

Acts Overview

Outline (Source: Blueletterbible.org)

I. Their witness in Jerusalem (Acts 1:1-8:3)

- A. Preparation (Act 1:1-26)
- B. The church established (Act 2:1-47)
- C. The church in Jerusalem (Acts 3:1-8:3)

II. Their witness in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:4-12:25)

- A. Preaching by Philip (Acts 8:4-40)
- B. The conversation of Saul (Acts 9:1-31)
- C. The miracles of Peter (Acts 9:32-43)
- D. The conversation of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-11:18)
- E. The ministries of Barnabas, Saul and Peter (Acts 11:19-12:25)

III. Their witness to the end of the earth (Acts 13:1-28:31)

- A. The first missionary journey of Paul (Acts 13:1 – 14:28)
- B. The issue of circumcision and the Law (Acts 15:1-35)
- C. The second missionary journey of Paul (Acts 15:36-18:22)
- D. The third missionary journey of Paul (Acts 18:23-21:17)
- E. The arrest of Paul and journey to Rome (Acts 21:18-28:31)

Themes

1. Major Speeches or Sermons

• Peter

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| 1. Acts 1:16-22 | Regarding the need to choose a replacement for Judas. |
| 2. Acts 2:14-36, 38-39 | Speech at Pentecost – thousands come to Christ. |
| 3. Acts 3:12-26 | Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico after healing of lame man. |
| 4. Acts 4:8-12, 19-20 | Speech to Jewish authorities after being arrested. |
| 5. Acts 5:29-32 | Speech to the Jewish high council. |
| 6. Acts 10:34-43 | Speech to Cornelius' family – Gospel comes to Gentiles. |
| 7. Acts 11:5- 17 | Defense of bringing the Gospel to Gentiles to Jerusalem church. |
| 8. Acts 15:7-11 | The Jerusalem Council – Peter defends Paul going to Gentiles. |

- **Stephen:** Acts 7:1-53 Gospel proclaimed resulting in his death.

- **James** Acts 15:13- 21 Jerusalem Council

• Paul

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| 1. Acts 13:16-41 | Gospel presentation in the Jewish synagogue. |
| 2. Acts 14:15-17 | Rejection of people who claimed Paul to be a god. |
| 3. Acts 17:22-31 | Presentation of Christ in Athens to Gentiles. |
| 4. Acts 20:18-35 | To the Ephesian Elders. |
| 5. Acts 22:1-21 | Defense to crowd after being arrested. |
| 6. Acts 24:10-21 | Defense to Roman Governor Felix. |
| 7. Acts 26:1-29 | Defense to Roman King Agrippa. |
| 8. Acts 27:21-26 | To soldiers on a ship in the middle of a storm. |
| 9. Acts 28:17-20 | To Jewish leaders in Rome. |

2. Prayer

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| 1. Acts 1:14 | After the ascension and means to choosing Matthias. |
| 2. Acts 2:42 | Key aspect at the founding of the church. |
| 3. Acts 3:1 | Peter and John go to temple to pray. |
| 4. Acts 4:24 | Pray for boldness after persecution. Result: Holy Spirit power – vs. 31. |
| 5. Acts 6:4 | Disciples dedicate themselves to prayer and Bible teaching, so they delegate the feeding of the widows to others. |
| 6. Acts 6:6 | Once these men were chosen, they were prayed over. |
| 7. Acts 8:15 | Peter/John go to Samaria to pray for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. |
| 8. Acts 9:11 | Saul is praying after being blinded by God on the road to Damascus. |
| 9. Acts 9:40 | Peter raises Tabitha from the dead by praying. |
| 10. Acts 10:1-8 | Cornelius is praying when God speaks to him to send for Peter. |
| 11. Acts 10:9 | Peter goes on roof to pray and sees a vision of God calling him to go to Cornelius and the Gentiles with the Gospel. Acts 10:30-31 recounts this story. |
| 12. Acts 12:5,12 | Peter is in prison and the church is earnestly praying for him. |
| 13. Acts 13:3 | Paul and Barnabas chosen to go as missionaries through prayer. |
| 14. Acts 14:23 | Elders selected and installed through prayer. |
| 15. Acts 16:13,16 | Evangelism happens on the way to place of prayer. |
| 16. Acts 16:25 | Paul praying in prison |
| 17. Acts 20:36 | Prayer before sending Paul away knowing they would not see him again. |
| 18. Acts 21:5 | Prayer before Paul departs on another trip. |
| 19. Acts 28:8 | Paul heals a man through prayer. |

3. The Expansion of the Gospel through the church

This is perhaps the grandest theme in the book, the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, the book itself is organized around the spread of the Gospel first in Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria and finally to the ends of the world.

4. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: I put this last in our themes because it is the foundation on which all the other themes depend. Acts 1 jumps right into the promise of Jesus from John 16 that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to indwell His people, teach us His truth, and guide us into life with Him. And boom, Acts 1 describes this happening. And it is because of the work of the Spirit that the church is born, that people are empowered to preach the Gospel, that people repent and turn to Christ and that the Gospel spreads around the world.