

CHARACTERISTICS AND PECULIARITIES OF ACTS

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1. Along with Luke, Acts has short paragraphs that summarize periods of time the author does not handle in detail: **1:12-14; 2:43-47; 4:32-35; 6:7; 8:1-3, 25, 40; 12:24-25; 15:33-35, 41; 19:21-22; 28:30-31**. They serve as links between the high points the author has highlighted.
2. On some occasions the author introduces a brief note about someone that will play a major role later in the account: Saul at the stoning of Stephen (**7:58; 8:1**), Barnabas as among those who sold land to support for the needy (**4:36-37**), John Mark as the one whose mother owned the upper room where the disciples awaited Peter's fate (**12:12**).
3. In the mouth of Jesus, Luke states what could become the geographical outline of Acts (**1:8**): Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, the ends of the earth.
4. The only New Testament document to refer to Christianity as “The Way”: **9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22**; cp. **18:25, 26** (note John **14:6**; also Romans **5:2**; Ephesians **2:18**; Hebrews **10:20**)*
5. The only writing besides 1 Peter **4:16** to refer to followers of Jesus as “Christians” (**11:26; 26:28**)*. Note also the “*of Christ*” expression in 1 Corinthians **1:12; 3:23**.
6. Contains the only dominical saying outside the gospels (**20:35**; note also 1 Corinthians **11:24, 25-26**)
7. Has all eleven usages of the expression “together” (όμοιθύμαδον) except one (Romans **15:6**): **1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12; 7:57; 8:6; 12:20; 15:25; 18:12; 19:29.***
8. Except for Matthew **12:41**, Luke-Acts has the double-noun “*men* _____”: Luke **7:37** (sinner woman?); **11:32; 17:12; 24:19**; Acts **1:16; 2:22, 29, 37; 3:12, 14; 5:35; 7:2; 8:27; 11:20; 13:6, 15, 16, 26, 38; 15:7, 13; 16:9; 17:22; 21:28; 22:1; 23:1, 6; 28:17***
9. Luke-Acts is the only two-volume work in the New Testament.
10. Provides the only historical framework for tracing the activities in the first thirty-five years of the church. It supplies the historical framework for at least a majority of Paul's epistles.
11. The only New Testament writing perhaps addressed to a government official (Theophilus; **1:1**).
12. Except for Ephesians **5:18**, Luke-Acts alone uses the filling imagery for the Spirit.
13. Frequently (79 times) uses “*Jews*” especially in chapters **9-28**, dedicated more to non-Judaean territories. Only 2 appear in chapters **1-8: 2:5, 10**). John's gospel has 68.