

Through the Bible Course

**March 28, 1948**

**Acts**

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Key Thought: Growth of Church

Key Verse: 2:47

Time: This book covers approximately 31 years – 30 AD to 61 AD. This was time from the ascension of Christ until Paul was a prisoner in Rome.

Author: Luke (refer to notes on gospel of Luke)

Object:

1. The gospels show what Christ began to do in the way of teaching and works. The Acts show the continuation of this teaching and work from heaven instead of earth; through the church instead of personally.
2. Divinely inspired church history showing the origin, guidance and spread of the Christian church through the instrumentality of men, chiefly Peter and Paul.
3. It shows the true method and nature of successful preaching; the secret of power in all Christian service, and the divine procedure in the establishing of Christian churches.

Introduction – Chapter 1

1. The address and purpose of the book (1:1-3)
  2. The ascension and parting instructions of our Lord (1:4-11)
  3. The first Christian assembly and community (2:41-47)
- I. The Birthday of the Church (Chapter 2:1-47)
1. The waiting company of believers baptized with the Holy Ghost (2:1-13)
  2. Peter's sermon (2:14-40)
  3. The first Christian assembly and community (2:41-47)
    - a. Spirit-filled apostles accepted as spiritual guides
    - b. Divine ordinances cheerfully accepted – baptism and communion
    - c. Victorious joy, praise, etc.
    - d. Community of goods
- II. The Growth and Extension of the Church Among the Jews in Palestine – The Acts of Peter (Chapters 3 through 12)
1. The Jewish-Christian Church in Jerusalem (3:1 – 7:60)
    - a. The Church in conflict with external opposition (3:1 – 4:31)
    - b. The Church in internal conflict (4:32 – 5:11)
    - c. The divine endorsement of the apostles as authoritative teachers (5:12-42)
      1. By giving them supernatural power (5:12-16)

- 2. By miraculously delivering the apostles from the hands of their enemies (5:17-42)
  - d. The Church organizing (6:1-7)
  - e. The Church sealing its testimony in blood (6:8 – 7:60)
- 2. The Church extending its borders into Judea and Samaria (2:1 – 11:18)
  - a. The scattering of the Church throughout Judea and Samaria (8:1-4)
  - b. The diffusion of the Gospel in Samaria by the preaching of Philip, Peter and John (8:5-39)
  - c. The Church's greatest enemy, Saul of Tarsus, captured and converted (9:1-31)
  - d. The activities of Peter at Lydda, Joppa, Caesarea (9:31 – 11:18)
  - e. New Gentile headquarters for the Church – Antioch (11:19-30)
  - f. The scattering of the Church at Jerusalem (12:1-23)

III. The Growth and Extension of the Church among the Gentiles – “To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth” (13:1 – 28:31) – The Acts of Paul

- 1. The missionaries chosen and sent apart by the Holy Ghost and the Church (13:1-3; cf 12:24, 25).
- 2. The first missionary journey of Paul (13:5 – 14:28)
- 3. The great convention at Jerusalem (15:1-33)
- 4. The second missionary journey – to Asia and Europe (15:36 – 18:22)
- 5. The third missionary journey (18:23 – 21:17)
- 6. The captivities of Paul (21:27 – 21:17)
  - a. In Jerusalem (21:27 – 28:31)
  - b. In Caesarea (24:1 – 26:32)
  - c. En route to and in Rome (27:1 – 28:31)

\*Outline from Dr. Wm. Evans

The prophets dreamed and recorded their dreams that the Hebrew nation would come to be a blessing to all nations. In the book of Acts this wonderful work of the seed of Abraham begins and the household of God passes from a nation to an international fellowship.