

Outline of
Acts



Introduction

Authorship

The style and themes of Acts clearly reflect the same authorship as those of the Gospel of Luke. Luke varies between Greek contemporary prose style and a Jewish style of Greek heavily influenced by the Septuagint.

The author claims to be an eyewitness of some secondary incidents (see comment on Acts 16:10), to have therefore known direct sources for much of his information, and to have acquired thorough knowledge of the rest (Lk 1:1-4). The idea of modern scholars that Luke's use of "we" in Acts to indicate something other than his actual presence reflects a modern agenda rather than sensitivity to the first-century background, for historical works in antiquity barely ever used "we" fictitiously.

Once one accepts the possibility that a traveling companion of Paul authored the work, the tradition that Luke (a physician, Col 4:14) is the author of Luke-Acts has nothing against it and fits what little we know about Luke. A number of terms in Luke-Acts are frequent in medical literature, although most of these terms also occur elsewhere, so this terminology alone would not prove Lukan authorship. Physicians could be lower class, even slaves, but were generally well educated; the presence of women in that field (especially midwifery) may have made some physicians more conscious of women's concerns (which Luke-Acts is).

Date

Most scholars date Luke-Acts between 70 and 90, with a smaller number dating it in the 60s and a still smaller number dating it later. Because Acts breaks off before Paul's death, some scholars have suggested that Acts (and hence Luke or its hypothetical earlier draft, proto-Luke) was written before A.D. 64. Others, reading Luke 21, suggest a date after A.D. 70, saying that Acts breaks off about A.D. 62 for literary reasons or because Luke needed only positive legal precedents. (Acts is not a biography of Paul, and Luke has reason to end on the climactic note of the gospel reaching Rome.) The evidence is not conclusive on either side, but because Luke clearly used the Gospel of Mark as a source, dating Luke-Acts to A.D. 62 would call into question the usual dating of Mark to A.D. 64. Because of this and possible allusions to the temple's past destruction, the majority of scholars therefore date Luke-Acts later, sometime after 70. Neither the dating of Mark nor that of Luke-Acts is secure, but this commentary tentatively accepts a date for the latter in the early to mid-seventies. Later dates appear less likely. Because Acts recalls in some detail riots that would be counterproductive to narrate unless one could not avoid the truth that they happened, it undoubtedly reflects recent memories that must be addressed. (The charge that Paul was guilty of stirring riots, 24:5, would disturb people loyal to Roman order, and the riots would need to be explained both during his custody and in the wake of his execution).

Purpose: Legal

One purpose of the work is to record consistent legal precedents in favor of the early Christians. In Acts every Roman court declares Christians not guilty, and this record has so impressed some scholars that they have suggested Luke wrote Acts as a court brief on Paul's behalf. Acts, however, is a narrative, not a list of precedents. More likely, Luke cites a wide range of legal precedents from different local courts (which would be helpful but not binding) for the same reason that Josephus does on behalf of Judaism: to argue that Christianity should enjoy continued legal protection in the empire. Luke thus gives Christians legal ammunition (Lk 21:15) and paves the way for later Christian lawyers and philosophers like Tertullian and Justin Martyr, who would argue for the toleration of Christianity. That Paul's custody and several speeches consume the final quarter of Acts reveals how important it is for Luke to answer the false charges against him.

Purpose: Apologetic

The apologetic in Acts extends beyond Roman law and beyond Paul's case. All history was written with a purpose; it was influenced by rhetoric and (to a lesser extent) wider literary and dramatic conventions, and was also used to illustrate moral principles. Josephus uses it to justify God and Israel after the war of A.D. 70; Plutarch and Livy use it to teach morals; even Tacitus writes as an aristocrat longing for the grandeur of old Rome. History with a theme or focal point (church history, social history, African-American history, etc.) is no less history for having an interest or editorial perspective. Luke's apologetic purpose is often advanced in the book's speeches.

Acts works on several fronts: the gospel confronts Roman law courts, Greek philosophers, rural Asian farmers and others on their own terms, and nothing can stop it. A major theme is the relationship of Christianity to Judaism. Ancient religions were respected by virtue of their age, and Christians needed to demonstrate that the Old Testament was their book and that they were the authentic voice of Judaism (despite the opposition of much of the Jewish community of Luke's day to this claim). Luke develops this theme by displaying the fulfilment of Old Testament motifs.

Source: Keener, Craig S. (2014). The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament, Second Edition. InterVarsity Press.

Part I & II

LUKE ~ doctor · Gentile · traveller
writer · evangelist

THEOPHILUS ~ representative?
(Mr. Godfriendly) individual?

A. HISTORICAL

- 1. **Two Sections:** *Peter to Jews (1-12)*
Paul to Gentiles (13-28)
- 2. **Three Sections:** *Jerusalem (1-7)*
Judea & Samaria (8-10)
Ends of the earth (11-28)
- 3. **Five Sections:** *Jews - Jerusalem* _____ 6.7
Hellenists & Samaritans _____ 9.31
Gentiles - Antioch _____ 12.24
Asia _____ 16.5
Europe _____ 19.20
Rome

B. EXISTENTIAL

1. LINK - BETWEEN GOSPELS & EPISTLES.

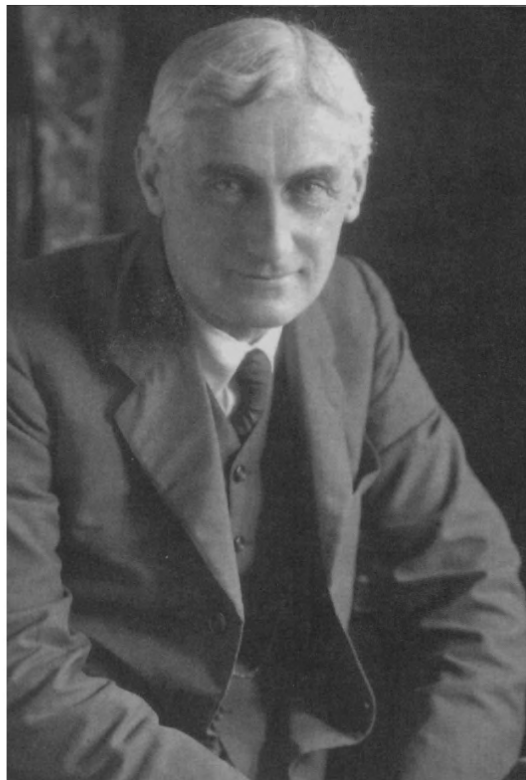
PAUL
BAPTISM IN WATER
BAPTISM IN SPIRIT
LAW OF MOSES
CHURCH

2. MODEL - MISSIONARY MANUAL

BAD AS WELL AS GOOD
ABNORMAL AS WELL AS NORMAL

SEND APOSTLES
REACH CITIES
PREACH GOSPEL
MAKE DISCIPLES
PLANT CHURCHES
APPOINT ELDERS - MOVE ON!

Part II



Roland Allen
(December 29, 1868
– June 9, 1947)

C. TRINITARIAN

TITLE: "ACTS" OF APOSTLES?
JESUS?
HOLY SPIRIT?
GOD!

CONTENTS: THE KINGDOM OF GOD (The Father)
THE NAME OF JESUS (The Son)
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter

1

- Ac 1:1-9** Christ, preparing his apostles to the beholding of his ascension, gathers them together unto the mount Olivet, commands them to expect in Jerusalem the sending down of the Holy Ghost, promises after a few days to send it, and ascends into heaven in their sight.
- Ac 1:10-11** After his ascension they are warned by two angels to depart, and to set their minds upon his second coming.
- Ac 1:12-26** They accordingly return, and, giving themselves to prayer, choose Matthias apostle in the place of Judas.

Chapter

2

- Ac 2:1-13** The apostles, filled with the Holy Ghost, and speaking divers languages, are admired by some, and derided by others;
- Ac 2:14-36** whom Peter disproves;
- Ac 2:37-40** he baptizes a great number that were converted;
- Ac 2:41-47** who afterwards devoutly and charitably converse together; the apostles working many miracles, and God daily increasing his church.



- Ac 3:1-11** Peter preaching to the people that came to see a lame man restored to his feet, professes the cure not to have been wrought by his or John's own power or holiness, but by God, and his son Jesus, and through faith in his name;
- Ac 3:12** withal reprehending them for crucifying Jesus;
- Ac 3:13-16** which because they did it through ignorance, and that thereby were fulfilled God's determinate counsel, and the Scriptures,
- Ac 3:17-18** he exhorts them by repentance and faith to seek remission of their sins, and salvation in the same Jesus.
- Ac 3:19-26**



- Ac 4:1-2** The rulers of the Jews, offended with Peter's sermon,
- Ac 4:3-4** imprison him and John.
- Ac 4:5-12** After, upon examination Peter boldly avouching the lame man to be healed by the name of Jesus, and that by the same Jesus only we must be eternally saved,
- Ac 4:13-22** they command him and John to preach no more in that name, adding also threatening;
- Ac 4:23-30** whereupon the church flees to prayer.
- Ac 4:31-37** And God, by moving the place where they were assembled, testifies that he heard their prayer; confirming the church with the gift of the Holy Ghost, and with mutual love and charity.

- Ac 5:1-11** After that Ananias and Sapphira his wife for their hypocrisy, at Peter's rebuke had fallen down dead;
- Ac 5:12-13** and that the rest of the apostles had wrought many miracles;
- Ac 5:14-16** to the increase of the faith;
- Ac 5:17-18** the apostles are again imprisoned;
- Ac 5:19-20** but delivered by an angel bidding them preach openly to all;
- Ac 5:21-28** when, after their teaching accordingly in the temple,
- Ac 5:29-32** and before the council,
- Ac 5:33-40** they are in danger to be killed; but through the advice of Gamaliel, a great counsellor among the Jews, they are kept alive, and are only beaten;
- Ac 5:41-42** for which they glorify God, and cease no day from preaching.

Chapter
6

Ac 6:1-2 The apostles, desirous to have the poor regarded for their bodily sustenance, as also careful themselves to dispense the word of God, the food of the soul, recommend,
Ac 6:3-4 and with the church's consent ordain seven chosen men to the office of deaconship.

Ac 6:7 The word of God prevails,
Ac 6:8-15 Stephen, full of faith and the Holy Ghost, confuting those with whom he disputed, is brought before the council, and falsely accused of blasphemy against the law and the temple.

Chapter
7

Ac 7:1 Stephen, permitted to answer to the accusation of blasphemy,
Ac 7:2-19 shows that Abraham worshipped God rightly, and how God chose the fathers, before Moses was born, and before the tabernacle and temple were built;
Ac 7:20-36 that Moses himself witnessed of Christ;
Ac 7:37-43 and that all outward ceremonies were ordained, according to the heavenly pattern, to last but for a time;
Ac 7:44-50 reprehending their rebellion, and murdering of Christ, the Just One, whom the prophets foretold should come into the world.
Ac 7:51-53 Whereupon they stone him to death, who commends his soul to Jesus, and humbly prays for them.



Chapter
8

Ac 8:1-8 By occasion of the persecution in Jerusalem, the church being planted in Samaria, by Philip the deacon, who preached, did miracles, and baptized many; among the rest Simon the sorcerer, a great seducer of the people;
Ac 8:9-13 Peter and John come to confirm and enlarge the church; where, by prayer and imposition of hands giving the Holy Ghost;
Ac 8:14-17 when Simon would have bought the like power of them, Peter sharply reproving his hypocrisy and covetousness, and exhorting him to repentance, together with John preaching the word of the Lord, return to Jerusalem;
Ac 8:18-25 but the angel sends Philip to teach and baptize the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Chapter
9

- Ac 9:1-9** Saul, going towards Damascus, is stricken down to the earth, and led blind to Damascus;
Ac 9:10-17 is called to the apostleship;
Ac 9:18-19 and is baptized by Ananias.
Ac 9:20-22 He preaches Christ boldly.
Ac 9:23-28 The Jews lay wait to kill him;
Ac 9:29-30 so do the Grecians, but he escapes both.
Ac 9:31-35 The church having rest, Peter heals Aeneas of the palsy;
Ac 9:36-43 and restores Tabitha to life.



Chapter
10

- Ac 10:1-10** Cornelius, a devout man, being commanded by an angel, sends for Peter,
Ac 10:11-16 who by a vision is taught not to despise the Gentiles;
Ac 10:17-24 and is commanded by the Spirit to go with the messenger to Caesarea.
Ac 10:25-33 Cornelius shows the occasion of his sending for him.
Ac 10:34-43 As he preaches Christ to Cornelius and his company,
Ac 10:44-48 the Holy Ghost falls on them, and they are baptized.

Chapter
11

- Ac 11:1-4** Peter, being accused for going in to the Gentiles,
Ac 11:5-17 makes his defence;
Ac 11:18 which is accepted.
Ac 11:19-25 The gospel being spread in Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, Barnabas is sent to confirm them.
Ac 11:26 The disciples there are first called Christians.
Ac 11:27-30 They send relief to the brethren in Judea in time of famine.

Chapter
12

- Ac 12:1-19** King Herod persecutes the Christians, kills James, and imprisons Peter; whom an angel delivers upon the prayers of the church.
Ac 12:20-23 Herod in his pride taking to himself the honour due to God, is stricken by an angel, and dies miserably.
Ac 12:24 After his death, the word of God prospers.
Ac 12:25 Saul and Barnabas return to Antioch.

Chapter

13

- Ac 13:1-5** Paul and Barnabas are chosen to go to the Gentiles.
Ac 13:6-12 Of Sergius Paulus, and Elymas the sorcerer.
Ac 13:13-41 Paul preaches at Antioch that Jesus is Christ.
Ac 13:42-43 The Gentiles believe;
Ac 13:44-49 but the Jews gainsay and blaspheme, whereupon they turn to the Gentiles, of whom many believe.
Ac 13:50-52 The Jews raise a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, who go to Iconium.

Chapter

14

- Ac 14:1-7** Paul and Barnabas are persecuted from Iconium.
Ac 14:8-18 At Lystra Paul heals a cripple, whereupon they are reputed as gods.
Ac 14:19-20 Paul is stoned.
Ac 14:21-25 They pass through divers churches, confirming the disciples in faith and patience.
Ac 14:26-28 Returning to Antioch, they report what God had done with them.

Chapter

15

- Ac 15:1-4** Great dissensions arise touching circumcision.
Ac 15:5-21 The apostles consult about it,
Ac 15:22-35 and send their determination by letters to the churches.
Ac 15:36-41 Paul and Barnabas, thinking to visit the brethren together, disagree, and travel different ways.

Chapter

16

- Ac 16:1-6** Paul having circumcised Timothy,
Ac 16:7-13 and being called by the Spirit from one country to another,
Ac 16:14-15 converts Lydia,
Ac 16:16-18 and casts out a spirit of divination;
Ac 16:19-24 for which cause he and Silas are whipped and imprisoned.
Ac 16:25-30 The prison doors are opened.
Ac 16:31-34 The jailor is converted,
Ac 16:35-40 and they are delivered.



Chapter

17

- Ac 17:1-4** Paul preaches at Thessalonica, where some believe,
Ac 17:5-9 and others persecute him.
Ac 17:10-12 He is sent to Berea, and preaches there.
Ac 17:13-15 Being persecuted by Jews from Thessalonica,
Ac 17:16-31 he comes to Athens, and disputes and preaches the living God, to them unknown;
Ac 17:32-34 whereby, though some mock, many are converted unto Christ.

Chapter

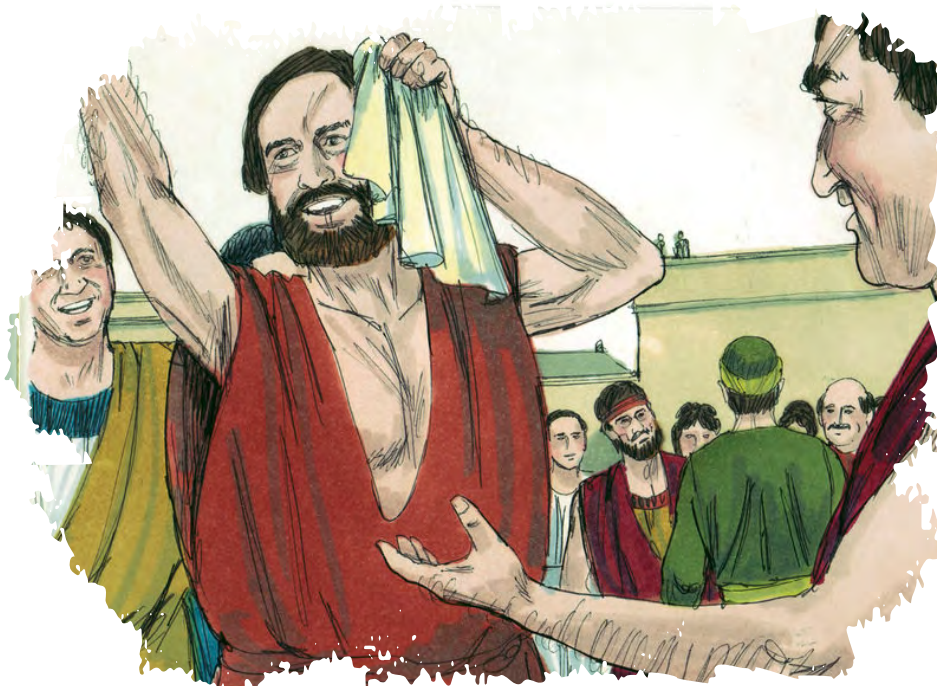
18

- Ac 18:1-8** Paul labours with his hands, and preaches at Corinth to the Gentiles.
- Ac 18:9-11** The Lord encourages him in a vision.
- Ac 18:12-17** He is accused before Gallio the deputy, but is dismissed.
- Ac 18:18-23** Afterwards passing from city to city, he strengthens the disciples.
- Ac 18:24-28** Apollos, being more perfectly instructed by Aquila and Priscilla, preaches Christ with great efficacy.

Chapter

19

- Ac 19:1-7** The Holy Ghost is given by Paul's hands.
- Ac 19:8-12** The Jews blaspheme his doctrine, which is confirmed by miracles.
- Ac 19:13-15** The Jewish exorcists,
- Ac 19:16-18** are beaten by the devil.
- Ac 19:19-20** Conjuring books are burnt.
- Ac 19:21-34** Demetrius, for love of gain, raises an uproar against Paul;
- Ac 19:35-41** which is appeased by the townclerk.



Chapter

20

- Ac 20:1-6** Paul goes to Macedonia, and thence to Troas.
- Ac 20:7-8** He celebrates the Lord's supper, and preaches.
- Ac 20:9-12** Eutychus having fallen down dead is raised to life.
- Ac 20:13-16** He continues his travels;
- Ac 20:17-27** and at Miletum he calls the elders together, tells them what shall befall to himself,
- Ac 20:28** commits God's flock to them,
- Ac 20:29-31** warns them of false teachers,
- Ac 20:32-35** commends them to God,
- Ac 20:36-38** prays with them, and departs.

Chapter

21

- Ac 21:1-9** Paul calls at the house of Philip, whose daughters prophesy.
- Ac 21:10-16** Agabus, foretelling what should befall him at Jerusalem, he will not be dissuaded from going thither.
- Ac 21:17-26** He comes to Jerusalem;
- Ac 21:27-36** where he is apprehended, and in great danger, but by the chief captain is rescued;
- Ac 21:37-40** and requests, and is permitted to speak to the people.

Chapter
22

- Ac 22:1-16** Paul declares at large how he was converted to the faith, and called to his apostleship.
Ac 22:17-21 At the very mentioning of the Gentiles the people exclaim on him.
Ac 22:22-23 He would have been scourged;
Ac 22:24 but claiming the privilege of a Roman, he escapes.
Ac 22:25-30

Chapter
23

- Ac 23:1** As Paul pleads his cause,
Ac 23:2-6 Ananias commands them to smite him.
Ac 23:7-10 Dissension among his accusers.
Ac 23:11-13 God encourages him.
Ac 23:14-19 The Jews' laying wait for Paul,
Ac 23:20-26 is declared unto the chief captain.
Ac 23:27-35 He sends him to Felix the governor.

Chapter
24

- Ac 24:1-9** Paul being accused by Tertullus the orator,
Ac 24:10-23 answers for his life and doctrine.
Ac 24:24-25 He preaches Christ to the governor and his wife.
Ac 24:26 The governor hopes for a bribe, but in vain.
Ac 24:27 At last, going out of his office, he leaves Paul in prison.

Chapter
25

- Ac 25:1-7** The Jews accuse Paul before Festus.
Ac 25:8-10 He answers for himself,
Ac 25:11-13 and appeals unto Caesar.
Ac 25:14-22 Afterwards Festus opens his matter to king Agrippa;
Ac 25:23-24 and he is brought forth.
Ac 25:25-27 Festus clears him of having done any thing worthy of death.

Chapter
26

- Ac 26:1-11** Paul, in the presence of Agrippa, declares his life from his childhood;
Ac 26:12-23 and how miraculously he was converted, and called to his apostleship.
Ac 26:24-27 Festus charges him with being mad, whereunto he answers modestly.
Ac 26:28-30 Agrippa is almost persuaded to be a Christian.
Ac 26:31-32 The whole company pronounce him innocent.



Chapter
27

- Ac 27:1-9** Paul shipping towards Rome,
Ac 27:10 foretells of the danger of the voyage,
Ac 27:11-13 but is not believed.
Ac 27:14-40 They are tossed to and fro with tempest;
Ac 27:41-43 and suffer shipwreck;
Ac 27:44 yet all come safe to land.



Chapter
28

- Ac 28:1-4** Paul, after his shipwreck, is kindly entertained of the barbarians.
Ac 28:5-7 The viper on his hand hurts him not.
Ac 28:8-10 He heals many diseases in the island.
Ac 28:11-16 They depart towards Rome.
Ac 28:17-23 He declares to the Jews the cause of his coming.
Ac 28:24-29 After his preaching some were persuaded, and some believed not.
Ac 28:30-31 Yet he preaches there two years.

Quiz on Acts

1. John baptized with water, but Jesus said to the Disciples that they would be baptized with what?

2. Where was Paul born?

3. In Chapter 7, who was being stoned when he saw the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God?

4. Jesus said we would receive what, after the Holy Ghost comes upon us?

5. In Chapter 18, where did Paul meet Aquila and Priscilla?

6. Peter had been imprisoned by King Herod, but someone came to his aid and rescued him. Who was it?

7. Who preached to the crowd in Acts Chapter 2?

8. In Chapter 3, what did Peter and John do for the lame man at the temple gate who asked them for alms?

9. According to Chapter 9, Peter healed a man named Aeneas, at Lydda. What was that man's illness?

10. Who was chosen to take Judas' place with the twelve disciples?

GENEVA
BIBLE SCHOOL

