

# Acts

## Outline<sup>1</sup>

- I. God, through the HS, authenticates, empowers, and directs the apostles' witness in Jerusalem, 1:1–6:7
  - A. God gives birth to a new spiritual entity, the Church.<sup>2</sup> 1:1–2:47
    1. Jesus provided convincing evidence of His resurrection and taught the disciples about the Kingdom of God. 1:1–3
    2. Jesus then commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. 1:1–5
    3. The Lord prophecies the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit, ascends to heaven, and the disciples return to Jerusalem to wait. 1:5–26
      - a. The Lord informs them of His replacement and ascends to the right hand of God the Father. 1:6–11
      - b. The apostles gather and choose a replacement for Judas. 1:12–26
    4. The Lord gives birth to the Church by sending the Holy Spirit and gives confirming evidences. 2:1–47
      - a. The Lord sends the Holy Spirit with confirming evidences. 2:1–13
      - b. The Lord enlarges the Church through Peter's sermon. 2:14–47
  - B. The Lord expands the Church in Jerusalem. 3:1–6:47
    1. God shows that His Kingdom is greater than the opposition: Peter heals a lame man. 3:1–3:26
    2. God uses the opposition to teach the early Church dependence upon Him; the only name for salvation. 4:1–22
    3. God honors their faithful dependence 4:23–31

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<sup>1</sup> As much as possible I have endeavored to make God the subject of the major headings to demonstrate that He is the narrative hero, not human beings.

<sup>2</sup> "Church" with an uppercase 'C' will designate the Universal Church, the Body of Christ, which began on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 33 and will close at the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess 4:17)

4. God teaches community and unity to the early Church. 4:32–5:11
  5. God authenticates His work through the apostles. 5:12–42
  6. God teaches the church to minister to itself. 6:1–7
- II. God expands the witness of the Church into Judea and Samaria. 6:8–9:31
- A. God allows persecution to drive the Church out of Jerusalem. 6:8–8:3
1. Stephen is arrested. 6:8–7:1
  2. Stephen's defense and martyrdom. 7:2–7:53
  3. God HS pushes the church out of Jerusalem: rejection of God's work brings persecution on the Church. 7:54–8:3
- B. God sends Philip out to the Samaritans and demonstrates their unity with the work in Jerusalem by a similar outpouring of the HS by the hands of Peter and John. 8:4–40
1. God pours out the HS upon the Samaritans, demonstrating that they partook of the same outpouring as the Jews on Pentecost. 8:4–25
  2. God the HS directes Philip to witness to the Ethiopian eunuch. 8:26–40
- C. God saves Saul which prepares the way for the Gentiles. 9:1–31
1. The conversion of Saul. 9:1–19a
  2. The conflicts surrounding Saul's return to Jerusalem. 9:19–30
  3. Saul's departure to Tarsus results in restoring calm to Jerusalem. 9:31
- III. God expands the church to the end of the earth. 9:32–28:31
- A. God expands the Church to Antioch. 9:32–12:24
1. God prepares Peter for including the Gentiles. 9:32–10:48
    - a. God shows Peter that He is still with him through two miracles: the healing of Aeneas and the resuscitation of Dorcas/Tabitha. (Peter's ministry begins to be less prominent in the flow of the narrative from 8:25 on.) 9:32–43
    - b. God prepares Cornelius and gives verifiable evidence for the inclusion of the Gentiles in the body of Christ. Acts 10:1–48
  2. God prepares the apostles to take the gospel to the Gentiles. 11:1–17

3. God prepares the church at Antioch for a universal gospel. 11:18–11:30
  4. God brings persecution to the church at Jerusalem. 12:1–12:24
- B. God expands the Church into Asia Minor. 12:25–19:20
1. God raises up Paul and Barnabas for the task of taking the gospel to the Gentile world. 12:25–13:3
  2. God HS sends Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey. 13:4–14:28
    - a. God HS directs Paul and Barnabas first to Cyprus. 13:4–12
    - b. God the HS directs them to Pamphylia and Pisidia: Perga, Antioch, 13:13–  
Paul’s first sermon, Antioch, 13:16–27  
  
The Gentiles respond with joy to the message of salvation. 13:48  
  
The disciples are joyful in spite of persuction from Jewish antagonism.  
13:49–52
    - c. God bears witness to His Word through them in Iconium. 14:1–7
    - d. God bears witness through them in Lystra. 14:8–18
    - e. God protects them in Derbe. 14:19–20
    - f. God leads them back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch and then they return to Antioch. 14:21–28  
  
[Galatians is written]
  3. God HS works through the apostles at the Jerusalem Council to resolve the Gentile inclusion issues 15:1–35
  4. God HS sends Paul on his second missionary trip 15:36–18:22
    - a. Paul and Barnabas separate; Paul takes Silas to Syria and Cilicia. 15:36–41.
    - a. God leads Paul into Macedonia. 16:6–10
    - b. God establishes churches in Macedonia: Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea. 16:6–17:15
    - c. God establishes churches in Achaia; Athens, Corinth. 17:16–18:18

Paul's Sermon at the Areopagus. 17:22–34

Paul at Corinth. 18:1–

d. Paul returns to Antioch via Cenchrea, Ephesus, and Jerusalem. 18:19–22

C. God expands the Church to Rome: Paul's Third Missionary Journey. 18:23–28:31

1. Paul leaves Antioch to follow up with the churches in Galatia and Phrygia. 18:23

2. God establishes the Gospel in Ephesus: Apollos, the disciples of John the Baptist, the school of Tyrannus. 19:1–19:20

1. Paul completes the Third Missionary Journey. 19:21–21:14

2. God preserves and protects Paul in Jerusalem. 21:15–23:30

a. Paul's arrival in Jerusalem and welcome by the brethren. 21:15–25

a. Paul's arrest in Jerusalem 21:26–40

b. Paul's defense before the Jews 22:1–29

c. Paul's defense before the Sanhedrin 22:30–23:10

d. God's sovereign protection of Paul 23:11–30

3. God protects Paul at Caesarea. 23:30–23:10

a. Paul's defense before Felix 24:1–27

b. Paul's defense before Festus 25:1–12

c. Paul's defense before Agrippa 25:13–26:32

4. God brings Paul to Rome. 27:1–28:31.

a. Paul's voyage to Rome 27:1–44

b. Paul's survival on Malta 28:1–16

c. Paul's arrival in Rome 28:17–31

**Chronology of Acts**

<b>Events</b>	<b>Acts</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Ascension	1:9–11	A.D. 33
Pentecost	2:1–41	A.D. 33
Early church	2:42–67	A.D. 33
First persecution	4:1–31	A.D. 34
Second persecution	5:17–42	A.D. 34–35
Third persecution; Stephen's martyrdom	6:8–8:4	A.D. 35, April
Philip's ministry in Samaria and to the Ethiopian	8:5–40	A.D. 36
Paul's conversion	9:1–21	A.D. 35, summer
Paul in Damascus, Jerusalem, Tarsus	9:22–30	A.D. 35 summer–autumn, 37
Peter at Caesarea	10:1–11:18	A.D. 40–41
Founding of Gentile church at Antioch	11:19–24	A.D. 41
Paul in Antioch	11:25–26	A.D. 43, Spring
Agabus predicts a famine	Acts 11:27–28	A.D. 44, Spring
Martyrdom of James; Peter imprisoned	12:1–19	A.D. 44, Spring
Relief visit, Paul's second visit to Jerusalem	Acts 11:30 Gal 2:1–10	A.D. 47, Autumn
Paul in Antioch	12:25–13:1	A.D. 47, Autumn– A.D. 48, Spring
<b>First missionary journey</b>	13:1–14:28	April 48–Sept 49

Peter at Antioch	Gal 2:11–16	A.D. 49, Autumn
<b>GALATIANS</b> , written from Antioch		A.D. 49, Autumn
Jerusalem council	15:1–29	A.D. 49, Autumn
<b>Second missionary journey</b>	15:36–18:22	April, 51– Sept, 52
<b>1, 2 THESSALONIANS</b> written		Early–Late Summer, 53
<b>Third missionary journey</b>	18:23–21:19	Spring, 53– May, 57
<b>1 CORINTHIANS</b> written		Early Spring, 56
<b>2 CORINTHIANS</b> written		Sept, OCT 56
<b>ROMANS</b> written		Winter, 56–57
Paul travels from Troas to Jerusalem		Apr 19–25, 57– May 25–27, 57
Paul arrested in Jerusalem, Day of Pentecost	21:13–23:22	May, 27, 57
Paul a prisoner at Caesarea	23:23–26:32	June, 57–Aug, 59
Paul’s journey and arrival in Rome First Imprisonment	27:1–28:31	Aug, 59– Mar, 62
<b>EPHESIANS</b> written		Autumn, 60
<b>COLOSSIANS, PHILEMON</b> written		Autumn, 61
<b>PHILIPPIANS</b> written		Early Spring, 62
Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey	Titus 1:5	A.D. 62–66
<b>1 TIMOTHY</b> written		Autumn, 62
<b>TITUS</b> written		Summer 66
<b>2 TIMOTHY</b> written		Autumn, 67

Second Roman Imprisonment	Autumn, 67
Trial and Execution	Spring, 68

### **Biographical Organization**

Chapters 1–8	Peter
Chapters 7	Stephen
Chap 8	Phillip
Chap 9	Paul
Chap 10–11:18	Peter
Chap 11:19–30	Paul
Chap 12	Peter
Chap 13–14	Paul
Chap 15	Peter
Chap 16–28	Paul

### **Key People**

Peter

Paul

Stephen

Phillip

Simon the magician, called Simon Magus who tried to by the baptism of the HS

James the Less, James the brother of Christ, James the brother of John

Felix

Festus

Herod Agrippa