

The Book Of Acts Outline

A. ACTS: Its GREAT Value and Church Treasure

1. Acts is the only historical sequel to the four Gospels. No other narrative in the NT continues the accounts given by the four [Gospel writers].
2. Acts forms a background and setting for most of Paul's writings.
3. Acts records the "growth pains" of the NT church: its beginning, opposition, source of power, spread, organization, persecution, theological problems, Scriptural foundation, gospel zeal and future hope.
4. It marks the difficult transition fr. [Moses & Judaism to Christ & His church.]

B. ACTS: Its Leading *Subjects* and *Transitional* Nature

1. Leading *Subjects*:
 - a. JESUS CHRIST
 - b. Holy SPIRIT
 - c. Peter and Paul
2. *Transitional* Nature
 - a. From the Old Covenant (*for over 1400 years!*) to the New Covenant
 - b. From *Faith* centered in the OT Law to *Faith* centered in Christ Jesus
 - c. From Worship centered in Jerusalem to Worship centered in local churches spread worldwide (even in individual believers!)
 - d. From the Spirit's subtle OT ministry to the Spirit's visible, prominent, indwelling NT ministry
 - e. From Heirs of Kingdom mostly Jewish to Heirs of the Kingdom mostly Gentile! (i.e., So who, then, are the REAL people of God?)

C. ACTS: Its Author and Purpose and Title

1. Dr. Luke: a physican (Col. 4:14), author, historian, *Gentile* Christian, who during Paul's 2nd missionary journey at Troas became his ministry companion (ref. the "we" pronouns beginning in Acts 16:10).
2. Primary Purpose: (There also are several other secondary purposes):

"By far the most popular view of the purpose of Acts is the one which states that it is a historical one. According to this approach Luke's goal was to record the spread of the gospel message from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and to the ends of the earth (1:8). Barclay asserts, 'Luke's great aim was to show the expansion of Christianity, to show how that religion which began in a little corner of Palestine had in a little more than 30 years reached Rome.' This explains the transition from a Jewish ministry to a Gentile

one, and from Peter to Paul. It is quite clear that Luke was writing history in both books” [i.e., in Luke and Acts]. (BKC. Vol.2, p.350)

Luke skillfully pens a historical account; but, it is a rich theological one.

3. *Full Title: “The Acts of the Apostles.”* However, besides Peter and Paul, only two other apostles are referred to by name, and these only briefly: John and his brother James. Note below the informative chart demonstrating Luke’s balanced emphasis on both leading apostles, Peter and Paul:

Miracles by Peter and Paul (BKC. Vol.2, p.349)

PETER:

Acts 3:1-11	Healed a man <u>lame</u> from birth
5:15-16	Peter’s <u>shadow</u> healed people
5:17	Success caused Jewish jealousy
8:9-24	Dealt with Simon, a <u>sorcerer</u>
9:36-41	<u>Raised</u> Dorcas to life

PAUL:

Acts 14:8-18	Healed a man <u>lame</u> from birth
19:11-12	<u>Handkerchiefs</u> and apron healed people
13:45	Success caused Jewish jealousy
13:6-11	Dealt with Bar-Jesus, a <u>sorcerer</u>
20:9:12	<u>Raised</u> Eutychus to life

(BKC. Vol.2. p.349)

D. ACTS: An Outline of the Book (2 KEYS: Theme verse, **1:8**; 7 Progress Reports)

Part One: The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1–8:4)

- I. The Power of the Church (1:1–2:27)
- II. The Progress of the Church (3:1–8:4)

Part Two: The Witness in Judea and Samaria (8:5–12:25)

- I. The Preaching of Philip (8:5–40)
- II. The Conversion of Saul (9:1–31)
- III. The Witness of Peter (9:32–11:18)
- IV. The Example of the Early Church (11:19–12:25)

Part Three: The Gospel to the End of the Earth (13:1–28:31)

- I. Paul’s First Missionary Journey (13:1–14:28)
- II. The Jerusalem Council (15:1–35)
- III. Paul’s Second Missionary Journey (15:36–18:22)
- IV. Paul’s Third Missionary Journey (18:23–21:16)
- V. The Trip to Rome (21:17–28:31) (David Padfield; www.padfield.com)