

The Book of Acts

Prepared by Chuck Kozens

Quick reflection of the book of Acts

Date of book

Many conclude the book of Acts was written in 62-63 A.D.

General breakdown of book

Acts 1-7 = Establishment of the church at Jerusalem

Acts 8-28 = Spread of the gospel

Various topics addressed

Tongue speaking

Speaking in Tongues = Speaking in **known languages** --- **Acts 2:5-11**

The Apostles were speaking in other languages --- **Acts 2:14-15**

Cornelius --- **Acts 10:44-46**

Recorded deaths of saints

Acts 7 --- Stephen & **Acts 12**--- James

Cases of conversions

Acts 2 – about 3,000

Acts 6 – many priests obedient to the faith

Acts 8 – Simon (one who practiced sorcery) & Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 9 – Saul (Paul) also see **Acts 22:6-16** & **Acts 26:12-18**

Acts 10 – Cornelius also see **Acts 11:1-18** & **Acts 15:6-9**

Acts 16 – Lydia & her household & Jailer & his household

Acts 18 – Corinthians

Lord's Supper

Example of Christians observing the Lord's Supper --- **Acts 20:7**

Plurality of elders

Elders appointed in every church --- **Acts 14:23**

Paul's preaching trips

1st evangelism trip --- **Acts 13**--- **Acts 15**

2nd evangelism trip --- **Acts 15** --- **Acts 18**

3rd evangelism trip --- **Acts 18** --- **Acts 21**

Preaching the kingdom

Acts 8:12 --- **Acts 20:25** --- **Acts 28:31**

¹ **The former account** I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Luke 1:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

LUKE Author of the Third Gospel and the book of Acts in the NT, as well as a close friend and traveling companion of Paul. The apostle called him “loved” ([Col. 4:14](#)). Luke referred to his journeys with Paul and his company in [Acts 16:10-17](#); [20:5-15](#); [21:1-18](#); [27:1-28:16](#). Many scholars believe Luke wrote his Gospel and the book of Acts while in Rome with Paul during the apostle’s first Roman imprisonment. Apparently Luke remained nearby or with Paul also during the apostle’s second Roman imprisonment. Shortly before his martyrdom, Paul wrote that “only Luke is with me” ([2 Tim. 4:11](#)). --- Paul identified Luke as a physician([Col. 4:14](#)) **Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary**.

THEOPHILUS (*Thē ōph' ī lūs*) Personal name meaning “friend of God”; the person to whom the books of Luke and Acts were written ([Luke 1:3](#); [Acts 1:1](#)). However, his exact identity is unknown. Speculation has ranged from the generic “friend of God” intended to all Christians to a specific benefactor, perhaps in high social and/or political standing. If the latter is true, the name may be a pseudonym to protect the individual from persecution. One conjecture holds that Theophilus was unsaved and that Luke wrote the letter to persuade his belief in Christ.
Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary

² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me;

⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Luke 3:16 (NKJV) John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **ALSO SEE:** Mat. 3:11, Mk. 1:8 & Jn. 1:34-35

Remember , “not many days from now” ---- day of Pentecost / Acts 2

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

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."

Jn. 14:25-26, Jn. 15:26 & Jn. 16:6-14

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

.....The Mount of Olives, or *Olivet*, is on the east of Jerusalem. Between this and Jerusalem there runs a small stream called the brook Kidron, or Cedron. It is dry in the hot seasons of the year, but swells to a considerable size in time of heavy rains. [Cmt. on Joh 8:1](#). The Mount of Olives was so called from its producing in abundance the olive. It was from Jerusalem about a Sabbath day's journey, [Ac 1:12](#). On the west side of the mountain was the garden of Gethsemane, [Lu 22:39](#); [Mr 4:32](#). On the eastern declivity of the mountain, were the villages of Bethphage and Bethany.The Mount of Olives is about a mile in length, and about seven hundred feet in height, and overlooks Jerusalem; so that from its summit almost every part of the city can be seen. The mountain is composed of three peaks or summits. Our Saviour is supposed to have ascended from the middle one.
[Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible Matthew 21:1](#)

SABBATH DAY'S JOURNEY Distance a Jew in Jesus' day considered ritually legal to walk on the seventh day. This phrase appears only once in the Bible ([Acts 1:12](#)), describing the distance from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Scholars have surmised that the expression came from God's instruction to the children of Israel as they prepared to cross the Jordan into Canaan ([Josh. 3:4](#)). As they followed the priests bearing the ark of the covenant, they were to maintain a distance of 2,000 cubits from it. Earlier, while in the wilderness, they had been told not to leave home on the Sabbath ([Exod. 16:29](#)). Rabbis eventually interpreted these commands as limiting Sabbath travel to 2,000 cubits. That was the farthest that a loyal Jew should be from his center of worship on the Sabbath. The length of the cubit depended on who was counting. Greeks said it was one foot, six inches; but Romans claimed it was one foot, nine inches. Thus, 2,000 cubits could be from 3,000 to 3,600 feet, somewhat more than a half mile. ----- **[Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary](#)**.

¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James.

List of the apostles: **Matthew 10:1-4** - - - **Mark 3:13-19** - - - **Luke 6:13-16** Simon called the Zealot

Matthew (Matthew the tax collector --- Mt. 10:3)
 * **Willmington’s Complete Guide To Bible Knowledge – New Testament People** Chronological Summary - - **I. Matthew, the apostle A**. His call by Christ—“And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me” (Luke 5:27). **B**. His consecration to Christ—“And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them” (Luke 5:28-29). **II. Matthew, the author**—He was the author of the Gospel that bears his name.

Simon the Zealot (Mt. 10 & Mk. 3 Simon the Cananite)---- Although Simon, like the majority of the apostles, was probably a Galilean, the designation "Cananaean" is regarded as of political rather than of geographical significance (compare Luke's rendering). The Zealots were a faction, headed by Judas of Galilee, who "in the days of the enrollment" (compare [Acts 5:37](#); [Luke 2:1-2](#)) bitterly opposed the threatened increase of taxation at the census of Quirinius, and would have hastened by the sword the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy.
The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Participating with in prayer were **the women**. Luke made reference in his “*former treatise*” to the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee (Luke 23:49-55). These included Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna (Luke 8:1-3). Also participating were **Jesus’ mother** and **His brothers**. His brothers, who had previously rejected his claims (John 7:5), had now been convinced by the irrefutable evidence. These included James, Joses, Judas, and Simon (Matthew 13:55: Mark 6:3)
Acts by Johnny Stringer --- Truth Commentaries pg. 10

Next, Jesus’ **brothers** are listed. These men were technically the half-brothers of Jesus. They had the same mother (Mary), but not the same father. Jesus’ Father was God; their father was Joseph. During Jesus’ lifetime, His brothers did not believe in Him (Jn. 7:5). After Jesus was raised from the dead, He made a special resurrection appearance to the oldest of His brothers, James (1 Cor. 5:7). This James became “a pillar” in the Jerusalem church (Gal. 2:19) and wrote the Epistle of James. No doubt James shared what he learned with the rest of the brothers: Joseph, Simon, and Judas (Mt. 13:55). Now all are gathered with the apostles. **Truth For Today Commentary** (Acts 1-14) by David L. Roper pg. 35

¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,

¹⁶ "Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

Matthew 26:14-16 & Matthew 27:3-10

¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Matthew's account shows that it was given this name because it was purchased with blood money The name of the field would be related to the portion of the story connecting the field with blood- namely, the fact that it was purchased with blood money. **Acts by Johnny Stringer --- Truth Commentaries** pg.14

²⁰ "For it is written in the book of Psalms: *'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it';* and, *'Let another take his office.'*

Peter quoted from two different Psalms. The first part of the verse is taken from Psalm 69:25. This Psalm is repeatedly quoted with reference to the Messiah. When David spoke the words originally, his primary reference was to his enemies. So the Psalm probably does not have reference to Judas alone, but to any enemy of Messiah, of which Judas was one. The last part of the verse comes from Psalm 109:8. **New Testament History – Acts** by Gareth L. Reese pg. 26

²¹ "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

²² beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen

²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Lot --- (Heb. *goral*, a "pebble"), a small stone used in casting lots (**Num. 33:54; Jonah 1:7**). The lot was always resorted to by the Hebrews with strictest reference to the interposition of God, and as a method of ascertaining the divine will (**Prov. 16:33**), and in serious cases of doubt (**Esther 3:7**). Thus the lot was used at the division of the land of Canaan among the several tribes (**Num. 26:55; 34:13**), at the detection of Achan (**Josh. 7:14, 18**), the election of Saul to be king (**1 Sam. 10:20, 21**), the distribution of the priestly offices of the temple service (**1 Chr. 24:3, 5, 19; Luke 1:9**), and over the two goats at the feast of Atonement (**Lev. 16:8**). Matthias, who was "numbered with the eleven" (**Acts 1:24-26**), was chosen by lot. ----- **Easton's Bible Dictionary**

Questions Acts 1 & Quick Reflections from the Book of Acts

1. What do we learn about Luke from the Holman Bible Dictionary?
2. Who was Theophilus?
3. Describe the order in which the gospel would spread.
4. Who was speaking those things pertaining to the kingdom of God?
 - a. Did the apostles understand the nature of the kingdom in Acts chapter one?
 - b. List three passages in Acts that show the preaching of the kingdom.
5. Describe the importance of John 14:25-26, John 15:26 and John 16:6-14 as it applies to Acts 1:8?
6. Prior to becoming apostles, what difficulty would have existed between Matthew and Simon the Zealot?
7. How does Luke 3:16 relate to Acts chapter one?
8. Where did the apostles return from after Jesus departed out of their sight?
 - a. How far was this from Jerusalem?
9. What is stated about Judas?
10. Who continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the apostles?
11. What were the requirements needed for the one who would take the place of Judas?
 - a. Who was numbered with the apostles?
12. What will you commit to memory from Acts chapter one?