

1. INTRODUCTION TO ACTS

- 1) **About the book:** This is the only history book we have in the New Testament.
 - 1) Often called the Acts of The Apostles. It focuses on Peter and Paul more than any others. It documents the spread of the Gospel and the church through their efforts.
 - 2) It bridges the gap between the Gospel accounts and the epistles and provides background context for many of the epistles.
 - 3) It shows the fulfillment of everything Jesus taught concerning the coming kingdom.
 - 4) It shows how the Apostles fulfilled the great commission from **Matthew 28:19**
- 2) **Author:** Luke the physician and companion of Paul.
- 3) **Date:** Generally considered to be dated around 63 AD.
 - 1) Evidence for this date:
 - (1) The abrupt way Acts ends suggests that it was written before Paul's trial.
 - (2) There is no mention of Nero's persecution of 64 AD.
 - (3) There is no mention of the Jewish war or the destruction of Jerusalem of 70 AD.
 - (4) James the Lord's brother is thought to have been murdered in Jerusalem in 62 AD. Luke makes no mention of this.
 - 2) No matter when it is written, Acts covers about 30 years of history.
- 4) **Theme:** The history of the early church. The establishment, and spread of the church. The preaching of the Gospel message to Jew and Gentile.
 - 1) **Acts 1:8** is a good summary of the book. but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.
 - 2) **Acts 2** is considered by many to be the “hub of the Bible”
- 5) **Recipient:** Theophilus – Friend of God, or loved of God
 - 1) From Theos = God, and Philos = A friend, or dearly beloved one.
 - 2) Some suggest Theophilus was a Christian, some suggest he was a Roman official, or a person of high social status. Others suggest he was a Greek, since the name implies a Greek person, and the Gospel of Luke seems to have been targeted to Greeks.
 - 3) Some suggest Theophilus is not a name at all, but a description of the person to whom he is writing.
 - 4) Luke addresses the same person in his Gospel.
 - (1) In **Luke 1:3**, he addresses, “most excellent Theophilus...”
 - (2) In **Acts 1:1**, he simply says, “The first account I composed, Theophilus...”
- 6) **Relationship of Acts and The Gospel According to Luke:**
 - 1) Clearly these are two volumes of a single comprehensive work.
 - 2) Luke ties them together in **Acts 1:1**.
 - 3) It is possible these were originally one writing and were split up later when the Gospels began to be circulated as a group.

2. LUKE’S GREETING AND OPENING REMARKS: Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1–26

1) List four things from Acts 1 that support the idea that Acts was written by the same person who wrote Luke, and is a continuation of that book (Refer to Acts 1; Luke 1; Luke 24).

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

2) **Luke 1:1-4** is the real introduction of both Luke and Acts. Give six points about Luke’s REASONS, BACKGROUND, METHODS, and PURPOSE for writing these books.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

3) Using **Acts 1:3-8; John 20:19-29; 1 John 1:1-2; Luke 24:13-31, 39**, give five characteristics of the resurrection appearances of Jesus

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

4) Using **Acts 1:8** as a guide, make a simple three-point outline of the book of Acts. List the approximate chapters for each point:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

3. THE ASCENSION: Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:50-51; Mark 16:19

- 1) What are the differences between the three ascension accounts listed?

- 2) List two passages in the Psalms that prophetically anticipate the ascension of Jesus
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

4. THE UPPER ROOM AND EVENTS PRIOR TO PENTECOST: Acts 12-26

- 1) What were the names of the Apostles in the upper room?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
 - 6) _____
 - 7) _____
 - 8) _____
 - 9) _____
 - 10) _____
 - 11) _____

- 2) Besides the Apostles, who else was there?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

- 3) Were the events of **Acts 1:13-14** and **Acts 1:15-26** happening at the same place and/or time? What might indicate that they did or didn't?

Introduction – Acts 1

- 4) Compare the accounts of Judas in Matthew 27:3-10 and Acts 1:16-19
 - 1) What are the similarities?

 - 2) What are the differences?

 - 3) How can we reconcile these two accounts?

- 5) Why does Peter say it is necessary to replace Judas?

- 6) What two Psalms does Peter quote in Acts 1:20
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

- 7) What promise did Jesus make to the disciples in Luke 22:28-30? What does this have to do with replacing Judas?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

- 8) What were the qualifications required to replace Judas as an Apostle?

- 9) Who were the two men put forward?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

- 10) Which man was chosen, and who made the choice (give the verse)?

