

Introduction to the Book of Acts

Subject

- How the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to the world - Acts 1:8
- Actions of the Apostles after the Ascension of Christ
- History of the Early Church

Author - Luke

- Wrote the books of Luke and Acts
- Was a physician by trade (Colossians 4:14) and uses medical terminology (Acts 28:8-9 and Luke 8:43-44 as examples)
- Probably from Antioch
- Travelled with Paul (II Timothy 4:11, Philemon 24, Colossians 4:14)
- Died in Boeotia region of Greece at age 84. John Foxe says he was hanged by pagan priests

The Book as History

- Luke carefully researched his subjects - Luke 1:1-4
- He was an eyewitness to some events - "we" in 16:11 and following
- Sir William Ramsey - "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...[he] should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

Details of the Book

- Was written around 63 A.D. and covers about 30 years of history
- Companion volume to the book of Luke
- Despite being a book of "Acts", almost 20% of it is speeches/sermons

Outline of the Book based on Acts 1:8

- To Jerusalem - chapters 1-7
- To Judaea and Samaria - chapters 8-12
- To the Uttermost Parts - chapters 13-28

Key Events and Chapters

- Pentecost - Chapter 2
- Ananias and Sapphira - Chapter 5
- First Deacons - Chapter 6
- Stoning of Stephen - Chapter 7
- Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch - Chapter 8
- Paul's Conversion - Chapter 9
- Peter and Cornelius - Chapter 10
- Paul's First Missionary Journey - Chapters 13-14
- Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Chapters 15-18
- Paul's Third Missionary Journey - Chapters 18-21
- Paul's Journey to Rome - Chapters 27-28

Chapter 1

“Prelude to Pentecost”

Summary

- Covers events between the Resurrection and Pentecost
- Takes place in Jerusalem, A.D. 30

Outline

- I. From the Resurrection to the Ascension - vs. 1-14
 - A. Continuing the narrative of the Gospel of Luke - vs. 1-2
 - B. The proofs of the Resurrection - vs. 3
 - C. Christ tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit - vs. 4-5
 - D. Disciples ask if the Millennial Kingdom was at hand - vs. 6
 - E. It was not their concern - vs. 7
 - F. The Power and the Mission - vs. 8
 - G. The Ascension - vs. 9-12
 - H. The Church in its infancy - vs. 13-14
- II. The Choice of Matthias to Replace Judas
 - A. Peter addresses the 120 gathered disciples - vs. 15
 1. The prophecies about Judas - Psalm 41:9 - vs. 16-17
 2. The fate of Judas - vs. 18-19
 3. More prophecies concerning Judas - Psalm 69:25 & 109:8 - vs. 20
 - B. The requirements placed on Judas' replacements - vs. 21-22
 - C. The two potential replacements - vs. 23
 - D. The prayer for guidance - vs. 24-25
 - E. The lots fall on Matthias - vs. 26

Timeline preceding Pentecost

Event	Reference	Date
Last Supper	Luke 22:7-39	Tuesday Night Nisan 14th
Crucifixion	Luke 23:33-47	Wednesday Nisan 14th
Passover <i>Pesach</i>	Luke 23:54-55	Thursday Nisan 15th (April 19, 2019)
Resurrection	Luke 24:1-12	Sunday Nisan 18th
Ascension	Luke 24:50-51 Acts 1:9-11	40 Days After Resurrection (June 2, 2019 ?)
Pentecost <i>Shavuot</i>	Acts 2:1	50 Days From Passover 1 Week After Ascension (June 9, 2019)

