

ACTS CHAPTER 1

I. Introduction

The book of Acts was written by Luke. Many scholars believe that Luke was a physician who lived in the Hellenistic city of Antioch in Ancient Syria. From the introduction, we see that it was written to Theophilus, who was probably a Roman official of some sort and is believed to be a person of eminent quality at Alexandria. Acts itself is the second volume of an earlier book which is the gospel according to Luke.

The Book of Acts continues the story of Christianity in the 1st century, beginning with the ascension of Jesus to Heaven. The early chapters, set in Jerusalem, describe the Day of Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit) and the growth of the church in Jerusalem. Initially, the Jews are receptive to the Christian message, but later they turn against the followers of Jesus. Rejected by the Jews, the message is taken to the Gentiles under the guidance of Paul the Apostle. The later chapters tell of Paul's conversion, his mission in Asia Minor and the Aegean, and finally, his imprisonment in Rome, where, as the book ends as he awaits trial.

The most important and overarching verse in the book of Acts is **Acts 1:8**. *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8 is part of the group of passages called “The Great Commission” and was the last documented words Jesus spoke to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. In fact, throughout the entire book of Acts, it is as if Luke is trying to show us how Acts 1:8 was fulfilled by the early disciples. This is the key to understanding Luke’s motivation for writing this book, and we will make reference to this passage over and over again as we study this book.

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Acts 1:1-26

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

1. Without going into specifics, what is your general feeling as you read through Acts 1?
2. What does "taken up" (Acts 1:2) refer to?
3. What is the "promise of the Father," and why was it important for them to wait for it (Acts 1:4)?
4. What do you think about their question, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)
5. Do you think there is significance to the reference to Jerusalem, all Judea, and Samaria, and the end of the earth?
6. How many of the eleven remaining disciples were staying in the "upper room" (Acts 1:13)?
7. What was the reason given for Judas to be replaced with Matthias?

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?