

September 1, 2013

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Today: Acts 1** – Ministry ownership change – *it is our turn in church history!*

“The Book of Acts is basically the record of three aspects of the Holy Spirit’s work:

- ✓ Empowered Gospel preaching
- ✓ Thousands of conversions, and
- ✓ The consistent establishment of local churches.”

-- Mack M. Tomlinson (*author of the Ravenhill Biography*)

## FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Title Means: DEEDS; WORKS; LABOR – of the Apostles

Chapters: **28**    Verses: **1,007**    Words: **24,250**                      Prov 30:5-6; Ps 12:6-7; Deut 17:14-20

Author: **Luke**                      Notes: See Acts 1:1 and Luke 1:1-4. Luke is a physician...he is a detail man! This makes him best suited to write the Acts of the Apostles.

Historical Time Span:    Approximately 65 AD to 70 AD

Theme:                      The setting aside of Israel (temporarily), the revealing and establishment of the church, and the gospel of the grace of God.

## THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1. Historical                      Luke writes to Theophilus (Acts 1:1) about Israel’s final rejection of the kingdom of heaven and records the movement of the **HOLY GHOST** through the church to a primarily Gentile world. It is a **TRANSITIONAL** book (from Jews to Gentiles, from Jerusalem to Antioch, from Peter to Paul, etc.)
2. Doctrinal                      The events of Acts will be repeated again during the **TRIBULATION** period by the 144,000 Jewish virgin witnesses. Just like the apostle Paul in Acts, so will the 144,000 witnesses be.
3. Devotional                      Jesus leaves and replaces Himself with His Spirit. The church takes place with the Word of God. We must not fail to do our part to finish all that Jesus began both to **DO** and **TEACH**.

**NOTE:**                      The book of Acts is the **foundation** for church history. Read it often, make yourself a copy, study it, and teach it until the Rapture. Most false religions take something from the book of Acts and make it doctrine not knowing that it is a **transitional** book!

## OUTLINE STRUCTURE – by chapter

Chapters 1-7    The Kingdom of heaven is offered again and refused by Israel’s leaders.

Chapters 8-28    The Kingdom of God is preached and spread throughout the world.

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**Key** from *How to Study the Bible*: Always ***be willing to change*** what you believe or have been taught when it goes contrary to what the Bible clearly says.

*Scripture focus for Today:* **Acts 1:1-14**

## PRINCIPLES

1. Jesus showed Himself ***alive*** after His passion by **MANY infallible proofs.** 1:1-3
  - ✓ Luke recorded ***all*** that Jesus did and taught as God had revealed it to him...
  - ✓ Jesus was visibly and physically seen of the disciples for ***forty*** days...
  - ✓ Jesus was speaking to them about the kingdom of God...
2. Jesus said they would be **WITNESSES** of Him through the ***power*** of the ***Holy Spirit***. 1:4-8
  - ✓ Jesus said they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit and to wait for Him...
  - ✓ The disciples were interested in the earthly, physical kingdom...
  - ✓ Jesus said they were to “be witnesses” unto Him from home to the uttermost...
3. Jesus **LEFT**. 1:9
  - ✓ The Bible says He was taken up and that a cloud received Him out of their sight...
4. The disciples were told that Jesus was ***coming*** **BACK** ***again*** in the clouds. 1:10-14
  - ✓ The disciples were ***gazing*** into heaven from the Mount of Olives...
  - ✓ The angels said that He was going ***to come back again*** from that very place...
  - ✓ The disciples ***assembled together*** as they were commanded by Jesus...
  - ✓ All of the disciples present ***continued*** with one accord in ***prayer***...
  - ✓ The disciples understood that it was now ***their job*** to advance the work of Christ...

## PRACTICES

1. We must ***believe*** that Jesus Christ came out of that tomb defeating sin and death.
  - ✓ Have you repented of your sins and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
  - ✓ Have you forgotten what your Savior has done for you?
2. We must be ***faithful witnesses*** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ✓ Have you been a faithful witness?
  - ✓ Are you so entangled in the affairs of this life that the world cannot see the Savior?
3. We must do ***our part*** in church history – it is indeed our turn!!
  - ✓ Are you equipped to take part in the great commission from our great God and Savior?
  - ✓ Do you need to be disciplined so that you can fear God and obey His words in all matters?
  - ✓ Our church will help to prepare you to accomplish God’s great work for His glory!!