

PLACE OF ACTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Virgil Warren, PhD

Basic proposition: Place leads to purpose.

I. Traces the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome

Note Acts 1:8 pattern:

Jerusalem

Judaea

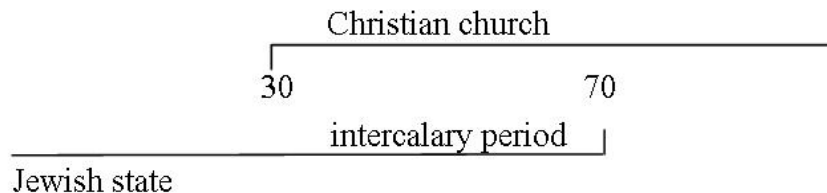
Samaria

Ends of the earth (Rome)

(HISTORICAL)

Provides a framework for Paul's epistles

II. Covers the intercalary period between the beginning of the church and the end of Israel (middle third of the first century)



Covers to within three years of the time when the Roman armies began (in 66) working their way up from the coast to Jerusalem

(APOLOGETIC)

Note the gist of Gamaliel's speech (Acts 5). The purpose of this period was to show that Jesus Messiah was not leading just another fly-by-night Messianic movement.

III. Carries out the work of the Spirit in the initial spread of the church

(THEOLOGICAL)

Note the number of incidents in which the Holy Spirit plays a prominent part.

IV. Connects the ministry of Jesus (gospels) with the meaning of Jesus (epistles)

V. Provides a historical framework for conceivably all the other New Testament writings if we should espouse the idea that all the New Testament books were written before the destruction of Jerusalem (John A. T. Robertson).

