

Discover the New Testament – Acts 1

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 | lifeatvictory.com/discoverthent

Author: Luke

Luke was a physician.

Colossians 4:14 - Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

- The book of Acts ends with Paul's imprisonment in Rome around 61 A.D. and tells of his two-year stay, so the probable date for the writing of the book is 63 A.D.
- This date seems reasonable as Acts makes no reference to the open persecution of Christians that erupted under Nero in 64 A.D., to the martyrdom of Paul in the late sixties, or to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
- This is Luke's follow-up book to Theophilus, as his first letter was The Gospel of Luke.

Acts 1:1 - In my former book (Gospel of Luke), Theophilus, I wrote about all that ***Jesus began to do and to teach***.

- The Gospel of Luke explains the works of Jesus, and the book of Acts explains the works of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit through the church.
- It is called The Acts of the Apostles, but more accurately should be called The Acts of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

While many of the epistles contain historical information, the book of Acts is the primary historical record of the birth and early days of the church.

It is a record of the first 30 years of the church.

Summary:

- Introduction: (1:1 – 2:4)
 - The Introduction – 1:1-5
 - The Ascension of Christ – 1:6-11
 - The Preparation for the Witness – 1:12-2:4
- The Witness in Jerusalem (2:5 – 8:3)
 - At Pentecost – 2:5-47
 - Of Peter and John – 3:1 – 4:31
 - Of the Apostles – 4:32 – 5:42
 - Of Stephen – 6:1 – 8:3
- The Witness in Judea and Samaria (8:4 – 12:25)
 - Of Philip – 8:4-40
 - Of Saul (Paul) – 9:1-31
 - Of Peter – 9:32 – 11:18
- The Witness to the Uttermost Part of the Earth (13:1 – 28:31)
 - The First Missionary Journey – 13:1 – 14:28
 - The Jerusalem Council – 15:1-35
 - The Second Missionary Journey – 15:36 – 18:22
 - The Third Missionary Journey – 18:23 – 21:16
 - The Journey to Rome – 21:17 – 28:31

Theme:

Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and ***you shall be witnesses to Me*** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Evangelism in the Book of Acts:

Acts 2:38-42 - **38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." **40** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." **41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about ***three thousand souls were added to them.***

Acts 4:1-4 – **1** Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3** And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. **4** However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about ***five thousand.***

Acts 5:12-14 – **12** And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. **13** Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. **14** And ***believers were increasingly added to the Lord,*** multitudes of both men and women,

Acts 6:1-7 – **1** Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. **2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." **5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, **6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. **7** Then the word of God spread, and ***the number of the disciples multiplied*** greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 8:1-8 – **1** Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **2** And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. **3** As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. **4** Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. **5** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. **6** And the ***multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip,*** hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. **7** For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **8** And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:26-40 – **26** Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. **27** So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28** was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." **30** So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the

prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**" 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Acts 9:31 - Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **they were multiplied.**

Acts 11:19-24 – 19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and **a great number believed and turned to the Lord.** 22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And **a great many people were added to the Lord.**

Acts 13:44-49 – 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'" 48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. **And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.** 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region

Acts 14:1 - Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that **a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed.**

Acts 16:25-34 – 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately **he**

and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, **having believed in God** with all his household.

Acts 17:1-4 – 1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded; **and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.**

Acts 17:10-13 – 10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore **many of them believed**, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Acts 17:22-34 – 22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, **as also some of your own poets have said**, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, **some men joined him and believed**, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Acts 18:1-4 – 1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and **persuaded both Jews and Greeks.**

Acts 18:7-8 – 7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed on the Lord with all his household.** And **many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.**

Acts 19:1-7 – 1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him,

"We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." **3** And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." **5** ***When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*** **6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. **7** Now the men were about twelve in all.

Acts 19:11-20 – **11** Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. **13** Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." **14** Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. **15** And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" **16** Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. **17** This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. **18** ***And many who had believed*** came confessing and telling their deeds. **19** Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. **20** So ***the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.***

Acts 26:28-29 – **28** Then Agrippa said to Paul, "***You almost persuade me to become a Christian.***" **29** And Paul said, "I would to God that ***not only you***, but also ***all*** who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

Acts 28:30-31 – **30** Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, **31** preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.