

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment with a dark red background. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central area with the word "Acts" written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The parchment has a slightly textured appearance with some faint, darker spots. The scroll is rolled up at the top and bottom edges, with the top edge showing a small portion of the next page.

Acts

Introduction

- Author—Luke
- Reader(s)—Theophilus (a representative of Gentile Christians)
- Date: c. AD 62–2-4 years after Luke
- Volume 2 of Luke/Acts

Historical/Theological Themes

- Outworking of God's Sovereign Plan
- Apostolic Preaching
- Rejection of Christ by Israel (2:22ff, 7:54-8:1a; 13:46; 22:22; 28:24-27)
- Acceptance of Jesus by Gentiles (e.g. 13:48)
- Establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ
- Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Controversy regarding Gentile salvation
- Anticipation of God's Future Work in Israel

Purpose/Structure

- Purpose: The Apostolic Witness (i.e. the Word) spread in accordance with the plan of God from Jerusalem to Rome and was proclaimed to both Jews and Gentiles.
- Geographical Structure: (Acts 1:8)
 - Jerusalem and Judea 1 – 7
 - Samaria 8 – 12
 - Ends of the Earth 12 – 28
- Biographical Structure—
 - Peter (1-12)
 - Paul (13-28)

	Echo Structure of Acts	
1:12	Return to/from Jerusalem	12:25
1:13-26	Assembled Prayer	13:1-3
2:1-4	Manifestation of HS	13:1-12
2:14-40	Apostolic Preaching	13:16-40
3:1-10	Lame Man Healed	14:8-13
3:12-26	Speech, "Men . . . why?"	14:15-17
4:1-5:42	Persecution of Apostles	14:19-28
6:1-7	Church dissension	15:1-16:5
10:1-11:18	Mission to Gentiles	16:6-21:26
10:9-16	~~Vision	16:6-10
10:22	~~"come"	16:9
10:22, 24	~~Gentile Company	16:31-34
11:1-18	~~Jerusalem Defense	21:17-26
12:3-5	Imprisonment	21:31-28:28
12:24	Success of the Word	28:30-31

Peter and Paul Comparisons	Peter	Paul
Filled with Holy Spirit	4:8	13:9
Message to "Men of Israel"	2:22-36	13:16-37
Healing of Lame Man	3:1-10	14:8-10
Raising of a Dead Person	9:36-43	20:9-12
Magician Confronted	8:9-24	13:6-12
Shadow/Handkerchief Healings	5:15	19:12
Prison Chains Loosed	12:7	16:26
Trance While Praying	10:10	22:17
Vision Leading to Preaching	10:17-35	16:9-10
Addressed by Angel	12:7-8	27:23-24
Three Evangelistic Messages	2, 3, 10	13, 14, 17

Interpretive Issues

- The command to “be baptized” in 2:38
 - Baptism necessary for forgiveness?
 - Baptism on the basis of forgiveness?
 - Baptism is a parenthesis; only repentance is necessary?
- James’ use of Amos 9:11-12 in 15:13-18
 - Complete present fulfillment of Amos
 - Present Gentile Salvation like Future Gentile Salvation

Ways to Misuse Acts

- Exact pattern for church today
- Primary theological basis for understanding ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Pattern for continued use of miraculous gifts
- Forget the uniqueness of the reception of the Holy Spirit
 - Five unique instances: Apostles, Samaritans, Paul, Gentiles, Disciples of John the Baptist
- Mistaking “filling of the Spirit” in Acts for “filling of the Spirit” in Ephesians 5:18.

Unique Events NOT a Pattern for the Church

- Taught in person by resurrected Christ
- Speaking in foreign languages miraculously (tongues)
- Tongues of wind and fire
- Christians selling all possessions
- Liars struck dead
- Apostles with authority to strike dead with a word
- Physically transported by the Spirit (chpt 8)
- Unsaved men being told in a vision which evangelist to send for
- Unusual way HS introduced to four groups and Paul
- Need for apostles to teach us

Lessons from Acts

- The Spirit moves as the *Spirit* wills
- God is vitally interested in the mission of the Church
- All-out sacrificial nature of the early church
- All or nothing attitude of the early church
- Singular focus on spread of the gospel and discipling of believers