

## Acts Introduction

*“Go speak to the people the words of this life.”*  
Acts 5:20

### the gospel in action (51x)

1:8 *“You will be My witnesses”*

2:43-47 in awe, wonders, adding to their number

4:4 many who heard the message believed

4:41 rejoicing worthy to suffer

4:42 kept right on preaching Jesus

5:12 they were all of one accord

5:14 multitudes added

6:1, 7 disciples increased in number

6:10 Stephen irrefutable

8:6 multitudes listened to Philip

8:25 preaching in Samaria

8:29 *“go to his chariot”*

8:36 *“can I be baptized?”*

8:40 Philip in Caesarea

9:28 Paul spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord

9:31 the church continued to increase

11:21, 24 a large number turned to the Lord

11:26 taught considerable numbers

12:24 the word of the Lord continued to be multiplied

13:12 the governor believes

13:16-44 Paul’s first sermon

13:48 many Gentiles believe

13:52 continually filled with joy and the Holy Spirit

14:3 speaking boldly, the Lord confirming w/ signs  
14:21, 23 Paul made many disciples, established elders  
14:27 God opened door of faith to Gentiles  
15:3 the conversion of the Gentiles  
ch 11, 15 the church struggles with Gentiles being included  
15:31 the Gentiles rejoice  
16:5-6 Galatian churches increasing in number daily  
16:15 Lydia and her whole household believe  
16:25 prisoners in Philippi listening  
16:25 Philippian jailer believes  
17:4 Thessalonica persuaded  
17:10-12 Bereans believe  
17:34 some in Athens believe  
18:8 leader of Corinthian synogogue believes  
18:10-11 Paul preaches 1½ years in Corinth  
18:19 Paul reasoned with the Jews in Ephesus  
18:28 Apollos powerfully refutes the Jews  
19:11 extraordinary miracles at hand of Paul  
19:23 no small disturbance  
20:37 the elders weep over Paul  
21:12-13 Ceasarean church leaders weep also  
21:17 Jerusalem brothers receive Paul gladly  
21:19-26 Jewish leaders relate rumor Paul was dissing Judiasm  
23:11 you're going to Rome to witness  
26:28 *"in a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian"*  
28:23 solemnly testified morning and evening  
28:23-24 some were persuaded  
28:31 teaching Jesus with all openness

## writer

- ✓ author of Luke's gospel
  - 1:1 "*former treatise*" KJV
  - "*first book*" ESV
  - 1:1, Lk 1:3 "*Theophilus*"
  - "lover of God"
- ✓ Col 4:14 physician
- ✓ Gentile (Lucian)
- ✓ Col 4:14; Philem 24; II Tim 4:11 devoted companion of Paul

## Theophilus

- ✓ recipient of both books (two-volume theory)
- ✓ prob a Roman aristocrat, not a Jew, not a govt man (lacked knowl)
  - Lk 1:3 "*most excellent*"
  - Acts 23:26 "*most excellent governor Felix*"
  - Acts 26:25 "*most noble Festus*"
  - Lk 22:1 "*unleavened bread, i.e. the Passover*"
  - Lk 23:51 "*Arimathea, a city of the Jews*"
  - Acts 4:36; 9:36 Jewish, Aramic words interpreted

## subject and r/ship to book Luke

- ✓ record of church growing and preaching the gospel
- ✓ Acts spans period of about 30 years
  - 30-year bridge b/w gospels and epistles
  - Lk 24:51/Acts 1:9 segue b/w gospels and Acts
  - Acts 1:1-2a book of Luke Jesus acts "*until resurr*"
  - Acts 1:3a book of Acts "*after His suffering*"

## r/ship to gospels

Matthew refers to Resurrection, Mark to Ascension, Luke to promise of Spirit, and John to the Second Coming, and all four gospels contain the great commission, and all are included in the introduction to Acts (1:1-11)

## scope

- ✓ 1:8 gives outline
    - ch 1-7 Jerusalem
    - ch 8-12 Judea and Samaria
    - ch 13-28 ends of the earth
- Swindoll, McGee, Sproul, Guzik, Steven Cole  
from Jerusalem to Rome
- 1) culturally
  - 2) spiritually

## message to Gentiles

- ✓ apologetic, Romans recog Christians civil, peaceful
- ✓ Paul rightly an apostle, accepted by apostles
- ✓ inclusion of Gentiles

## Paul's name

- ✓ Jews living in Greek culture had two differ names
  - ✓ ch 9 it was not changed from Saul at his conversion
    - vss 4, 11 Jesus addressed him as Saul 2x
    - vs 17 Ananias addressed him as Saul
    - vs 22 Luke continued to call him Saul
- Acts 13:2 the Holy Spirit several years later still called him Saul  
Acts 13:9, 13 "*Paul*" after Peter's vision, council, leading Gentile

## Paul's mission

### Judiasm

Gen 12:1-3 Abraham commanded to split from paganism  
part of Abrahamic covenant  
Gen 12:3; 22:18 world will be blessed because of you  
Gen 14:13 afterward, Abraham called a "*Hebrew*"  
Josh 24:3, 14 crossing the river  
modern Jews: Abraham separated himself from idolatry  
Gen 15:1-6 Abraham believed, God reckoned as righteousness  
Isa 42:6; 49:6; Isa 60:3; 2:32 Jews "*appointed*" to model r/ship  
Rom 9:4-5 Jews were peoples singled out by God

### Gentiles

Gen 17:1-11 circumcision = sign of Abrahamic covenant  
all who lived before Abraham were covenantally Gentile  
incl Adam, Abel, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Shem  
Heb 11 says Abel, Enoch and Noah were saved  
Hos 2:23 "*to those not My people*"  
Rom 9:6-8 interpr by Paul "*not just children of the flesh*"  
Rom 9:24-25 Paul quotes Hos 2:23 "*Gentiles also*"  
Acts 9:15 Paul's converts sake of both Jew and Gentile says God  
Acts 22:21 Paul's recounting = God emphasized Gentiles  
Gal 3:6-8 Paul quotes Gen 12:3, Gentiles figured from start  
Gen 12:3; 22:18 world blessed because of you  
Rom 11:13 "*I am an apostle to the Gentiles*"  
Gal 2:9 this endorsed by the Jerusalem church leaders  
Acts 13:46-47 commanded by God to be  
Acts 13:16, 26 Paul's first sermon to both Jew and Gentile  
Acts 13:32, 39 Paul preached works versus grace  
Acts 13:46 Jews repudiate, Paul says Gentiles will listen  
Acts 19:8-10 happened again in Corinth  
Acts 28:26-28 happened again in Rome  
Acts 17:16 Paul's sermon to Gentiles (Greeks) in Athens  
Acts 26:28 Paul's sermon to Gentiles (Romans) in Jerusalem  
Rom, Cor, Gal, Eph, Philipp, Col, Thess = Gentile churches

## special notes

- ✓ resurrection in every gospel sermon
- ✓ Jesus 180x
- ✓ God 160x
- ✓ Holy Spirit 70x
- ✓ witness(es) 30+x
- ✓ Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16 Luke becomes close to Paul
- ✓ 6:4 elders devoted to prayer and preaching
- ✓ Acts historical
  - 1) locations
  - 2) names
    - Peter, Paul, Phillip, Stephen, Apollos, Lydia, Cornelius
  - 3) Ch 1-12 Peter's ministry
  - 4) Ch 13-28 Paul's ministry
  - 5) beginning of persecution
    - 3:1-26 sermons precipitated persecution
  - 6) first mention of elders and deacons
  - 7) first Christian martyr
  - 8) 11:26 "Christians"
- ✓ Acts transitional  
(not as a dispensational person would call transitional)
  - 1) Jesus physically on earth, then Jesus working from heaven
  - 2) 1:6 apostles think politically; 28:23 preaching day and night
  - 3) demonstrative filling with Holy Spirit
  - 4) Paul goes from hater to apostle
  - 5) Acts 10:15 apostles' underst of Jews-only, to all people
    - 10:9-11:18 Peter's vision and its meaning
    - middle of Acts 13 Saul's name changed to Paul
  - 5) many miracles used to confirm the gospel
  - 6) instant judgment
  - 7) 8:39 Philip disappears and reappears
  - 8) 28:3 Paul bitten by snake on Malta
  - 9) Rom 15:19 preach by signs
- ✓ Acts evangelical
  - 1) 25% of book = sermons
  - 2) 50+ times book references gospel experiences
  - 3) the Holy Spirit's work conspicuous
  - 4) awe, joy, worthy, filled, "*what must I do*"

## At a glance

Jerusalem Ch 1-7	Judea and Samaria Ch 8-12	Ends of the Earth Ch 13-28
City	Region	The World
Peter, Apostle to the Jews		Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:3-8 Jesus' 40-day post-resurrection ministry</li> <li>• 1:12-14 Waiting for the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• 2:1-13 Coming of the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• Ch 2 Peter's first sermon</li> <li>• Ch 3 Peter's second sermon</li> <li>• Ch 4 1<sup>st</sup> persecution</li> <li>• Ch 5 2<sup>nd</sup> persecution</li> <li>• Ch 6 Appointment of deacons</li> <li>• Ch 7 Stephen's sermon, martyrdom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 8 Philip's ministry, conversion of Ethiopian eunuch</li> <li>• Ch 9 Conversion of Paul</li> <li>• Ch 10 Conversion of Cornelius</li> <li>• Ch 11 Peter's vision</li> <li>• Ch 12 James's martyrdom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 13-14 Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> trip</li> <li>• Ch 15 Jerusalem council</li> <li>• Ch 15-18 Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> trip</li> <li>• Ch 18-20 Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> trip</li> <li>• Ch 21 Paul arrested in Jerusalem</li> <li>• Ch 22-26 Paul tried in Jerusalem</li> <li>• Ch 27-28 Paul tried in Rome</li> <li>• Ch 28 Paul incarcerated</li> </ul>