

Acts 1

Introduction

3 introductory questions:

1. Who is the author? Luke

- Compare *Luke 1.1-4* and *Acts 1.1-2* (Theophilus)
- The four "we" sections (when Luke was present):
 - Acts 16.10-17*
 - Acts 20.5-15*
 - Acts 21.1-18*
 - Acts 27.1-28.16*

2. What do we know about Luke?

- A Gentile (not an Old Testament name or a Hebrew name)
- A doctor ("*beloved physician*" – *Col. 4.14*)
- Acts 14.8* – He frequently included details about sickness, handicaps, fevers, etc.
- There is more in New Testament written by Luke than by any other writer (about ¼ of the entire New Testament)
- It is believed by many that he was born in Antioch of Syria
- He never mentions his own name in his writing

3. What do we know about Acts?

- Significance of the title: the Acts (doings, actions) of the apostles
- Apostles mentioned: Judas, John, James, Peter, Paul
- Purpose of the book?**
 1. To describe the spread of the gospel; a history of the First Century church
 2. Procedure for becoming a Christian (baptism)
 3. Key to understanding the rest of the New Testament – "Where the rubber meets the road"

Acts 1.1-5

V1 – Definition of "first account"? A reference to the book of *Luke*

- Theophilus = Friend of God (literal translation)
- Greek name, possibly a Roman government official
- "*Do and teach*" - **Significance?** Jesus set the example

V2 – A record of events concerning the resurrection of Jesus

- 40 days later: ascended
- 10 days later: Day of Pentecost
- What was the commandment of Jesus before he ascended?** *Matt. 28.16-20* – *Go into all the world....*
- [12 apostles – see *Matt. 10.2-4* – a perfect list of the original ones]

V3 – Jesus presented proof of his resurrection

- See *1 Cor. 15.3-8* – a list of people who saw Jesus after his resurrection
- What do you think Jesus spoke of in those 40 days?** Words of encouragement, etc.

V 4 – Old Testament prophecy: The kingdom was to be established in Jerusalem (*Isaiah 2.1-4*)
-**Why would the apostles not want to stay in Jerusalem?** Maybe they were homesick for Galilee, maybe they did not want to suffer ridicule as followers of Jesus

V 5 – **What were they to wait for?** The baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1.6-11

V 6 – **How did the apostles view the church?** As the political nation of Israel (as under David and Solomon)

- Why?** They did not understand the Old Testament prophecies about a spiritual kingdom
- Jesus was believed to be the new king
- "Theocracy" – goal of the Jewish people (a political nation ruled according to the word of God)
- Great Commission: "*All authority...*" - they misunderstood that statement

V 7 – Did Jesus insult them because of their question? No, he gave them an indirect answer: "*not for you to know*"

V 8 – **His answer?** The Holy Spirit will lead you

- Note the order for spreading the gospel: Jerusalem – Judea – Samaria – world
- How did this differ from the Old Testament?** There was very little evangelism in the Old Testament (except for Jonah and Nineveh)

V 9 – No optical illusions – lifted up to the clouds (no way to pull a trick on them)

V 10 – "Gazing intently"

- Luke 24.4* – two men in white (angels in human form)
- Heb. 13.2* – we have entertained angels without knowing it

V 11 – **Message of the two men?** Jesus will return in a similar way

- How would it be similar?** Very visible, not in secret, on the clouds, etc.

Acts 1.12-14

V 12 – *Luke 24.52* – returned with great joy

- Why?** Jesus was going to return
- Mt. Olivet can be seen today in Jerusalem, but the exact location of the ascension is unknown
- Sabbath's Day journey: 2000 cubits (about 3000 feet, or a little over ½ mile) from the city wall

V 13 – **Four classes of people there?** 11 apostles, women, half-brothers of Jesus, brethren (*v 15*)

V 14 – "**With one mind**"? One accord

Acts 1.15-22

- Location: upper room in Jerusalem

V 15 – **Number of people there?** 120

-Death of Judas: *Matt. 27.5, Acts 1.18*

-Peter stood up

-Prophecy of Jesus about Peter? Read Matt. 16.13-19

-Peter held the "keys to the kingdom" – **Meaning?** Peter was the first to preach to Jews and the first to preach to Gentiles (Cornelius)

V 16 – Fulfillment of *Psalms 41.9* and *Psalms 109.2-5*

V 17 – **What job did Judas have with the apostles?** Treasurer

V 18-19 – See *Matt. 27.5*

-How did Judas die? Hanged himself – the body was left to rot, and it fell into a field

V 21-22 – **Qualifications of original apostles?** Had been with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry and up until his ascension to heaven

V 24 – Notice the length of the prayer (very short)

V 23-26 – **What method did they use to choose a replacement for Judas?** Casting of lots (maybe similar to drawing straws today, or possibly some other way)

-Can we use this today in choosing elders, etc.? No

-Was this gambling? No – God guided the outcome – **Read Proverbs 16.33**

-But how are we guided by God today? By the written word (the Bible, which was completed in 95 AD)

-Since we have the written word today (as with the qualifications of elders), we don't need to cast lots to find out the decision of God (*1 Cor. 13.10*)

-What was the name of the new apostle? Matthias

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