

Acts

Date: Acts covers events that take place from AD 33- AD 62. It was written sometime around AD 62 or AD 63 because it doesn't cover major events like the death of Paul and the destruction of Jerusalem and others which occur in the mid 60's to AD 70.

Author: Acts was written by Luke, who also wrote the gospel named after him. It is meant to be read together with Luke and if done so, shows a seamless story from the death of Christ to the birth of His church.

Classification: Considered a book of History; it is the only book that details the early church and is the only detailed record of the apostles actions after the death of Christ.

Purpose: To show the birth of the Church. Acts is the historical link between the Gospels and the Epistles.

Major Themes:

The Growth of the Church
The Shift from Jews to Gentiles
The Spread of the Gospel Around the World
The Persecution of the Church

Major Characters:

Stephen	Philip	Cornelius	Barnabas
John Mark	Silas	Peter	Priscilla
Agrippa	Paul/Saul		

Basic Outline:

Jerusalem 1:1-8:4
Judea and Samaria 8:5-12:25
The Uttermost Parts of the World 13-28

Things to Note about Acts:

- There are 24 speeches or sermons in Acts
- Luke records 80 geographical locations and over 100 people by name. It is a rich story of detailed accounts that give proof of the power of the resurrected Christ.

- Archeological evidence has proved many of the details recorded in the book of Acts.
- Acts shows the persecution of the church which, while a tragedy, propelled the story of the Gospel far beyond the Jews and far into the known world. It proved the catalyst to the spread of the gospel in a rapid way that without the scattering of the Jews from Jerusalem would have taken much longer.