



Walking Thru The Bible ACTS

Introduction

AUTHOR: *Acts* is indeed a continuation of Luke's Gospel. We could well refer to the Gospel as Volume One and Acts as Volume Two. In Acts 1:1 "**the former treatise**" addressed to Theophilus (Luke 1:3) is a reference back to Luke's Gospel.

Internal evidence, particularly the "**we**" passages of Acts (16:10-17; 20:5-21; 18; 27:1-28:16) confirm Luke as the author. Luke by profession was a physician. He is the only Gentile author in the New Testament. He was an eyewitness to many of the events in the book and was Paul's co-worker.

BACKGROUND: The book of Acts begins where the gospel left off at the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven. It takes up the story there and shows the establishment of the Kingdom (the church) and its growth. It is often called "**the book of conversions**" because it shows how people in the first century became Christians.

Various titles given the book include:

"The Acts of the Apostles"

"The Acts of the Holy Spirit"

"The Ecclesia Established, Evangelizes and Expands"

"The Message and Method of New Testament Evangelism"

"The Great Commission In Action"

"How To Get Into Christ"

Luke's Gospel = Christ

Luke's Acts = How to get into Christ

The Epistles = How to stay in Christ

"A Book of Beginnings"

"Book of Conversions"

"Acts of Apostles" (Some Acts of Some of the Apostles)

CHARACTER: The book is historical and written in narrative form. The history of the Bible is HIS STORY and the pivot point of the Bible around which all things revolve is the Cross.

Cross



Creation

Consummation

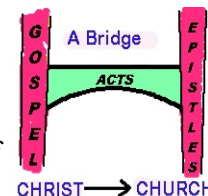
One "over-all" outline of the Bible is:

The Old Testament says "Someone is coming."

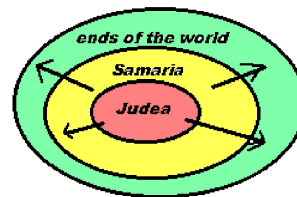
The Gospels say "Someone has come."

The Epistles say "Someone is coming again."

The Book of Acts is a very important book in the New Testament. From the book we glean much background material for the epistles. We see the important theme of early preaching (the resurrection), fulfillment of prophecy and a number of miracles.



DESIGN: The book shows the progress of Christianity from Jerusalem to all Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The commission of the risen Lord had already been reported by Luke (Luke 24:46-49) and here is the description or how it was accomplished.



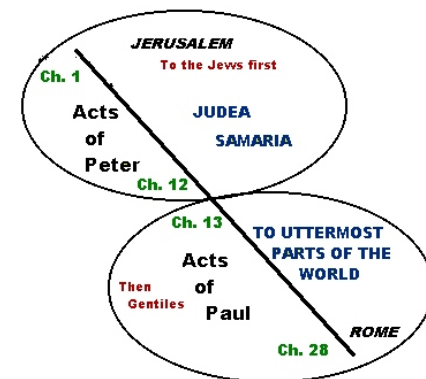
The **key verse** of the book is Acts 1:8. This verse is actually like Luke's Table of Contents, or outline for the book.

The book was probably composed in about AD 61/62. It begins with the history of AD 29/30, the year of our Lord's death, and ends following two years of Paul's imprisonment at Rome about AD 62.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS:

I. Spread of the Gospel in Palestine with **Peter** as leader.
Ch. 1-12

II. Spread of the Gospel Outside Palestine with **Paul** as leader. Ch. 13-28



PART I (Ch 1-12)	PART II (Ch 13-28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem - the center • Peter - main character • Gospel - to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria • Peter Imprisoned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antioch - the center • Paul - main character • Gospel - to "utmost" parts of the world, Rome • Paul Imprisoned

ACTS
35 Years of Church History

Key Verse: Acts 1:8
Key Word: "Witness"

Author: Luke
Date written: A.D. 62

DATE:	PLACE	PERIOD	Chapter
29	Jerusalem	Birth of the church	1 Jesus taken back up into heaven
		Growth thru	2 Pentecost - Holy Spirit
		Testing	3 Gate Beautiful - lame man healed
		"	4 Peter & John arrested
		"	5 The lie told
			6 Widows neglected
			7 Stephen
33	Judea	Great	8 Philip's preaching
	and	Persecution	9 Saul's conversion
	Samaria	Gospel to the Gentiles	10 Cornelius' conversion
			11 Peter reports
			12 Herod
45	1st	Paul & Barnabas	13 Cyprus & Antioch
	Journey		14 Lystra & Derbe
	Jerusalem		15 Jerusalem council
	2nd	Paul & Silas	16 Philippi
	Journey		17 Athens
			18 Corinth
	3rd	Paul & Silas	19 Ephesus
	Journey		20 A farewell address
	Jerusalem		21 Paul arrested in Jerusalem
	"		22 Stairway sermon
			23 Plot on Paul's life
	Caesarea		24 Felix
	"		25 Festus
	"		26 King Agrippa
62	On way to Rome		27 Shipwreck
	ROME		28 Rome

The Conversion of Lydia

Acts 16:11-15

Introduction

1. Every woman introduced in the Scriptures to any extent is in some way remarkable-- either for her virtues or her vices.
2. As Paul was the first recorded gospel preacher on European soil, so Lydia was the first recorded convert there.
3. Verse 13 tell us of the meeting at the place of prayer. Notice:

I. Lydia Prior To Conversion

1. An industrious woman. v.14
 - a. Busy people are often good hearers and doers of the word.
2. A religious woman.
 - a. Found at "the place of prayer" on the Sabbath.
 - b. She closed her shop for worship.

II. Lydia In Conversion

1. She heard the word. v.14
 - a. Hearing precedes conversion. Rom. 10:17
2. The Lord opened her heart.
 - a. This marvelous work was done by the influence of God's messenger and the word being explained. (See Luke 24:45).
3. She gave heed--put into practice the things spoken by Paul.
 - a. She and her household were baptized.
 - b. Of whom did her household consist? Baptism is for those who have been taught (Matt. 28:19) and who have become believers (Mark 16:16).

III. Lydia In Christ

1. We get but a glimpse of Lydia the Christian, but how splendid!
2. She was grateful -- v. 15b
3. She was faithful to the Lord--judged so by Paul. Probably the first church in Philippi met in her home - v.40.

LESSONS

1. Without God's word there can be no conversion. v.14
2. People are both passive and active in the process of conversion.
3. Great blessings for those who attend prayer-meetings!
4. Woman: first in the transgression, often first in obedience.