

A study of the Book of Acts

The

REVOLUTION

that changed the world!

Acts: A New Chapter Begins

An Introduction to the book of Acts

Revolution Study Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Title</u>
Today	Sunday, 9/4	Acts 1	A New Chapter Begins - Introduction
Midweek	Wednesday 9/7 (Midweek Celebration)		Campaign description
Week 1	Sunday, 9/11	Acts 2	The Time has Arrived!
Week 2	Sunday 9/18	Acts 3-4	Love in Word and Deeds
Week 3	Sunday 9/25	Acts 5-6:7	Opposition Arrives
Week 3.5	Wednesday 10/4	Acts 6-7	The Defining Moment (Celebration Service)
Week 4	Sunday 10/9	Acts 8-9:32	The Revolution Advances
Week 5	Sunday 10/16	Acts 9:32-12	The Gentiles and Prelude to Conquest
Week 6	Sunday 10/23	Acts 13-15	Campaign One
Week 7	Sunday 10/30	Acts 16-18:22	Campaign Two
Week 8	Sunday 11/6	Acts 18:23-21:16	Campaign Three
Week 9	Sunday 11/13	Acts 21:17-28	The Final Step: From Jerusalem to Rome

The book of Acts:

Author: Luke the physician and sometime companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14), the only Gentile author in the Bible.

Recipients: Theophilus is unknown

Some good guesses might be:

- Roman official
 - Paul's Lawyer
 - Jewish priest
 - Also means “**Friend of God**” and is an honorary title.
- The implied readers are the Gentile Christians, whose place in God's story is ensured through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Who wrote largest percentage of the New Testament?

- A) Paul
- B) Luke
- C) John

Name and books written

Words(in Greek)

Percent of NT

Luke

37,933

27%

The Gospel of Luke and Acts

Paul

32,407

23%

Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians,
Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians,
Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians,
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

John

28,092

20%

Gospel of John, 1, 2 & 3 John
Revelation

Book of Acts took place between 30 AD (after the Resurrection of Jesus) and ended sometime around 60-62 AD

- **Jesus did not die in 33 AD and was not born in 0 AD -**
 - Herod the Great, who tried to kill him, died in 4 BC
 - Jesus was born in 5 or 6 BC
 - A.D. and B.C. (Before Christ) invented 900 years later.
 - A.D.: Latin phrase *anno domini*, which means “in the year of our Lord.” (obvious mistake was made!)
- **Began ministry age 33 (around 27 AD)** (based on chronology of Luke 2 and Luke 3:23 states Jesus was "about 30 years" of age)
- **Likely crucified in 30 AD** (Approximately 36 years old)
 - Year that passover falls on a Saturday - We know from Scripture that Jesus died on a Friday the day before the Passover.

Acts Timeline

AD 30	Pentecost Acts 2
32	Stephen martyred, Church Scattered. Acts 8:1-3
33 or 34	Conversion of Saul/Paul Acts 9:1-22
about 37	First Gentiles baptized. Acts 10-11:18
42 or 43	Barnabas, Paul in Antioch. Acts 11:22-24
45-47	Paul's first missionary journey Acts 13-14
48	Council in Jerusalem. Acts
48-52	Paul's 2nd missionary Journey Acts 16-18:22
52-57	Paul's 3rd missionary journey Acts 18:23-21:16
57	Paul arrested in Jerusalem
57-59	Paul a prisoner in Caesarea
60-62	Paul a prisoner in Rome Book of Acts ends.
62	Paul probably freed. Went to Spain?
65 (?)	Martyrdom in Rome

The Book of Acts was probably written around 62 AD

A Few Reasons why we think this:

- No mention of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (Luke 21:20). The fall of Jerusalem in A.D 70 is hugely significant, and Acts leaves you with the impression that the temple is still standing.
- No mention of the horrendous persecution of Nero in A.D. 64.
- No mention of the death of the apostle Paul (dated from anywhere between 62 AD to 68)

The Book of Acts was probably written around 62 AD

- Only 32 years after Jesus died
- Within the lifetime of many eyewitnesses of all that was written in Acts.

Acts 1:1-26

Major Themes of the Book of Acts

1. The Holy Spirit
2. The Kingdom of God
3. Growth and development of the church
4. The fulfillment of the Old Testament Prophecies

1. The Holy Spirit

- Acts of the Apostles - a better name would be:

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

1. The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:1-2 ...I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Acts 1:4-5

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:16

...and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.

2. The Kingdom of God

- Was a crucial point of the message of Jesus
- It was going to come soon (at Pentecost)
- Much more than just the church!
 - (Church = Kingdom = very limited view of the Kingdom of God)

Acts 1:3

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:6

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

3. The Growth and Development of the Church

- Acts is not just a series of nice, unconnected stories but a record of a movement which, in the end, completely, absolutely, totally, forever, changed the world.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

4. Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy

- To show continuity between the Old and New Testaments
- Everything that was happening was foreseen in the Old Testament

Acts 1:20

“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms (69:25 & 109:8):

“May his place be deserted;

let there be no one to dwell in it,’

and,

“May another take his place of leadership.’”

Acts 1:1-2

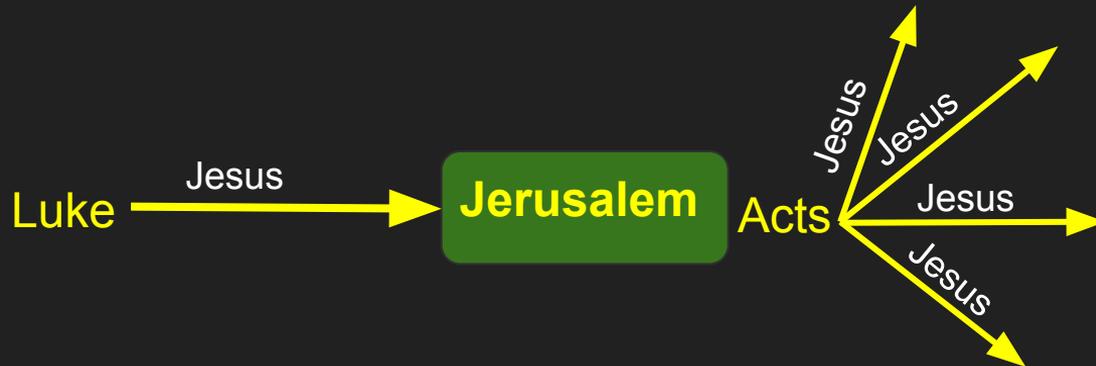
Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about **all that Jesus began to do and to teach** ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.



Acts: A continuation of the story of Jesus??

- **Book of Luke:** Jesus goes to Jerusalem.
- **Book of Acts:** Jesus goes out from Jerusalem (through his apostles / Holy Spirit)



Acts: A continuation of the story of Jesus??

Jesus is still a major character in Acts and continues to work throughout the book.

- **He works miracles:** Acts 3:6,10,30, Acts 9:34, Acts 13:11, Acts 14:3.
- **He is seen at God's right hand** Acts 7:55-56.
- **He appears to Saul** Acts 9:4-5.
- **He speaks to Ananias** Acts 9:10-16.
- **He tells Peter to go to Cornelius' house** Acts 10:13-15.
- **He comforts Paul and Silas in prison** Acts 18:9-10.
- **He sends Paul to preach to the Gentiles** Acts 22:17-21.
- **He tells Paul he must go to Rome in chains** Acts 23:11

Quote by Mitchell Moore:

“There is no plan B, we are the plan!”

Acts 1:7-11

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Matthew 24:30-31

³⁰ “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Acts 1:7-11

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**What do you need to do before Jesus
returns?**