

(Early 60's)

ACTS

Author: Luke (see comments in Gospel of Luke)

Written about A.D. 62 since Acts concludes with Paul having been in jail for two years and Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment that year. Luke could have researched early chapters while with Paul in Jerusalem.

Theme: Birth and Growth of the Church. The 30 year historical transition between Judaism and Christianity. A link between the gospels and epistles.

Key Verse - 1:8, *“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

Purpose: To give Theophilus the additional work Jesus did after His Ascension through His apostles by the Holy Spirit

Misc. Luke is an excellent historian. Archeological research continues to prove him correct on any issues in which liberal scholars have criticized him.

People to Know: Peter, John, Ananias & Sapphira, Barnabas, James, Stephen, Cornelius, Philip, Saul/Paul, John Mark, Silas, Apollos, Timothy, Festus, Felix, Agrippa.

Brief Outline

- I. Witnesses in Jerusalem (1-7)
 - A. The Apostles are Commissioned (1)
 - B. The Church is Established (2)
 - C. Apostolic Ministry (3)
 - D. Persecution Begins (4- 5)
 - E. The Church Expands (6)
 - F. The Witness & Martyrdom of Stephen (7)
- II. Witnesses in Samaria & Judea (8-12)
 - A. Witness to Samaria (8:1-25)
 - B. Witness to Judea (8:26-40)
 - C. Conversion of Saul (9)
 - D. Witness to Gentiles (10-11)
 - E. Witnesses Protected (12)
- III. Witnesses to the Remotest Part of the Earth (13-28)
 - A. First Missionary Journey (13,14)
 - B. Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)
 - C. Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)
 - D. Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:14)
 - E. Paul’s Arrest & Trials (21:15-26:32)
 - F. Voyage to Rome (27-28)

Key Chapters & Verses:

- 1. 40 days post Resurrection, Choosing Matthias
- 1:8. . . . "But you shall receive power... be My witnesses.
- 2. The Day of Pentecost: The Coming of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church
- 4:12. . . . "And there is salvation in no one else;..."
- 5:1-3. . . . Ananias and Sapphira, Apostles before the Council
- 5:29. . . . "We must obey God rather than man"
- 6:1-6. . . . Structure Given to Church
- 7. Stephen's sermon and martyrdom
- 8:14-17.. Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit
- 9. Saul's conversion, Peter's ministry in Joppa
- 10. The Gospel goes to the Gentiles - Peter preaches to Cornelius, Spirit comes on them.
- 10:44-46 Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
- 13. First Missionary Journey
- 15. Jerusalem Council. Gentiles do not have to become Jews
- 16:31. . . . "...Believe in the Lord Jesus,..."
- 19:1-7. . . Disciples of John the Baptist receive Spirit
- 20:28-30 Paul's Warning to the Ephesian Elders

Detailed Outline The Acts of the Apostles

I. WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

A. The Apostles Are Commissioned (1:1-26)

- 1. Salutation & Explanation (1-2)
- 2. Resurrection Proofs (3)
 - a. Appearing for 40 Days
 - b. Teaching About the Kingdom
- 3. Waiting for the Spirit (4-5)
- 4. Their Commission (6-8)
 - a. A Question About the Kingdom (vs. 6-7)
 - b. The Mission (8)
- 5. The Ascension (9-11)
 - a. Rising to Heaven (9)
 - b. Promise of Return (10-11)
- 6. Waiting in Jerusalem (12-36)
 - a. Return to Jerusalem (12)
 - b. Praying in Jerusalem (13-14)
 - c. Choosing a Replacement (15-26)

B. The Church is Established (2:1-47)

1. The Day of Pentecost (2:1-42)

a. The Situation (1)

b. The Baptism of the Spirit (2-13)

(1) Fulfilment of Prophecy (Joel 2:28-32; Luke 3:16; John 1:31-33)

(2) His Manifestation (2-4)

(3) A Bewildered Multitude (5-11)

(a) The Multitude Assembles (5)

(b) The Multitudes Amazement (6-8)

(c) Origin of the Multitude (9-11)

(4) Immediate Reactions (12-13)

(a) Continued Amazement (12)

(b) Mocking (13)

c. Peter's Sermon (2:14-36)

(1) Refuting the Skeptics (14-15)

(2) Prophetic Fulfillment (16-21)

(3) Proclaiming Jesus (2:22-36)

(4) The Result (2:37-47)

(a) The Response to the Sermon (37)

(b) Peter's Instructions & Promises (38-40)

i) Repentance

ii) Baptism

iii) The Gift of the Spirit

iv) Continued Exhortations

(c) The Response of the Saved (41-42)

i) The Apostle's Teaching

ii) Fellowship

iii) The Breaking of the Bread

iv) The Prayers

2. Life in the Early Church (2:43-47)
 - a. Apostolic Signs (43)
 - b. Loving Fellowship (44-46)
 - c. Increasing Fellowship (47)

C. Apostolic Ministry (3:1-26)

1. The Miracle (3:1-10)
 - a. The Setting (1)
 - b. The Beggar (2-3)
 - c. The Response of Peter (4-7)
 - d. The Response of the Beggar (8)
 - e. The Response of the People (9-10)
2. Peter's Second Sermon (3:11-26)
 - a. The Setting (11)
 - b. Peter's Questions (12)
 - c. God's Actions (13a)
 - d. Their Sin (13b-15a)
 - e. The Resurrection (15b)
 - f. The Faith that Brings Healing (16)
 - g. The Hope of the Prophets (17-26)

D. Persecution Begins (4 - 5)

1. First Imprisonment (4:1-31)
 - a. The Arrest of Peter & John (1-3)
 - b. The Increase in the Church (4)
 - c. The Trial of Peter & John (5-22)
 - (1) The Jury (5-7)
 - (2) The Defense (8-12)
 - (3) The Deliberation & Judgment (13-18)
 - (4) The Responses (19-22)
 - d. The Release (23-31)
 - (1) The Report (23)
 - (2) The Prayer (24-30)
 - (3) The Result (31)

2. An Internal Threat (4:32-5:16)
 - a. Life Among the Believers (4:32-37)
 - (1) Sharing (32)
 - (2) Proclaiming (33)
 - (3) Distributing (34-35)
 - (4) An Example (36-37)
 - b. Attempted Deception (5:1-11)
 - (1) The Deception (1-2)
 - (2) Confronting Ananias (3-6)
 - (3) Confronting Sapphira (7-10)
 - (4) The Result (11)
 - c. Impacting Others (5:12-16)
 - (1) Miracles & Unity (12)
 - (2) Fear & Esteem (13)
 - (3) Multiplication (14)
 - (4) Healing (15-16)
3. Second Imprisonment (5:17-42)
 - a. The First Arrest (17-18)
 - b. The Release by an Angel (19-25)
 - c. The Second Arrest (26)
 - d. The Trial (27-42)
 - (1) The Questioning (27-28)
 - (2) The Defense (29-32)
 - (3) The Sanhedrin's Response (33-40)
 - (a) Angry Men (33)
 - (b) Gamaliel's Advice (34-39)
 - (c) Their Actions (40)
 - (4) The Apostle's Response (41-42)

E. Ministry Expands (6:1-7)

1. Problems in a Growing Church (6:1-2)
 - a. Overwhelmed Apostles (1a)

- b. Complaints Begin (1b)
- c. Loss of Priority (1c)
- 2. Solutions for a Growing Church (6:3-6)
 - a. Finding Qualified Servants (3)
 - (1) Congregational Responsibility
 - (2) Qualifications
 - (3) Duties Assigned
 - b. Keeping Priorities (4)
 - c. Appointing the Seven Men (5-6)
- 3. Actions of a Growing Church (6:7)

F. The Witness & Martyrdom of Stephen (6:8 - 7)

- 1. Stephen's Ministry (6: 8-10)
- 2. Lying Opponents (6:11-15)
- 3. Stephen's Defense (7:1-53)
 - a. The Truth About God (7:2-16)
 - b. The Truth About Moses (7:17-36)
 - c. The Truth About the Law (7:37-43)
 - d. The Truth About the Temple (7:44-50)
 - e. The Truth about His Opponents (7:51-53)
- 4. Their Sinful Response (7:54-60)

II. WITNESSES IN SAMARIA & JUDEA (8 - 12)

A. Witness to Samaria (8:1-25)

- 1. The Great Persecution Begins (8:1-3)
 - a. Its Rise and Its Effect (1)
 - b. Burial of Stephen (2)
 - c. Saul's Actions (3)
- 2. The Gospel Among the Samaritans (8:4-24)
 - a. Philip's Ministry (4-8)
 - b. Simon's Background (9-13)
 - c. Apostolic Ministry (14-24)
 - (1) Imparting the Holy Spirit (14-17)
 - (2) Rebuking Simon (18-24)
 - (3) The Return to Jerusalem (25)

B. Witness to Judea (8:26-40)

1. Philip & the Ethiopian (8:26-39)
 - a. Angelic Direction (26)
 - b. The Seeker (27-28)
 - c. The Evangelist (29-30)
 - d. The Question (31-34)
 - e. The Answer (35)
 - f. The Response (36-38)
 - g. The Rejoicing (39)
2. Evangelization of the Coastal Cities (8:40)

C. The Conversion of Saul (9:1-31)

1. Saul's Intent (9:1-2)
2. The Lord's Intervention (9:3-9)
 - a. The Lord Reveals Himself (3-7)
 - b. The Effect on Saul (8-9)
3. The Ministry of Ananias (9:10-19a)
 - a. The Lord's Call (10-12)
 - b. His Hesitancy (13-14)
 - c. The Lord's Assurance (15-16)
 - d. Ananias' Actions (17-19a)
4. Saul Proclaims Jesus (9:19b-31)
 - a. Preaching in Damascus (19b-25)
 - (1) Preaching (19b-22)
 - (2) Escape (23-25)
 - b. Preaching in Jerusalem (26-30)
 - (1) Preaching (26-28)
 - (2) Escape (29-30)
 - c. Peace in the Church (31)

D. Peter's Ministry in Lydda & Joppa (9:32-43)

1. Ministry In Lydda (32-35)
2. Ministry in Joppa (36-43)

E. Witness to Gentiles (10 - 11)

1. The Conversion of Cornelius (10:1-48)
 - a. The Vision of Cornelius (1-7)

- b. The Vision of Peter (8-16)
- c. Peter's Perplexity (17-23a)
- d. Peter Goes to Caesarea (23b-33)
- e. Peter Preaches to the Gentiles (34-43)
- f. Conversion of the Gentiles (44-48)
 - (1) The Coming of the Holy Spirit (44-46)
 - (2) The Baptism of the Believers (47-48)

- 2. Confirmation of Gentile Conversions (11:1-18)
 - a. Accused by Those of the Circumcision (1-3)
 - b. Peter Recounts the Events in Caesarea (4-15)
 - c. Peter's Conclusion (16-17)
 - d. Confirmation (18)
- 3. Conversions in Antioch (11:19-26)
 - a. Arrival in Antioch (19-21)
 - b. Building Up the Believers (22-26)
 - c. Contribution from the Christians (27-30)

F. Witnesses Protected (12:1-24)

- 1. Herodian Persecution (12:1-19)
 - a. Martyrdom of James (1-2)
 - b. Peter Imprisoned (3-6)
 - c. Peter Released by an Angel (7-10)
 - d. Peter Reports to the Brethren (11-17)
 - e. Herod's Wrath (18-19)
- 2. Herod's Death (12:20-23)
- 3. The Continuing Spread of the Word (12:24)

III. WITNESSES TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH (13:1-28:31)

A. First Missionary Journey (13 - 14)

- 1. Paul & Barnabas Commissioned (12:25-13:3)
 - a. Return to Jerusalem (12:25)
 - b. Set Apart by the Holy Spirit (13:1-2)
 - c. Sent Out (13:3)
- 2. Ministry in Cyprus (13:4-12)
 - a. Ministry in Seleucia (4-5)

- b. Ministry in Paphos (6-12)
 - (1) Opposition by Elymas (6-8)
 - (2) Paul Blinds Elymas (9-11)
 - (3) The Proconsul Believes (12)
- c. Ministry in Pisidian Antioch (13:13-52)
 - (1) Departure of John (13)
 - (2) Invitation in the Synagogue (14-15)
 - (3) Paul's Sermon (16-41)
 - (a) Prophetic History to Jesus (16-25)
 - (b) The Death & Resurrection of Jesus (26-31)
 - (c) Prophetic Fulfillment & Hope in Jesus (32-39)
 - (d) Warnings (40-41)
 - (4) The Responses (42-52)
 - (a) Initial Followers (42-43)
 - (b) Jealousy & Opposition of the Jews (44-46)
 - (c) Joy of the Gentiles (47-49)
 - (d) Persecution (50)
 - (e) Departure (51)
 - (f) Continual Joy (52)
- d. Ministry in Iconium (14:1-7)
- e. Ministry in Lystra (14:8-20a)
 - (1) Healing & Response (8-18)
 - (2) Opposition & Stoning (19-20a)
- f. Ministry in Derbe & Return Trip (14:20b - 26)
- g. Report to Antioch (27-28)

B. Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)

- 1. The Dissension (15:1-5)
- 2. The Debate (15:6-21)
 - a. Peter's Presentation (6-11)
 - b. Barnabas & Paul's Report (12)
 - c. James' Judgment (13-21)
- 3. The Decision (15:22-29)

4. Report to Antioch (15:30-35)

C. Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)

1. Disagreement over John Mark (15:36-41)
2. Revisiting Asia Minor (16:1-5)
 - a. Selection of Timothy (1-3)
 - b. Delivering the Decree (4-5)
3. The Macedonian Call (16:6-11)
 - a. The Spirit's Resistance (6-8)
 - b. The Vision Given to Paul (9-11)
4. Ministry in Philippi (16:11-40)
 - a. The Journey to Philippi (11-12)
 - b. The Conversion of Lydia (13-15)
 - c. The Demon Cast Out (16-18)
 - d. Paul & Silas Imprisoned (19-34)
 - (1) Their Arrest (19-24)
 - (2) Their Praise (25)
 - (3) The Jailer's Fear (26-29)
 - (4) The Jailer's Conversion (30-34)
 - (5) Their Release (35-40)
5. Ministry in Thessalonica (17:1-9)
 - a. Reception (1-4)
 - b. Opposition (5-9)
6. Ministry in Berea (17:10-15)
 - a. Reception (10-12)
 - b. Opposition (13-15)
7. Ministry in Athens (17:16-34)
 - a. Paul Provoked by the Idols (16-18)
 - b. Paul Invited to the Areopagus (19-21)
 - c. Paul's Sermon (22-34)
 - (1) Careful Introduction (22-23)
 - (2) Declaring the Nature of the True God (24-29)
 - (a) Creator & Lord (24)

- (b) Autonomous & Source of Life (25)
 - (c) Ruler (26)
 - (d) Near (27)
 - (e) Source of Existence (28)
 - (f) Not an Idol (29)
- (3) Declaring the Requirements of God (30-31)
- (4) Responses (32-34)
 - (a) Rejection (32)
 - (b) Interest (33-34)
- 8. Ministry In Corinth (18:1-17)
 - a. Paul Works with Aquilla & Priscilla (1-4)
 - b. Paul Teaches the Word for 1 ½ Years (5-11)
 - (1) Testifying to the Jews (5)
 - (2) Turning to the Gentiles (6-7)
 - (3) Many were Believing (8)
 - (4) Comfort from the Lord (9-11)
 - c. Opposition from the Jews (12-17)
 - (1) Paul Brought before Gallio (12-13)
 - (2) Gallio Rebuffs the Jews (14-16)
 - (3) The Beating of Sosthenes (17)
- 9. Return Trip to Antioch (18:18-22)
 - a. Cenchrea (18)
 - b. Ephesus (19-21)
 - c. Antioch (22)
- D. Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)**
 - 1. Ministry in Galatia & Phrygia (18:23)
 - 2. Ministry in Ephesus (18:24-19:41)
 - a. The Ministry of Apollos (18:14-28)
 - (1) Mighty in Scriptures (24-26a)
 - (2) Was Taught More Accurately (26b)
 - (3) Went to Achaia (27-28)
 - b. The Ministry of Paul (19:1-41)
 - (1) To The Disciples of John (1-7)
 - (a) Discovering Their Beliefs (1-3)
 - (b) Declaring Jesus (4-5)

- (c) Imparting the Holy Spirit (6-7)
- (2) In the Synagogues (8-9)
- (3) In the School of Tyrannus for Two Years (10)
- (4) Through Miracles (11-20)
 - (a) Miracles by Hands of Paul (11-12)
 - (b) Jewish Exorcists Overpowered (13-17)
 - (c) Results (18-20)
- (5) Paul's Future Plans (21-22)
- (6) Ephesian Uproar (23-41)
 - (a) Its Cause (23-27)
 - (b) Its Characteristics (28-34)
 - (c) Its Calming (35-41)
- 3. Ministry in Macedonia (20:1-2)
- 4. Ministry in Greece (20:3-5)
- 5. Ministry in Troas (20:6-12)
- 6. Ministry on the Journey Back to Caesarea (20:13-21:16)
 - a. From Troas to Miletus (20:13-16)
 - b. Farewell Address to the Ephesian Elders (20:17-38)
 - (1) Arrival of the Ephesian Elders (17-18a)
 - (2) Paul's Ministry to them (18b-21)
 - (3) Paul's Future (22-25)
 - (4) Paul's Integrity (26-27)
 - (5) Paul's Charge & Warning (28-32)
 - (6) Paul's Example (33-35)
 - (7) Paul's Departure (36-38)
 - c. From Miletus to Caesarea (21:1-7)
 - (1) From Cos to Tyre (1-4)
 - (2) Warnings in Tyre (5-6)
 - (3) Ptolemais (7)
 - (4) Warnings in Caesarea (8-14)

E. Paul's Arrest & Trials (21:15-26:32)

1. Paul in Jerusalem (21:15-23:22)
 - a. Arrival in Jerusalem (21:15-17)
 - b. Meeting with James & the Elders (21:18-26)
 - (1) Paul's Report (18-20a)
 - (2) Their Concern (20b-22)
 - (3) Their Solution (23-25)
2. Paul in the Temple (21:26-22:29)
 - a. Fulfilling His Vows (21:26)
 - b. Attacked by the Mob (21:27-30)
 - c. Arrested by the Chilliarch (21:31-36)
 - (1) Intervention (31-33)
 - (2) Confusion (34)
 - (3) Violence (35-36)
 - d. His Defense (21:37-22:23)
 - (1) Permission (21:37-40)
 - (2) History (22:1-5)
 - (3) Conversion (22:6-16)
 - (4) Commission (22:17-21)
3. Paul in Fort Antonia (22:22-29)
 - a. Response to Paul's Defense (22-24)
 - b. Response to Paul's Roman Citizenship (25-29)
4. Paul before the Sanhedrin (22:30-23:10)
 - a. Paul is Brought In (22:30)
 - b. Paul's Integrity (23:1-5)
 - (1) His Claim (1)
 - (2) Their Illegal Action (2)
 - (3) Paul's Error (3-4)
 - (4) Paul's Apology (5)
 - c. Paul's Wisdom & Hope (6)
 - d. Contention in the Council (7-10)
5. Paul in Jail (23:11-22)
 - a. The Lord's Encouragement (11)
 - b. The Conspiracy to Murder Paul (12-22)

- (1) The Conspiracy Devised (12-15)
- (2) The Conspiracy Discovered (16-17)
- (3) The Conspiracy Disclosed (18-22)
- 6. Paul in Caesarea (23:23-26:32)
 - a. Secret Departure (23:23-35)
 - (1) The Chilliarch's Plan (23-24)
 - (2) The Chilliarch's Letter (25-30)
 - (3) Paul Moved to Caesarea (31-35)
 - b. Paul Before Felix (24:1-27)
 - (1) The Accusations (1-9)
 - (a) Arrival of Ananias & Elders (1)
 - (b) Feigned Respect (2-4)
 - (c) False Charge of Treason (5a)
 - (d) False Charge of Religious Heresy (5b)
 - (e) False Charge of Temple Desecration (6a)
 - (f) False Charge of Roman Interference (6b-8a)
 - (g) Their Appeal (8b)
 - (h) Further Accusations (9)
 - (2) Paul's Defense (10-21)
 - (a) Respectful Introduction (10)
 - (b) Refutation of Charge of Treason (11-13)
 - (c) Refutation of Charge of Religious Heresy (14-16)
 - (d) Refutation of Charge of Temple Desecration (17-18a)
 - (e) Refuting the Accusers (18b-21)
 - (3) Felix's Procrastination (22-27)
 - (a) Putting Off Paul's Accusers (22-23)
 - (b) Putting Off Paul (24-27)
 - i) His Own Fears (24-25)
 - ii) His Desire for a Bribe (26)
 - iii) His Desire to do a Favor for the Jews (27)
 - c. Paul Before Festus (25:1-12)
 - (1) The Second Conspiracy to Murder Paul (1-5)
 - (a) Festus Arrives in Jerusalem (1)
 - (b) The Accusations and the Plot of the Jews (2-3)
 - (c) Festus' Invitation (4-5)

- (2) Paul's Defense to Festus (6-12)
 - (a) The Accusers (6-7)
 - (b) Paul's Denial (8)
 - (c) Festus' Question (9)
 - (d) Paul Appeals to Caeaser (10-12)
- d. Paul Before Agrippa (25:13-26:32)
 - (1) Agrippa Arrives in Caesarea (13-22)
 - (2) Paul Presented to Agrippa (23-27)
 - (3) Paul Makes His Defense to Agrippa (26:1-29)
 - (a) His Introduction (1-3)
 - (b) His History (4-11)
 - (c) His Conversion (12-18)
 - (d) His Life as a Christian (19-23)
 - (e) Festus' Reaction (24)
 - (f) Paul's Response to Festus (25-26)
 - (g) Paul' Appeal to Agrippa (27-29)
 - i) Paul's Question & Assertation (27)
 - ii) Agrippa's Response (28)
 - iii) Paul's Desire for the King (29)
 - (4) Agrippa's Conclusion (30-32)

F. Voyage to & Stay at Rome (27:1 - 28:31)

- 1. From Caesarea to Fair Havens (27:1-8)
- 2. From Fair Havens to Malta (27:9-44)
 - a. Paul's Warning (9-10)
 - b. The Storm (11-26)
 - (1) Ignoring the Warning (11-13)
 - (2) The Storm Begins (14-20)
 - (3) Paul's Encouragement & Prophecy (21-26)
 - c. The Shipwreck (27-44)
 - (1) Setting Anchor (27-29)
 - (2) Saving Lives (30-44)
 - (a) Preventing the Flight of the Sailors (30-32)
 - (b) Preparing to Run Aground (33-41)
 - i) Last Meal (33-38)

- ii) Lightening the Load (39-40)
 - iii) Lodging in the Reef (41)
 - (c) Preventing Slaughter (42-44)
- 3. On Malta (28:1-10)
 - a. Kindness of the Natives (1-2)
 - b. Paul and the Viper (3-6)
 - (1) Bitten (3)
 - (2) Expectation of Death (4)
 - (3) No Harm Done (5)
 - (4) Changed Minds (6)
 - c. Paul's Healing Ministry (7-10)
 - (1) Hospitality of Publius (7)
 - (2) Healing Publius' Father (8)
 - (3) Healing All Who Came (9)
 - (4) Honored by the Natives (10)
- 4. From Malta to Rome (28:11-15)
- 5. In Rome (28:16-30)
 - a. Arrival (16)
 - b. Paul Introduces Himself to the Jews (17-22)
 - (1) Paul Explains His Imprisonment (17-20)
 - (2) The Jews' Response (21-22)
 - (a) They Had No Previous Knowledge about Paul (21)
 - (b) They Want to Hear Paul's Views (22)
 - c. Paul Proclaims Christ to the Jews (23-29)
 - (1) Testifying & Persuading (23)
 - (2) A Mixed Response (24)
 - (3) Paul's Warning (25-29)
 - (a) The Prophecy of Isaiah (25-27)
 - (b) The Salvation of the Gentiles (28-29)
 - d. Paul's Continuing Ministry (30-31)