

Acts 1

The ancient uncial manuscripts, those written in large capital block letters do not have the same title for the book of Acts. One prominent manuscript known as Codex Sinaiticus - Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet has simply Acts as the title. Codex Alexandrinus A in the Latin Alphabet has The Acts of the Holy Apostles. Some other uncial manuscripts have Acts of the Apostles. Later dated minuscule manuscripts have different names such as, Acts of the Holy Apostles, and Acts of the Holy Spirit. Since the book of Acts follows the progress of the gospel from its beginning in Jerusalem to world conquest in the capital of the World Rome and does not deal with the Acts of all the Apostles the better title would be simply "Acts".

The probable date that Acts was written is 63 to 64AD. In the book of Acts, the Roman government is pictured as being tolerant of Christianity and Christians being in subjection to the Roman government.

By 64 AD the first great persecution under Nero had begun. The Jewish rebellion against Rome began in 66AD. Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed in 70AD. It is inconceivable that these events would have been left out if they had already taken place. Acts ends where it does because the events had progressed no further in history. Luke was with Paul in Rome cf: II Timothy 4:11 and probably suffered the same fate as the apostle.

Most of Acts is written from the standpoint of the 3rd person. The story moves along by "they did "or "he did ". However, a number of verses utilize the first person plural, "we". Acts 16:10-18, Acts 20:5-15, Acts 21:1-18, Acts 27:1, Acts 28:16, thus, the "we" alerts us to the fact that the author is an eyeball witness to the "we" sections in the book of Acts.

The purpose of the author in writing the Books of Luke and Acts is to set forth the words & deeds of Jesus in Luke and World conquest by the Gospel in Acts. The introduction to the Gospel of Luke cf: Luke 1:1-4 states Luke's purpose.

Luke 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Luke and Acts should be considered one work in two parts. Read Luke 24 with Acts 1. There are seven threads that tie together the Gospel of Luke to the Book of Acts.

Both books addressed to Theophilus cf:

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

A Former treatise cf:

Luke 1:1-4 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Jesus did not practice what He preached. He preached what He practiced. He worked a miracle & taught from it. "Do and teach" cf:

Luke 24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

The resurrection of Christ is the watershed of both books. Luke ends with it and Acts begins with it. Taken up cf:

Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Given commandments cf:

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [*even*] unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

“To whom” whom is an antecedent that refers back to the nearest named noun which is the word “Apostle” in verse 2.

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Jesus did not just rise in the hearts of His disciples, or His doctrine did not just arise in the hearts of His new church. Jesus rose in a bodily, physical resurrection from the dead. Ask yourself what are the many infallible proofs Luke speaks of? “Many infallible proofs” cf:

Luke 24:36-43 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace [*be*] unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them [*his*] hands and [*his*] feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took [*it*], and did eat before them.

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

The Kingdom of God ... what is the Kingdom of God? It is the Church, how will the Church grow and how will people get into the Church of Christ which was purchased by His own blood?: cf:

Luke 24:46-47 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with [*them*], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [*saith he*], ye have heard of me.¹

Wait for the promise, what promise “... power from on high” cf:

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Jesus had also promised that while all but one of the Apostles still lived they would “... see the Kingdom of God come with power.”

Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Apostles to be baptized with the Holy Ghost cf:

Matthew 3:11-12 ... I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [*with*] fire: 12 Whose fan [*is*] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Study John 13, 14, 15, & 16 paying strict attention to who is speaking and who is being spoken to ... in these chapters when Jesus is talking to the Apostles and the Apostles only He uses the word “you” making promises of coming powers that would be given to the Apostles only. During these chapters when Jesus is speaking to anyone He says as an example “he” or “if a man”.

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Jesus had promised the Kingdom was to come during the lifetime of the apostles in Mark 9:1. Now they want to know if this is the time? Their question is not about the nature of the Kingdom of God, or the Church, He has spent 40 days teaching them about that but rather, when the Kingdom of God, or the Church of Christ, would come into existence.

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Jesus tells them don't worry about the time, stay focused on their job cf:

I Thessalonians 5:1-3 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Jesus had promised that the Kingdom of God would come with Power cf:

Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Now Jesus says the "Power" He has spoken of will come when the Holy Ghost comes upon the Apostles, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The apostles were to be eyeball witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth,

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and [*so is*] also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: **40** Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; **41** Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, [*even*] to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Acts 22:14-15 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. **15** For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Acts 26:13-16 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. **14** And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? [*it is*] hard for thee to kick against the pricks. **15** And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. **16** But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

II Peter 1:13-21 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting [*you*] in remembrance; **14** Knowing that shortly I must put off [*this*] my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. **15** Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. **16** For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **18** And this voice which came from

heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [*as they were*] moved by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

This Is a view from earth & Daniel 7:13-14, is a view of the same event in Heaven.

Daniel 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [*one*] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [*is*] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [*that*] which shall not be destroyed.

Un-learned teachers teach Daniel's vision is of the second coming, while the verse plainly says The Son of Man was coming to the Ancient of Days (God). When does Daniel 7:13-14 teach Christ received His Kingdom? At His Ascension to the Father cf:

Acts 2:30-32 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

He will come from Heaven again the same way He went cf:

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [*also*] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen

Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James [*the son*] of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas [*the brother*] of James.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Acts 1:16 Men [*and*] brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Psalm 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up [*his*] heel against me

Acts 1:17-18 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

Zechariah 11: 10-13 And I took my staff, [*even*] Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. 11 And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it [*was*] the word of the LORD. 12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give [*me*] my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty [*pieces*] of silver. 13 And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty [*pieces*] of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, 15 And said [*unto them*], What will ye give me, and I will deliver him

unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Matthew 27:3-8 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What [*is that*] to us? see thou [*to that*]. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. 7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Acts 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

Jeremiah 7:29-32 Cut off thine hair, [*O Jerusalem*], and cast [*it*] away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath. 30 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it. 31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which [*is*] in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded [*them*] not, neither came it into my heart. 32 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

Acts 1:20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.³

Psalm 69:25 Let their habitation be desolate; [*and*] let none dwell in their tents

Psalm 109:8 Let his days be few; [*and*] let another take his office

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Acts 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

Acts 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all [men], shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Acts 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

We all have a little Judas in us in that we have betrayed the lord by sinning do you want to wind up going to your own place like Judas? Let Paul tell you about that place cf:

Romans 2:2-9 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ...

Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Or you could choose the free gift of everlasting life cf:

Romans 2: 7 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ...

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Sources: theWord.com for KJV Bible, Coffman's Commentaries and an unpublished commentary called simply "World Conquest" and Acts Commentary by George Faull