

Welcome Church
Family & Friends

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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An Introduction to the “Acts of the Apostles”

What is the name of the book?

Who is the Author?

- It is widely agreed that the Physician Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles.
 - Acts 1:1 – 5
 - Luke 1:1 – 4
- His name is thought to be a shortened version of Loukanos.
- He may be the brother of Titus.
 - 2 Corinthians 8:16 – 19
 - 2 Corinthians 12:18
- He may have a gentile convert.
- He was a traveling companion of the Apostle Paul.
- He was also a physician.
 - Colossians 4:14
 - Some fifty words common to the Gospel of Luke and the books of Acts are found nowhere else in the N.T.
 - Luke 18:25

When was it written?

**62 A.D. to
70 A.D.**

Who was it written to?

Theophilus

Who was Theophilus?

- Theophilus translates as “friend of God” in the Greek.
- Two possibilities:
 - An actual individual
 - A symbolic representation of Christians

What is the purpose
of the writing?

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:44 – 49 (ESV)

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:1 – 5 (ESV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

A brief
outline of
the book of
Acts:

- The Commission of the Apostles (Acts 1)
- The Establishment of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2)
- The Growth and Expansion of the church (Acts 3 – 6)
- The Beginning of Persecution against the church (Acts 7)
- The Expansion of the church outside of Jerusalem into all Judea and Samaria (Acts 8 – 9)
- The First Gentile Conversion (Acts 10 – 12)
- Paul's Missionary Journeys (Acts 13 – 20)
- Paul's arrest (Acts 21)
- Paul's imprisonment (Acts 22 – 26)
- Paul sent to Rome (Acts 27)
- Paul in Rome (Acts 28)

In our next study, we will be
examining chapter 1.