**STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**BRIEF OVERVIEW -THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**The Title of the Book:**

The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia suggests that the book originally may not have had a title.

One of the sources of the **Greek manuscript** has **Praxeis, “**Acts.”

Another Greek source has **Praxeis ton Apostolon,** which means **,“Acts of the Apostles.”**

-**There are total 1007 verses in this book.**

**Authorship:**

It is evident that the writer of The Acts was Luke.

**The Author**:

* He was a physician. (**Col 4:14**- Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.)
* He is the first medical missionary.
* He was often a traveling companion of Paul and a great personal comfort.

**Acts is addressed to the same official that received the Gospel of Luke.**

**Luke 1:3-** It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, **most excellent Theophilus,**

**Acts 1:1-** In my former book, **Theophilus**, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach.

**Date:**

The historical data in Acts that can be confirmed accurately portrays that the Book of Acts was written around AD 62, with Paul imprisoned in Rome.

**Historicity:**

The historical events, sociopolitical dynamics, cultural settings, legal structures, and religious practices that can be attested by external evidence consistently confirm the historical reliability of Acts

**Purpose**

The basic purpose of Acts is to portray the development of the Christian movement in its first 3 decades. There are 4 interlocking phases in this development.

1. **The movement from Jews to Gentiles.**

This movement has 4 Stages

1. **This phase contains initial outreach to the Jews** ([1:1-8:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.1.1-Acts.8.3));
2. **Outreach to “second-class”** **Jews, such as Samaritans and proselytes** ([8:4-40](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.8.4-Acts.8.40));
3. **Outreach to God-fearing Gentiles** ([9:32-11:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.9.32-Acts.11.18));
4. **Finally, outreach to Gentiles with no connection to Judaism** ([13:2-21:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.13.2-Acts.21.15)).
5. **The movement from Jerusalem to Rome:**

This movement also has 4 stages:

(a) **From Jerusalem throughout Judea, Samaria, and Galilee** ([1:1-9:31](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.1.1-Acts.9.31));

(b) **Extension to Antioch** ([11:19-13:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.11.19-Acts.13.1));

**Acts 11:26-** And the **disciples were first called Christians in Antioch** in Syria.

(c) **The Antioch-based mission** ([13:2-21:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.13.2-Acts.21.16));

(d) **Paul to Rome** ([21:17-28:31](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts.21.17-Acts.28.31)).

1. **The Problems within the Christian movement**.

There are 4 dimensions to these problems that thread through the book:

**(a) Jews versus Jewish Christians,**

**(b) Hebrew Christians versus Hellenistic (Greek) Christians,**

**(c) Jewish Christians versus gentile Christians,**

(d) **Christians versus Roman authorities.**

1. **The establishment of Paul's into Christianity & As an Apostle from Judaism into the Roman world.**

One way in which the author establishes **Paul's authority is to select events from Paul's ministry to the Gentiles** that parallel **Peter's ministry to the Jews.**

**SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOK OF ACTS:**

**The Establishment & the Growth of the Church**

I. The beginnings of the church. 1:1-2:47.

A. Preparation: The post-resurrection ministry and ascension of Jesus. 1:1-14.

B. Choice of Matthias. 1:15-26.

C. Coming of the Holy Spirit. 2:1-41.

D. Life of the primitive church. 2:42-47.

II. The church in Jerusalem. 3:1-5:42.

A. A typical miracle and sermon. 3:1-26.

B. First opposition from Jewish leaders. 4:1-37.

C. Death of Ananias and Sapphira. 5:1-16,

D. Second opposition from Jewish leaders. 5:17-42.

III. Extension of the church in Palestine through dispersion. 6:1-12:25.

A. Choice of the seven. 6:1-7.

B. Occasion of the dispersion: Ministry and martyrdom of Stephen. 6:8-8:3.

C. The Gospel in Samaria. 8:4-25.

D. Conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. 8:26-40.

E. Conversion of Saul. 9:1-31.

F. Peter’s ministry in Palestine and the first Gentile converts. 9:32-11:18.

G. Establishment of a Gentile church at Antioch. 11:19-30.

H. Persecution by Herod Agrippa I. 12:1-25.

IV. Extension of the church in Asia Minor and Europe. 13:1-21:17.

A. **First mission, Galatia. 13:1-14:28.**

B. Problem of the Gentile church, and council in Jerusalem. 15:1-35,

C. **Second mission, Asia Minor and Europe. 15:36-18:22.**

D. **Third mission, Asia Minor and Europe. 18:23-21:17.**

V. Extension of the church to Rome. 21:18-28:31.

A. Rejection of the Gospel by Jerusalem. 21:18-26:32.

B. Reception of the Gospel in Rome. 27:1-28:31

**ACTS- Chapter - 1**

**SCRIPTURAL ANALYSIS**

**Acts 1:1 - The former account I made, O Theophilus,** of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.

**Acts 1:2: Until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen.**

Doctor Luke had first researched and written the Gospel of Luke to Theophilus, a Greek public official and friend.

**The former Treatise/ Account**

“**The former treatise**” is evidently that of the Gospel of Luke.

In that which Jesus *began* to do and we are taken back to the:

**(1) Incarnation.**

(2) **The life and teaching of Jesus**.

(3) **Atonement or “passion” of Jesus**

(**4) Resurrection**

**(5) The Ascension**

**Acts 1:3 -****To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during 40/forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

**Some of the infallible proofs are as follows:**

1. To Mary Magdalene: **John 20:16**
2. To the Ten Disciples: **John 20:19**
3. To the 10 Disciples plus Thomas: **John 20:26 KJV**
4. Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus: **Luke 24:13-15**
5. The Apostle Paul on the Road to Damascus: **Acts 9:5**
6. The Five Hundred at one instance: **1 Corinthians- 15:6 -** After that, he was seen of **above five hundred brethren** at once.
7. To Peter Alone: **Luke 24:34-**
8. Appearing to the Disciples in Flesh and Blood : **Luke 24:39**
9. To seven of the apostles in Galilee, at the sea of Tiberius, **John 21:4**
10. When they were assembled together, and when he led them unto Bethany: **Luke 24:50-51**