

Overview of Acts

Key Verse: Acts 1:6-8 (cf. 28:31)

Part 1: Confirmation of the Mission and Establishment of the Church (1-2)

Part 2: Commencement of the Mission to the Jewish World (3-9)

- A. Jerusalem (3-7)
- B. Judea and Samaria (8-9)

Part 3: Transition of the Mission to the Gentile World (10-12)

- A. Caesarea—Peter sent to Cornelius (10-11)
- B. Antioch of Syria—Setting the stage (11-12)

Part 4: Expansion of the Mission into the Gentile World (13-28)

- A. First Missionary Journey—Asia (13-14)
- B. Council at Jerusalem—Dealing with Gentile converts (15)
- C. Second Missionary Journey—Asia and Greece (15-18)
- D. Third Missionary Journey—Asia and Greece revisited (18-21)
- E. Return to Jerusalem—Paul's Arrest and Trials (21-26)
- F. Journey to Rome (27-28)

The Theme of Acts

The commencement of the fulfillment of Christ's mission to build His church through the universal proclamation of his name (His Person and Work), by the leading and enablement of the Holy Spirit and with explicit prayer-dependence on God; its mixed reception of faith and acceptance on the one hand, and the resistance it encounters and overcomes on the other hand; and the (comm)unity it should produce among all believers.

Acts portrays the incarnation of the Great Commission:

A living, moving, historical picture of the Great Commission fleshed out: what it looks like, how it is done, what reactions it encounters, and what it produces. Acts ends as an open book, an unfinished story, with Paul in Rome, the farthest frontier, continuing that very mission "unhinderedly" (a literal rendering of the final word of the Greek text of Acts), not in spite of but through his divinely ordained circumstances (cf. Phil. 1:12-14). The duty of the church today is to resume the mission where Acts leaves off, with the same aim, in the same spirit, on the same authority, with the same dependence, and in the same determined confidence.

Luke

Gospel begins in context of world history and Roman Empire

Jesus' ministry in Galilee

Jesus in Samaria

Jesus in Judea

Heart of Luke-Acts → Jerusalem ← **Resurrection/Ascension**

Gospel in Judea

Gospel in Samaria

Gospel to the Gentiles

Gospel to the world and heart of the Roman Empire

Acts