

ACTS: CHRIST AT WORK THROUGH HIS CHURCH

Acts 1:1-2 (Luke 1:1-4)

I. The Top Ten Reasons for Studying the Book of Acts

- A. Acts (with the Gospel of Luke) makes up over _____ of the entire New Testament.
- B. Acts provides us with a vivid account of the _____ in the attitudes and actions of the disciples as described at the end of the Gospels.
- C. Acts is the only book in the NT which fills the _____ between the Gospels and the Epistles.
- D. Acts provides us with an inspired account of the transition of the gospel from a largely Jewish context to a gospel which is _____, not only embracing the Gentiles but becoming, for a season, a largely Gentile phenomenon.
- E. Acts provides us with a historical background for many of the churches which are dealt with in the _____ of the NT.
- F. Acts supplies us with some excellent examples of the apostolic _____ of the gospel.
- G. Acts is an account of the fulfillment of our Lord's promises concerning the coming of the _____, and contains a dramatic portrayal of the power of God at work in the church through Him.
- H. Acts gives a forceful defense of the apostleship of _____.
- I. Acts explains the puzzle of the Jewish _____ to the gospel, linking it to God's purpose to save Gentiles.
- J. Some of us may have the opportunity to visit some of the regions traveled by Paul.

II. Facts about Acts

- A. The Author: _____
 1. In the Book of Acts, he is _____.
 2. We know that Luke is the author from _____ sources.
 3. This fact is supported by internal evidence: the "_____" passages of Acts; and the quality of his vocabulary and writing style.
 4. What we know of Luke from the NT (Col. 4:14; Philemon 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:10-11)
 - A _____
 - A _____
 - A second-generation _____ to the events he recorded
 - A gifted and accurate _____.
- B. The Recipient: Theophilus ("Lover of God")

C. Acts is part of a _____ work -- Luke-Acts: The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are not really two separate books about two different subjects (“The Story of Jesus” and “The Story of the Church”). They are actually two parts of the same story (see Luke 2:32).

D. Expanded Title: “The _____ Words and Deeds of _____ by His _____ through His _____”

III. **The Structure of the Book of Acts** (see attached sheet).

IV. **The Theme and Purpose of Acts**

A. Luke’s *Stated Purpose*: to confirm the _____ of the truth concerning Jesus, his message and his mission.

B. Observable Objectives

1. _____ verification

a. Luke’s credentials:

b. Luke’s reliability:

2. Political and Ecclesiastical _____

a. To Rome: Christianity is harmless, innocent, and _____.

b. Within the Church:

- The peril of _____ between ethnic groups was providentially avoided.
- There is fundamental agreement about the _____ among the apostles – in particular between Peter and Paul.

3. _____: Luke is a theologian of salvation (Luke 2:29-32)

a. Salvation has been _____ by God.

b. Salvation has been _____ by Christ.

c. Salvation is _____ to all people.

C. The *Theme* of Luke-Acts: The realization of God’s Purpose to bring _____ in all of its fullness to all people.

1. Gospel: _____ by Jesus Christ

2. Acts: _____ by His Church

D. Expanded *Purpose*: To strengthen Christians in the face of _____ by assuring them in their understanding and experience of the redemptive purpose of God, and by calling them to continued _____ and _____ in God’s project of salvation.

V. **Our Mission**: “To reach the lost, and equip and deploy transformed Christians through whom Jesus Christ can effectively make himself known to our world.