

# Acts of the Apostles \_ Lesson 01

## Book Introduction

### 1. Purpose of Studying Acts

- a. It is popularly, and erroneously, called the birth, pattern, and growth of the church
- b. It is the failure of the church today to repeat its events that cause confusion
- c. It has an powerful allure for many people, especially those new to right division
- d. It is used as ammunition against the unique apostleship and ministry of Paul
- e. Without this book, there is a huge gap in understanding what God is doing.

### 2. What to Expect

- a. Details – 28 chapters, 1,007 verses, 24,229 words; 2<sup>nd</sup> longest in NT after Luke
  - i. Also called, the “book between” or the “Acts of the Holy Ghost”
- b. Author/Audience - Luke b/c of Lu 1:1-4, and Ac 1:1, and in Ac 16:10, 20:6, 21:17
  - i. What we know about him is from Paul - Col 4:14, 2Ti 4:11, Phm 24
  - ii. Theophilus is a mystery (though there was a high priest with this name)
  - iii. Written at a time when something big had changed...
- c. Dispensational Context – Israel had rejected the Father, the Son, and then Luke 23:34
  - i. A promise of power, prophecy, and preaching in Jerusalem - Luke 24:44-53
  - ii. Is NOT the beginning of the mystery church, the Body of Christ
    1. Acts 1:21 “beginning at John”, 2:16-17 “this is that”, Rom 16:25
  - iii. Is a history of why the kingdom restoration did not come – Ac 1:6, 3:19
  - iv. Is NOT a description of the gospel we preach, or our pattern
    1. Which gospel? Acts 2:38 or Acts 20:24
    2. Jews only (Acts 11:19), Jew first, or all without distinction?
    3. All things in common (Acts 2:44), or do we buy a house?
    4. Holy Ghost power and deliverance, or God’s sufficient grace?
- d. Purpose – To record the bridge from Israel->Church, Peter->Paul; Covenant->Free
  - i. The book is about the spiritual fall and apostasy of Israel.
- e. Themes – Israel’s rejection of God, salvation, apostles – Acts 13:46-47, 18:6, 28:28
  - i. Ministry of Holy Ghost, the church, inspiration, and Paul start in this book
  - ii. Ministry through Israel, circumcision, and the law ends in this book
  - iii. A book of movement, change, transition, and expansion
  - iv. The power of the Holy Ghost, God directing the change
- f. Our Approach – studying it literally, historically, and doctrinally in its context

### 3. Brief Outline

- a. Acts can be divided into two major sections: Peter’s ministry / Paul’s ministry
- b. 1-12 – Peter’s ministry to Israel, ends in their rejection of him, Gentile acceptance
- c. 13-28 – Paul’s ministry to Israel, ends in their rejection of him, Gentile acceptance