chart listing each defense.

SCRIPTURE	LOCATION	AUDIENCE	RESULT
Acts 22:1-30	Jerusalem	Jewish populace	Fear upon hearing of Paul's Roman citizenship (22:29). Released Paul to stand before the Jewish Council.
Acts 23:1-10	Jerusalem	Sanhedrin	Dissension in ranks between Pharisees and Sadducees. Threat of bodily harm. Paul protected. Plans to murder Paul established (23:12).
Acts 24:10-23	Caesarea (governor's residence) " <i>Herod's Praetorium</i> "	Felix Governor of Judea A.D. 52-60	Kindly disposed toward Paul. Delays decision. Allows limited freedom, visitors. Awaits another audience.
Acts 24:24-27	Caesarea	Felix and Drusilla Second appearance	Felix obviously shaken. Again, delays decision. Sends Paul back to prison. Periodic dialogues occur.
Acts 25:8-12	Caesarea " <i>the tribunal</i> "	Procius Festus Governor of Judea, A.D. 60-62	Paul found innocent of charges (25:25). Appeal to Caesar granted.
Acts 26:1-32	Caesarea " <i>the auditorium</i> "	Festus, Bernice, Agrippa II, large audience (Agrippa ruled parts of Palestine, A.D. 53-70).	Paul declared mentally incompetent by Festus – "You are out of your mind!" – but harmless. All agreed Paul was innocent. Appeal to Caesar approved, reluctantly.

The Value of a Personal Testimony

Acts 21:37-23:11

- I. Be bold and talk of Jesus anyplace and anytime 21:37-40
 - 1) Seek permission when necessary 21:37-38
 - 2) Be persistent if necessary 21:38-40
- II. Give appropriate portions of your life before you met Jesus 21:1-5
 - 1) Be sensitive to your context 22:1-2
 - 2) Be honest in your content 22:3-5
- III. Explain how it was that you came to Jesus 22:6-16
 - 1) You meet Jesus 22:6-8
 - 2) You call on Him as Lord 22:9
 - 3) You do what He commands 22:10-16
- IV. Share Jesus' work in your life since you called on Him in salvation 22:15, 17-21
 - 1) Be a witness 22:15
 - 2) Go where God tells you to go 22:17-21
- V. Take advantage of opportunities at hand so that you can keep on telling others about Christ Jesus 22:22-23:11
 - 1) Opportunities may be of a secular nature 22:22-29
 - 2) Opportunities may be of a spiritual nature 22:30-23:11

What Do You Do When Your Life Is On The Line?

Acts 23:12-24:27

- I. Trust that God is in control no matter what 23:12-35
 - 1) He foiled an assassination plot 23:12-22
 - 2) He used the authorities to protect Paul 23:23-30
 - 3) He enlisted the Roman army to move him 23:31-35
- II. Be a faithful witness even in difficult situation 24:1-27
 - 1) Enemies of the gospel will falsely and maliciously accuse us
24:1-9
 - 2) Heralds of the gospel will speak joyfully and hopefully to others
24:10-21
- III. Keep on doing patiently what God has called you to do 24:22-27
 - 1) Rejoice in God's little graces 24:22-23
 - 2) Explain the gospel at every opportunity 24:24-27

When The Man of Faith Testifies Before The Men of State

Acts 25-26

- I. Paul went before Festus and gave his defense 25:1-17
 - 1) God protected Paul from an ambush to kill him 25:1-5
 - 2) God gave him the opportunity to speak with courage 25:6-12
 - 3) God saw that Paul was treated fairly by major government officials 25:13-27

- II. Paul went before King Agrippa and shared the gospel 26:1-32
 - 1) Address unbelievers with respect 26:1-3
 - 2) Express what it was like when you were an unbeliever 26:4-11
 - 3) Proclaim Jesus as Lord 26:12-15
 - 4) Note that the gospel is for all peoples 26:16-18
 - 5) Stick to the gospel and our need to repent and believe 26:19-23
 - 6) Point out that the gospel is true, reasonable and prophetic 26:22, 24-27
 - 7) Express your hope that all would believe the gospel and trust Christ 26:28-29
 - 8) Realize not everyone who hears the gospel will believe the gospel 26:30-32

On To Rome: The Gospel Spreads and the Kingdom Advances
Acts 27-28

- I. The kingdom advances amidst difficulty 27:1-26

- II. The kingdom advances along with danger 27:27-44

- III. The kingdom advances with supernatural authentication 28:1-10

- IV. The kingdom advances with brotherly encouragement 28:11-16

- V. The kingdom advances with different responses 28:17-25

- VI. The kingdom advances as divinely ordained 28:25-29

- VII. The kingdom advances as we continue to proclaim the gospel boldly
28:30-31