

GRACE AMBASSADORS

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Acts: Simply Explained

A simple purpose to the book of Acts

Purpose:

To provide a simple dispensational context to the book of Acts and its purpose

Outline:

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.
- Acts 7:51

1. The Book of Acts
 - a. Inspired by God – 2 Tim 3:16
 - b. Beginning - Acts 1:6-8 – God’s plan with Israel in full effect
 - c. Ending - Acts 28:28 – God’s plan with Israel taken away
 - d. Content – The stumble and fall of Israel
2. **NOT:** The beginning of the church, the Body of Christ
 - i. Acts 1:21 – beginning at John; Luke 24:44-49
 - ii. Acts 2:16-17 – “this is that”...“in the last days”
 - iii. Romans 16:25 – kept secret
 - b. **IS:** A continuation of Christ’s earthly ministry
 - i. About Jesus earthly program for Israel - Rom 15:8;
 - ii. Same author and purpose - Acts 1:1, Luke 1:1-4,
 - iii. Restoration of the kingdom – Luke 1:67-70; Acts 1:6
3. **NOT:** A description of the gospel of the grace of God
 - i. Acts 20:24 – “to testify of the gospel of the grace of God”
 - ii. Paul baptizes, circumcises, takes vows, respects holy days
 - b. **IS:** A narrative of salvation leaving the nation Israel
 - i. Salvation is of the Jews – John 4:22
 - ii. Stumbling stone – Matt 21:42-44, Luke 12:32, 1 Cor 1:23
 - iii. Acts 13:46, 18:6, 28:28 – salvation leaving Israel, Rom 11:11
 - iv. Salvation is sent to the Gentiles - Acts 28:28
 - v. 1 Cor 9:19-22 – his goal is to save souls
4. **NOT:** Peter and Paul competing for leadership
 - i. Acts 15:2 – 7-11 – Peter is the lone leader in Acts 1-8; never speaks again after Acts 15
 - ii. Gal 2:2, 6-9 – Paul is given the upper hand (Acts 7:51)
 - b. **IS:** The narrative of the ministries of Peter and Paul in relationship to Jews
 - i. Peter’s ministry in Acts: To the Jews – restoration
 1. Acts 3:11-12, 24-26; Acts 4:9-11
 2. Acts 7:52-54- rejecting Holy Ghost filled Stephen
 - ii. Paul’s ministry in Acts: To the Jews - provocation
 1. Goes to Jewish synagogues to preach over 11 times.
 2. Romans 11:11-14 – ‘provoke to emulation’
 3. Paul’s actions to Israel after their fall describe his ministry of provocation to save them
5. **Conclusion:**
 - a. Acts is about the stumble, fall, and provocation of Israel.
 - b. The purpose of Acts is to display the hard-heartedness of Israel – Acts 7:51
 - i. Luke describes the transition
 - ii. Paul’s commentary → Romans 9-11