

The Purpose of Acts

“An alternate title that could be given to the book...“The History of the Acts of the Holy Spirit.” Since it was inspired by the Holy Spirit and is a record of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostolic church and on the ministry of that church.” // Sproul, R.C.. Acts: An Expositional Commentary

*Many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed them down to us. **3** So it also seemed good to me, since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honorable Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed. // Luke 1:1-4*

“The name [Theophilus] can mean either “one who loves God” or “one who is loved by God.” // Sproul, R.C.. Acts: An Expositional Commentary

“The book is a work of apologetics, a defense of the truth claims of the Christian faith.” // Sproul, R.C.. Acts: An Expositional Commentary

Τεκμήριον - Tekmerion - that which causes something to be known in a convincing and decisive manner (Acts 1:3)

“The theme of Acts is this: the church’s obedience to Christ’s commission and commandment to be His witnesses as the ascended King, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.” // Sproul, R.C.. Acts: An Expositional Commentary

The whole book of Acts is summarized in Acts 1:8

The Ascension of Jesus

Then he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. And while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven. After worshipping him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they were continually in the temple praising God. // Luke 24:50-53

So the Lord Jesus, after speaking to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the accompanying signs. // Mark 16:19-20

The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped,^[d] but some doubted. // Matthew 28:16-17

I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion

is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed //
Daniel 7:13-14

Lift up your heads, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD of Armies, he is the King of glory. // Psalm 24:7-10

The Mission of the Church

“The only difference in a believer sitting in his or her American home and a foreign missionary on the field is location, not identity. Every Christian is a missionary.” // Tony Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts

“A Christian and also a congregation are plants that have grown from the seed sown by other Christians and congregations. Therefore, this congregation and every individual Christian is to be a seed from which new Christians and congregations can ever grow again.” // CFW Walther

“The mission of the church, the reason we exist, is to bear witness to the present reign and rule of Christ, who is at the right hand of God. If we try to do it in our own power, we will fail. The reason for the outpouring of the Spirit is not to make us feel spiritual. It is not to give us a spiritual high. It is so that we can do the job that Jesus gave the church to do.” // Sproul, R.C.. Acts: An Expositional Commentary

A Replacement Apostle

“By filling Judas’s office, the church was acknowledging and valuing the need for such eyewitness testimony to the gospel in the days following Jesus’s departure.” // Tony Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts

“In choosing lots, they were following an ancient tradition in the Old Testament involving the use of the Urim and the Thummim.” // Sproul, R.C.. Acts: An Expositional Commentary

Place the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece for decisions, so that they will also be over Aaron’s heart whenever he comes before the LORD. Aaron will continually carry the means of decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD. // Exodus 28:30

Then he put the breastpiece on him and placed the Urim and Thummim into the breastpiece. // Leviticus 8:8

The land is to be divided by lot; they will receive an inheritance according to the names of their ancestral tribes. // Numbers 26:55

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. // Proverbs 16:33