

Journey Through the Bible

Week 3 – Acts

- I. Authorship
 - a. Written By Luke
 - i. Doctor (Col 4:14)
 - 1. Educated
 - 2. More refined Greek
 - ii. Traveling companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11)
 - 1. Present when Colossian and Philemon were written
 - iii. Gentile believer – only non-Jewish author in New Testament
 - iv. Continuation of Luke (Acts 1:1)
- II. Date Written: Written between AD 60 and AD 64
 - a. James, Jesus' brother, is still alive (AD 62 – according to Josephus)
 - b. No mention of Nero's persecution in AD 64
 - c. No mention of Jewish War in AD 66
 - d. Never mentions the conclusion of Paul's trial or death (AD 68)
 - e. Doesn't refer to the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70
- III. Audience – Gentile Audience
 - a. Theophilus
 - i. Greek person of rank – referred to as “most excellent” (23:26, 24:3; 26:25)
 - ii. Possibly written as a defense for Paul
 - iii. Possibly written as a defense of Christianity
- IV. Intent/Emphasis –
 - a. To show the foundation and formation of the church
 - i. Victories and struggles
 - ii. Unity and Christian movement
 - iii. Doctrine of the Apostles
 - iv. Partnership of God with people – 110 individuals mentioned

- b. The impact and spread of the Gospel throughout the world (Acts 1:8)
 - i. Geographically
 - 1. Jerusalem -> Judea -> Samaria -> Uttermost Parts
 - 2. Jerusalem ->Antioch (1-12) Antioch -> Rome (13-28)
 - ii. Ethnically
 - 1. Jews (1-7)
 - 2. Samaritans (8)
 - 3. The World (9-28)
 - iii. Biographically
 - 1. Peter and others (1-12)
 - 2. Paul and others (13-28)
 - 3. Ongoing... (unfinished nature of Acts)
- c. The calling and ministry of Paul
 - i. Who is God to you?
- d. The power and move of the Holy Spirit for all believers – shift from Jesus to believers (Joel 2:28-29)
 - i. An apologetic of God authenticating early Christianity
 - ii. Power/Witness – 4:8
 - iii. Miraculous Power – 13:9-11
 - iv. Wisdom – 15:28
 - v. Administrative Authority – 5:3; 13:2
 - vi. Guidance – 10:19; 16:6-10
- e. Fulfillment of Christ's promises:
 - i. Greater works – John 14:12
 - ii. Build My Church - Matthew 16:18
 - iii. Holy Spirit – John 16:7
 - iv. Persecution – Matthew 10:22
- f. Legal defense for Paul –
 - i. show that Paul was not a traitor of Rome
 - ii. show that Paul was not an apostate of Judaism
- g. Theme/Key Words: Good News, Holy Spirit, Action of God through His people (prayer, healing, growth, study)

V. Outline

- a. Preparation (1:1-26)
- b. Witness in Jerusalem (2-7)
- c. Witness in Judea and Samaria (8-9)
- d. Witness to the Ends of the Earth (10-28)
 - i. Paul's First Journey (13:4-14:26)
 - ii. Paul's Second Journey (15:36-18:22)
 - iii. Paul's Third Journey (18:23 – 21:17)
 - iv. Arrest and Return to Rome (21:18-28:31)

VI. Historical Timelines

- a. AD 30-35 – Pentecost and the formation of the early church
- b. AD 35-47 – Church expansion into Judea and Samaria
- c. AD 44 – James, son of Zebedee, brother of John, martyred
- d. AD 47-48 – Paul's First Missionary Journey
- e. AD 49-52 – Paul's Second Missionary Journey
- f. AD 52- 57 – Paul's Third Missionary Journey
- g. AD 60-62 – Paul's first imprisonment in Rome
- h. AD 66-67 – Paul's imprisonment and martyrdom, Peter's martyrdom
- i. Roman Rulers:
 - i. Caligula AD 37-41
 - ii. Claudius AD 41-54
 - iii. Nero AD 54-68

VII. Preparation

- a. Intro (1:1-4)
- b. Ascension of Jesus (1:5-11)
- c. Transitions of Leadership (12-26)

VIII. Witness in Jerusalem

- a. Holy Spirit Comes (2)
- b. Lame Man Healed (3:1-9)
- c. Preaching of Peter and John (3:10-26)
- d. Response to Preaching (4)

- i. Response to Council (4:1-22)
 - ii. Believer's Response (4:23-36)
 - 1. Ananias & Sapphira (5:1-16)
 - iii. Arrested again & again (5:17-41)
 - e. Stephen
 - i. Leadership (6:1-7)
 - ii. Debate (6:8-15)
 - iii. Council (7:1-8:1a)
 - iv. Scattering (8:1b-3)
- IX. Witness in Judea and Samaria
 - a. Philip
 - i. Samaritan Converts (8:4-25)
 - ii. Ethiopian Eunuch (8:26-40)
 - b. Conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
 - c. Ministry of Peter (9:32-12:23)
- X. Paul's First Missionary Journey (13:1-15:41)
 - a. Council of Jerusalem
- XI. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (16:1- 18:22)
 - a. Separation of Paul and Barnabas
 - b. Macedonian Call
 - c. Paul and Silas in Prison
- XII. Paul's Third Missionary Journey (19:1 – 21:17)
- XIII. Paul's Arrest (21:15- 28:31)
 - a. Sails to Rome (27:1-28:31)