

# Book Study – Acts

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A tool to help with reading the Bible.



Produced by XA Denton Chi Alpha | UNT & TWU

## Summary of the Book of Acts

This summary of the book of Acts provides information about the title, author(s), date of writing, chronology, theme, theology, outline, a brief overview, and the chapters of the Book of Acts.

### Author

Although the author does not name himself, evidence outside the Scriptures and inferences from the book itself lead to the conclusion that the author was Luke.

The earliest of the external testimonies appears in the Muratorian Canon (c. a.d. 170), where the explicit statement is made that Luke was the author of both the third Gospel and the "Acts of All the Apostles." Eusebius (c. 325) lists information from numerous sources to identify the author of these books as Luke (*Ecclesiastical History*, 3.4).

### Recipient

The recipient of the book, Theophilus, is the same person addressed in the first volume, the Gospel of Luke (see Introduction to Luke: Recipient and Purpose).

Provided by: (biblestudytools.com)

### Reading Checklist:

Acts 1:	___	Acts 15:	___
Acts 2:	___	Acts 16:	___
Acts 3:	___	Acts 17:	___
Acts 4:	___	Acts 18:	___
Acts 5:	___	Acts 19:	___
Acts 6:	___	Acts 20:	___
Acts 7:	___	Acts 21:	___
Acts 8:	___	Acts 21:	___
Acts 9:	___	Acts 22:	___
Acts 10:	___	Acts 23:	___
Acts 11:	___	Acts 24:	___
Acts 12:	___	Acts 25:	___
Acts 13:	___	Acts 26:	___
Acts 14:	___	Acts 27:	___
		Acts 28:	___

# Acts:

*Descriptions provided by Tyndale's New Living Translation Bible book preface*

**Content:** Nearly two thousand years ago, a match was struck in Palestine that would eventually ignite the whole world. Soon after Jesus' ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit descended at Jerusalem, and about three thousand people became followers of Jesus Christ. This marked the birth of the Christian church. The book of Acts chronicles the birth and expansion of the church, highlighting the deeds of some of its most influential leaders, such as Peter and Paul. Acts continues the story begun in the Gospel of Luke, showing how the church continues the work that Jesus began. After recounting Peter's sermon and the birth of the church, Acts describes the life of the church in Jerusalem, the spread of the gospel to Samaria, the activities of Peter, and the early persecution of the believers. After describing the death of James, the focus of the book shifts to the apostle Paul and his missionary work throughout the Gentile world. His three missionary journeys are described in detail, and the first major council in Jerusalem is recorded as well. Acts concludes with Paul's trip to Rome, where the book abruptly ends.

**Author:** Luke, a Gentile physician and associate of Paul

**Date:** Probably between A.D. 63 and 70

**Purpose:** To record the birth and growth of the Christian church

**Themes:** The Holy Spirit, the growth of the church, opposition, inclusion of Gentile believers, the apostolic work of Peter and Paul

## Milestones (Bibleproject.com)

- **Pentecost:** The Spirit came upon Jesus' new covenant family with wind and flames, symbols of God's presence living in the temple, and filled and empowered them to speak in all languages.
- **Scattering of Believers:** Jewish leaders persecuted believers and murdered Stephen. As a result, Jesus' followers fled from Jerusalem, scattered to other cities and continued preaching despite ongoing persecution.
- **Antioch Church:** After persecution scattered Jesus' followers throughout the modern world, the first multiethnic, international church is formed at Antioch, and Jesus' followers become known as Christians.
- **Church on Mission:** The Spirit prompts the Antioch church to send missionaries to other lands and invites everyone to follow Jesus as the multiethnic family of God grows.
- **Paul Preaches in Prison:** Paul is placed on house arrest in Rome where he teaches and writes letters to the Churches, summarizing the purpose of the book of Acts.

For a video overview, visit: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/acts>

Acts 1-2: The promise of the Holy Spirit

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

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From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

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What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

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What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

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Additional Notes:

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Acts 3-5: The early days of the church

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**Acts 6-9: Persecution and Expansion**

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**Additional Notes:**

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**Acts 10-12: Peter's Missionary Activity**

**What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?**

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**Additional Notes:**

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Acts 13-15: Paul's first missionary journey and the meeting in Jerusalem

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Additional Notes:

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Acts 16-18: Paul's second missionary journey

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Acts 19-21: Paul's third missionary journey

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Acts 22-26: Paul's arrest

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Acts 27-28: Paul's trip to Rome

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Additional Notes:

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Next, choose one of the following companions

1. *Genesis* - 50 chapters
2. *The Torah* (Exodus - Deuteronomy) - 133 chapters
3. *Joshua and Judges* - 45 chapters
4. *Ruth and Esther* - 14 chapters
5. *The Kings* (1 Sam - 2 Chronicles) - 177 chapters
6. *After Babylon* (Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel) - 35 chapters
7. *Psalms* - 150 Psalms
8. *Poetry* (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) - 93 chapters
9. *Isaiah & Ezekiel* - 110 chapters
10. *Jeremiah and Lamentations* - 57 chapters
11. *Minor Prophets, Pre-Exile* - 43 chapters
  - (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk)
12. *Minor Prophets, Post-Exile* - 24 chapters
  - (Zephaniah, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
13. *Synoptic Gospels* (Matthew, Mark, Luke) - 68 chapters
14. *John* - 21 chapters
15. *Acts* - 28 chapters
16. *Paul's Letters to churches* - 59 chapters
  - (Romans, 1 & 2 Cor., Galatians, 1 & 2 Thes.)
17. *Paul's Prison Epistles* - 15 chapters
  - (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)
18. *Paul's Letters to people* (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) - 13 chapters
19. *Apostle's Letters* (Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 2 3 John, Jude) - 34 chapters
20. *Revelation* - 22 chapters