

## Book of Acts Study

### Men of Grace

March 16, 2010

Acts 6:1-15

Brian Christie

### Quick Facts

Author:	Luke ("we" sections)
Audience:	Theophilus, a Gentile God-fearer (and us!)
Date:	Early 60s A.D.
Place of writing:	Rome?
Sequel:	Gospel of Luke is Volume 1, Acts is Volume 2
Title:	Acts of the Apostles, should be "Acts of the exalted Christ through the Holy Spirit"
Genre:	A sociological, historical and theological book explaining the roots and growth of the new community, the church.

2

### Purpose of Acts

**To explain that this new movement (the church), which emerged out of Judaism yet came to incorporate Gentiles into the community of God, is the legitimate extension of the plan of God and the continuing work of the exalted Christ through the Holy Spirit.**

### Theme of Acts

**The growth and expansion of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit and the faithful testimony of the early believers despite fierce opposition.**

+

### Theological Emphases of Acts

1. **The plan and work of the sovereign and mighty God.**
2. **The mission, opposition and inclusion of Gentiles.**
3. **Jesus, now exalted at the right hand of the Father, is the Lord of all for a gospel sent to all.**
4. **The role of the Holy Spirit as the presence and power behind the growth and mission of the early church.**

,

### Theological Emphases of Acts – cont'

5. **The new community's emerging separate identity from Judaism.**
6. **The expansion and triumph of the Gospel as it penetrates the world from Jerusalem to Rome despite intense opposition.**
7. **The slow movement away from the Old Testament law towards the freedom of the Spirit.**

6

Literary Keys to Acts

---

**1. Acts 1:8:**

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

Literary Keys to Acts – con't

---

**2. Summary Statements**

- a. **Acts 6:7**
- b. **Acts 9:31**
- c. **Acts 12:24**
- d. **Acts 16:5 (?)**
- e. **Acts 19:20 (?)**

Outline of Acts

---

- I. **Introduction: Jesus ascends to the Father and gives a mission (1:1-11)**
- II. **The early church in Jerusalem (1:12-6:7)**
- III. **Persecution in Jerusalem moves the message to Judea and Samaria as a new witness emerges (6:8-9:31)**
- IV. **The gospel to the Gentiles and more persecution in Jerusalem (9:32-12:25)**
- V. **The mission from Antioch and the full incorporation of Gentiles (13:1-15:35)**

Outline of Acts – con't

---

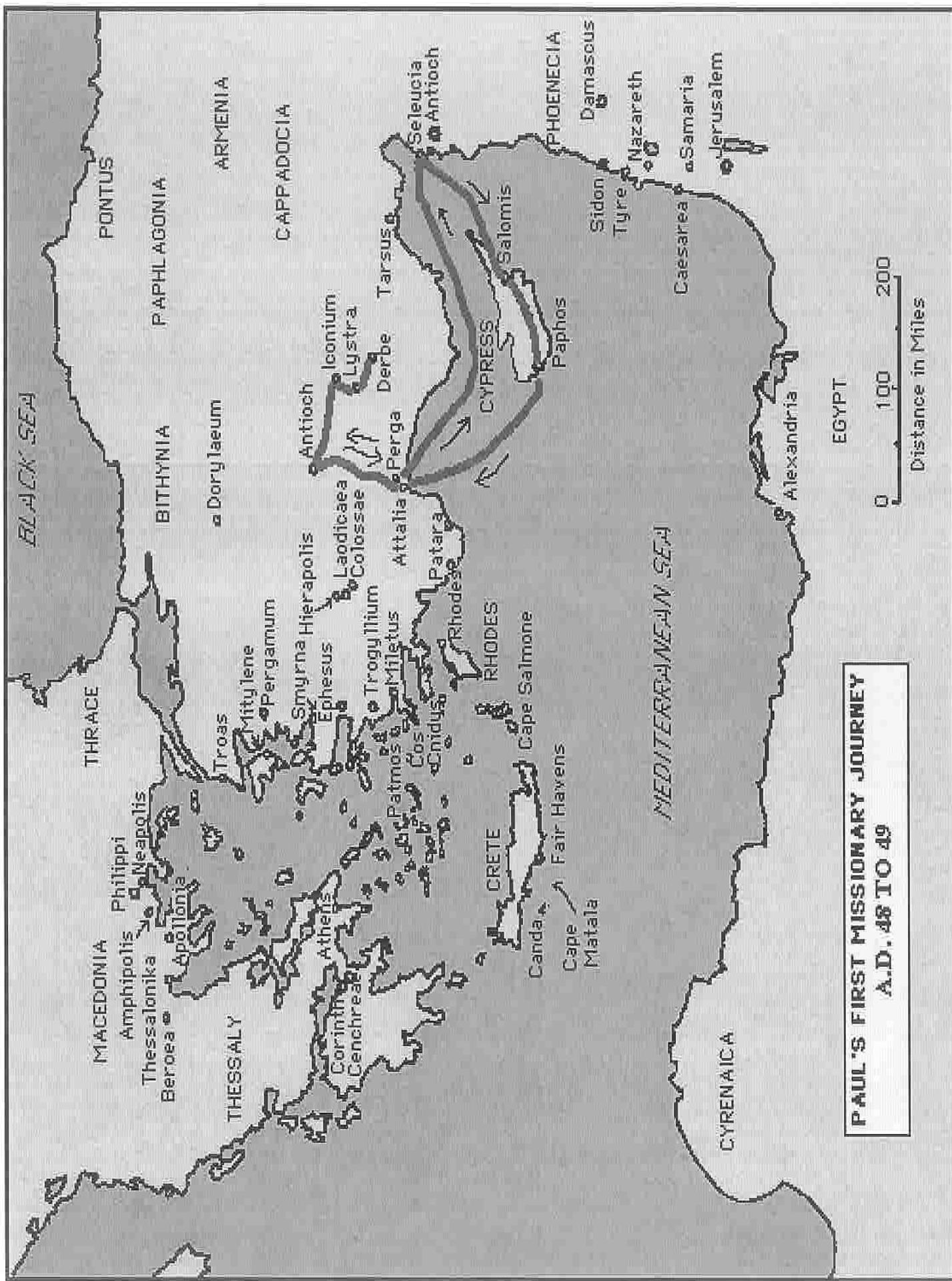
- VI. **The second and third missionary journeys: Expansion to Greece and consolidation amid opposition (15:36-21:16)**
- VII. **The arrest: The message is defended and reaches Rome (21:17-28:31)**



---

**H. Community life: The appointment of the Seven to help Hellenist widows (6:1-6)**

**I. Summary of the Jerusalem community (6:7)**



**Men of Grace  
March 16, 2010  
Acts 6:1-15**

### **Acts 6:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> But as the believers' rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. <sup>3</sup> And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. <sup>4</sup> Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word." <sup>5</sup> Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). <sup>6</sup> These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. <sup>8</sup> Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. <sup>10</sup> None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. <sup>11</sup> So they persuaded some men to

lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." <sup>12</sup> This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. <sup>13</sup> The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. <sup>14</sup> We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us." <sup>15</sup> At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.