

Unstoppable Kingdom

An Introduction

Acts 1:1-3, Acts 28:30-31

“The Book of Acts...is full of the energy and excitement of the early Christians as they found God doing new things all over the place and learned to take the good news of Jesus around the world. It’s also full of the puzzles and problems that churches faced then and face today – crises over leadership, money, ethnic divisions, theology and ethics, not to mention serious clashes with political and religious authorities...There isn’t a dull page in Acts...the whole book reminds us that whatever ‘journey’ we are making, in our own lives, our spirituality, our following of Jesus, and our work for his kingdom, his spirit will guide us too, and make us fruitful in his service.” N.T. Wright

Main Idea: The Book of Acts Illustrates how God’s Kingdom is Unstoppable

Primary Text: *“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do & teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days & speaking about the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:1-3*

“He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” Acts 28:30-31

I. When Acts Opens, It’s All About the Kingdom – Acts 1:1-3

- **Who Wrote Acts?** Luke was a traveling companion of the Apostle Paul & was a physician (Colossians 4:14) who stayed committed to the mission even when others deserted him (2 Timothy 4:11). Throughout, he speaks of “we” as an eyewitness to many events.
- **To Whom Was Acts Written?** Luke names Theophilus (Lit. *lover of God*) as the recipient of his book. Could be symbolic or literal.
- **What is this Other Book?** Luke mentions an earlier book, to what is he referring? Is this one of those History Channel scandals of the church picking and choosing which books got in the Bible??? No...

“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.” Luke 1:1-4

- **What is Acts All About?** In Acts here and in his gospel Luke desires to provide an accurate description of the things Jesus said and did, as well as what he accomplished through his followers after his ascension. It’s an historical narrative, but...

“Luke seems to have seen himself as something of a historian...Luke surely was not interested in history for its own sake, but he was interested in world events where they intersected the young Christian movement...Surely

something of the historian’s interest is in this; but more than that, the Evangelist was concerned to share the Savior of the world with the world.”

John Polhill

*“He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days & speaking about the **kingdom of God.**”*

Acts 1:3

II. When Acts Ends, It’s All About the Kingdom – Acts 28:30-31

*“He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, **proclaiming the kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” Acts 28:30-31*

“The witnesses do not triumph – the word triumphs, and the word only triumphs when the witnesses are faithful servants.” John Polhill

What is the Kingdom of God?

“God’s active and sovereign reign throughout history bringing about His purposes in the world through Christ Jesus. In the simplest of terms, the Kingdom of God is what the world looks like when King Jesus gets His way.”

Jeff Christopherson

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matt 6:10

The Kingdom of God Comes in Three Forms (Lloyd-Jones):

- **The Kingdom Came in the Person of Jesus Christ**

“The kingdom of God is in the midst of you.” Luke 17:21b

- **The Kingdom Comes as People Surrender to Christ as Lord**

“For the kingdom of God is...a matter...of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17

- **The Kingdom will Come when Christ Returns in Glory**

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”

Revelation 5:9-10

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...” Matthew 6:33

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible – Trevin Wax, General Editor (2021)
- The Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- The New American Commentary: Acts – John B. Polhill (1992)
- Acts: Bible Study Commentary – F.F. Bruce (2017)
- Acts for Everyone – N.T. Wright (2008)
- Acts: The Church Afire – Kent Hughes (1996)
- Acts – K.O. Gangle (1998)
- The Kingdom of God – Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1992)
- Kingdom First – Jeff Christopherson (2015)
- The Kingdom Agenda – Tony Evans (1999)