

Chapter 14-16 : Acts

Importance of Acts

- ❑ It's the background for the Pauline epistles
 - ❑ Saul to Paul
 - ❑ Paul becomes powerful
 - ❑ Many churches started
- ❑ It provides basic info into the early church
 - ❑ Acts 2:42-47
 - ❑ This is BASIC
- ❑ We gain missions and church growth principle
 - ❑ Acts 7:54-60
 - ❑ Stephen's stoning is a part of Paul's story

Author

- Acts opens like the book of Luke
 - So, Luke probably wrote Acts (40% of NT)
 - Vocab and Greek match Luke
 - Author must be companion of Paul
 - The “we” narratives deduce it is Luke
- Sources of the book: Personal Experiences
 - Once with Paul, these are personal exp.
 - Luke was there in the early church days

Audience/Date

- Theophilus and humanity in general
- Just like the book of Luke this was written for all the world to know the glorious forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Before AD 70 (destruction of Jerusalem)
- Christianity isn't a political threat to Rome (so Caesar Nero hadn't turned against them AD 64)
- Written before Paul's death

Explanation of end of Acts

- ❑ Luke was saving Paul's outcome for volume 3
- ❑ Luke came to the end of the scroll
- ❑ Luke suffered a personal tragedy (martyred?)
- ❑ Luke ended it this way to show the church it needs to complete the task at hand
- ❑ The gospel had reached Rome (28:31)

Outline of Acts

- Geographic outline using Acts 1:8
 - The witness of Apostles in Jerusalem (1:1-6:7)
 - The witness of Apostles in Judea (6:8-9:31)
 - The witness of Apostles to the world (9:32-end)
 - Church in Antioch (9:32-12:24)
 - Church in Asia Minor (12:25-16:5)
 - Church in Aegean Area (16:6-19:20)
 - Church in Rome (19:21-28:31)

Persecution

- ❑ Persecution comes in Jerusalem
 - ❑ 8:1-8
 - ❑ Chapters 1-7 dealt with Jerusalem
 - ❑ Chapters 8-28 deal with ends of the earth (1:8)
 - ❑ Persecution spread the gospel
 - ❑ Persecution is real and we were warned...
 - ❑ If you are following Christ, persecution is headed your way...

Acts 9:1-31-Saul/Paul

- God's chosen vessel
 - Conversion and early ministry
 - In 9:2 Christianity is called "the Way"
 - Based out of John 14:6
 - Saul was dedicated to destroying the way
 - The gospel can save anyone
 - In 9:4 Jesus shows His love for the Church
 - Paul would barely escape death early
 - Barnabas brought the Apostles together

Acts 9:32-11:18

☐ Peter's Ministry

- ☐ Paves the way for Gentile conversions
- ☐ Healed paralytic named Aeneas
- ☐ Raised Tabitha from the dead
- ☐ Chapter 10 the gospel goes to Gentiles
 - ☐ Cornelius is the first gentile conversion
 - ☐ Cornelius is our great, great, great...
- ☐ Holy Spirit comes in 10:45-46

Acts 13-28

- ☐ Paul's First Missionary Journey (13-14)
- ☐ The Jerusalem Council (15)
- ☐ Paul's Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)
- ☐ Paul's Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:15)
- ☐ Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (21:15-26:32)
- ☐ Paul's Voyage and Ministry in Rome (27-28)