

Acts

TITLE:

"The Acts of the Apostles" or "The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles,"
The Greek word translated "Acts" (*praxeis*) was often used to describe the achievements of great men.

KEY VERSE:

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

THE TIME:

The events of Acts cover a period of about 34 years, A.D. 30-63

BACKGROUND:

This book, called Acts, is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Its writer, Luke, continues in Acts the history of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in the first century, but here the work is done by Him through the Holy Spirit, who came to dwell within believers on the Day of Pentecost, ten days after the ascension of our Lord.

BASIC OUTLINE:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles in Jerusalem. 1-7
2. The Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles in Judea and Samaria. 8-12
3. The Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles unto the uttermost part of the earth. 13-28

THEME AND SUMMARY:

Acts of the Apostles is a book of beginnings. It tells of: - the Father's gift of the Spirit; - the empowerment and filling of the church; and - the beginning of New Testament missionary work.

From chapter 1-9:43, Peter is the central personage of the book, Jerusalem is the center of the Church, and the ministry is confined almost entirely to Israel. From 10:1-28:31, Paul is the prominent figure, Antioch is the center of authority, and the ministry reaches out to the Gentiles. At 16:10 the narrative changes from "they" to "we" indicating that Luke began to accompany Paul at that point.

God permitted persecution to scatter the early Christians from Jerusalem and the land of Palestine to the uttermost parts of the then known world. All of these early Christians seem to have been witnesses for Christ, and this is God's intent for all of us who are