

“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; **ACTIONS** – 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...a detail man!

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 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 during the **TRIBULATION** period by the 144,000 Jewish virgin witnesses. Just like the apostle Paul in Acts, so will the 144,000 be.
3. Devotional Jesus leaves and replaces Himself with His Spirit. He reveals His church who takes ownership of His work 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.

## Overall Outline for this Bible study:

- Acts 1-4** The transition of Gospel Ministry Ownership – to the Apostles and Saved Jews
- Acts 5-7** Go, stand, and speak – and die if needed
- Acts 8-12** The transition of Gospel Ministry Ownership – to Paul and the Gentile Church
- Acts 13-16** Go, stand, and speak – and take your message to the streets
- Acts 17-20** Go, stand, and speak – and plant churches that will make disciples
- Acts 21-24** Go, stand, and speak – and let your light shine before men
- Acts 25-28** Go, stand, and speak – and sow the Gospel until Jesus comes for us

**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.

**Acts 1-4**    *The transition of Gospel Ministry Ownership to the Apostles and Saved Jews.***NOTES****Acts 1**        **Ministry Ownership Change** – *it is our turn in Church History – think bigger!*

1. Jesus showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs. (1:1-3)
2. Jesus said they would be witnesses of Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. (1:4-8)
3. Jesus left. (1:9)
4. The disciples were told that Jesus was coming back again in the clouds. (1:10-14)
5. There were only about 120 disciples assembled at this time in church history. (1:15)
6. Peter's authority for preaching was the holy Scriptures. (1:15-20)
7. A ministry owner was needed to be a witness of Christ's resurrection. (1:21-26)

**Acts 2**        **Holy Spirit Power** – *God gave a supernatural gift to speak known languages!*

1. The Holy Ghost arrived as promised on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost. (2:1-4)
2. The saved Jewish disciples began to preach God's truth with other known tongues or languages. (2:5-13)
3. Peter stood up (with the eleven) and preached Jesus Christ crucified to the lost Jews. (2:14-36)
4. The guilty Jews, realizing their crimes against a holy God, asked for the remedy. (2:37-47)

**Acts 3**        **Intentional Evangelism** – *the message is the key, not the miracle!*

1. Peter and John went up together to intentionally witness to people they did not know. (3:1)
2. An opportunity was clearly presented for them to be a witness for Jesus Christ. (3:2-10)
3. Peter immediately turned the focus from the miracle to the message of Jesus Christ crucified. (3:11-16)
4. Peter commanded them to repent because the Day of Judgment was coming. (3:17-26)

**Acts 4**        **The Enemy's Pattern** – *opposition brings prayer and power through the Holy Spirit!*

1. As Peter and John spoke, the religious leaders were gathered against them. (4:1-6)
2. An opportunity was presented for them to be a witness for Jesus Christ. (4:7-14)
3. The religious people knew the truth and chose to deny Jesus Christ and God. (4:15-22)
4. Peter and John's testimony to the church led to greater ministry ownership. (4:23-37)

**Personal Applications**

1. What did God speak to you about tonight?
2. What does God want you to do differently beginning tomorrow morning?
3. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry of God's church?
4. Are you ready to advance the Gospel for the glory of our great God?