

## ***Summary of the Book of Acts (Part 1)***

- Authorship of the book: Luke, because of the similarities and introductions with the third gospel.
- Written around AD 63 or 64 covering from Jesus ascension in AD 33 until Paul's first Roman imprisonment in AD 63, but excludes destruction of Jerusalem.
- Major themes: Spread of the gospel, Establishment and growth of the church, Sermons to the lost and their conversions to Christ, The Holy Spirit.

**Chapter 1:8 summarises the book:** ... you will receive power when **the Holy Spirit comes** on you; and you will be my witnesses ***in Jerusalem***, and in all ***Judea and Samaria***, and to ***the ends of the earth*** (NIV)

**Chapter 1** AD 33 Jerusalem – Passover to Pentecost

**Major events:** Jesus tells disciples to wait in Jerusalem for HS; Jesus' ascension; election of Matthias.

**Chapter 2** AD 33 Jerusalem - Pentecost

**Major events:** HS comes upon the apostles; Speaking in tongues; Joel's prophecy fulfilled; Peter convinces Jews that Jesus was promised Messiah they had crucified; Told to repent and be baptised; Lord added saved to church.

**Chapter 3** AD 33 Jerusalem – Soon after Pentecost

**Major events:** Healing of the lame man; Peter's consequent preaching to the people.

**Chapter 4** AD 33 Jerusalem – Soon after Pentecost

**Major events:** Continuation of the healing of the lame man; Peter and John's arrest and appearance before the Sanhedrin; Peter's 3rd sermon; growth of the Jerusalem church.

**Chapter 5** AD 33 Jerusalem (June)

**Major events:** Discipline of Ananias and Sapphira; further growth of the church; High Priest & Sadducees put Apostles before Sanhedrin; Gamaliel's defence.

**Chapter 6** Late AD 33 / early AD 34 Jerusalem

**Major events:** Dispute between Greeks and Jews over benevolence; 7 deacons chosen; Apostles laid hands on the deacons; Miracles are worked by Stephen; Stephen accused of teaching against God & Moses.

**Chapter 7** Late AD 33 / early AD 34 Jerusalem

**Major events:** Stephen before the Sanhedrin; A brief history of the Jews (Israel); Moses' prophecy concerning Christ; These Jews resist God – just as their fathers did; Stephen is stoned; Saul is a witness.

**Chapter 8** Late AD 33 / early AD 34 Jerusalem – Judea – Samaria

**Major events:** Persecution of the church at Jerusalem; Disciples (except apostles) scattered spreading the word; Saul made havoc of the church; Philip in Samaria – worked miracles; Simon sorcerer baptised; Apostles came to Samaria to pass on HS; Simon tried to buy gift of HS; Eunuch baptised.

**Chapter 9** AD 34 – 35 Damascus, Jerusalem, Joppa

**Major events:** Saul given authority by High Priest to persecute disciples; Saul's conversion – immediately preached Christ in Synagogues; Saul joins disciples at Jerusalem; Peter raises Dorcas from the dead at Joppa.

**Chapter 10** AD 37 Caesarea, Joppa

**Major events:** Cornelius is told to call for Peter; Peter sees vision of animals – nothing is unclean; Peter comes to Cornelius and preaches Christ; HS falls on them; they were baptised in Jesus' name.

**Chapter 11** AD 37 - 43, Jerusalem, Antioch

**Major events:** Peter recounts conversion of Cornelius to apostles at Jerusalem; The church is established at Antioch; Barnabas is sent to Antioch, and then goes to find Saul and brings him back to Antioch; Disciples are called christians; a great drought is prophesied.

**Chapter 12** AD 43 – 44, Jerusalem, Caesarea

**Major events:** James is killed; Peter is imprisoned, Peter freed by an angel – then appears at Mary's house. Herod is killed for not giving glory to God.

## **Summary of the book of Acts (part 2) The ministry to the rest of the world (1:8)**

### **Chapter 13** AD 45 Antioch.

**Major events:** Barnabas and Saul are called, First missionary journey begins: Cyprus: Elymas rebuked – Perga – Antioch in Pisidia – History of the Jews – to Iconium.

### **Chapter 14** AD 47-48 First Journey concludes.

**Major events:** Preaching at Iconium, Persecution of Paul & Barnabas – flee to Lystra – cripple healed. Paul & Barnabas worshipped. Paul stoned. To Derbe – return to Lystra – Iconium & Antioch. Elders ordained – to Pisidia & Pamphylia, Perga & Attalia – back to Syrian Antioch. Report of the journey.

### **Chapter 15** AD 51 Jerusalem

**Major events:** The Judaisers come to Antioch, the conference at Jerusalem, the letter back to Antioch, the split between Paul & Barnabas. The beginning of the second journey.

### **Chapter 16** AD 52 The Second Journey

**Major events:** Early part of the Second Journey. Timothy circumcised, Derbe & Lystra, Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas. Macedonian call – to Philippi: Lydia converted, demonic girl. Paul & Silas in prison – jailer converted.

### **Chapter 17** AD 52 The Second Journey

**Major events:** Middle part of the Second Journey, Amphipolis & Appolonia, Thessalonica, Christians (Jason) persecuted, - to Berea. Paul goes to Athens, address on Mars Hill.

### **Chapter 18** AD 52-53 Corinth, Conclusion of Second Journey

**Major events:** Paul leaves Athens for Corinth, Silas & Timothy come from Macedonia, The Jews reject the gospel & Paul goes to the Gentiles, Two years in Corinth, Sails to Syria via Ephesus, Caesarea, then to Antioch. Start of Third Journey, Apollos at Ephesus. [Writes 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Thessalonians from Corinth]

### **Chapter 19** Early AD 54 The Third Journey, Ephesus

**Major events:** Paul comes to Ephesus, correction of disciple's faulty understanding, growth of the Ephesus church, 7 sons of Sceva, Burning of the books, Paul's travel plans, The riot at Ephesus. [Writes 1st Corinthians from Ephesus]

### **Chapter 20** Late AD 57 / early AD 58 Corinth

**Major events:** Paul goes to Macedonia and Greece, Comes via Philippi to Troas. The meeting at Troas – then Assos to Mitylene, and to Miletus. Paul calls for the elders of the church to come from Ephesus. Meeting with the elders. [Writes 2nd Corinthians from Thessalonica or Philippi, writes Galatians, and the Romans from Corinth]

### **Chapter 21** AD 58 Conclusion of Third Journey

**Major events:** The trip back to Jerusalem, visiting Tyre and Caesarea, Agabus' prophecy and warning against going to Jerusalem. Visit to James & the elders, Accusation of the Jews, Violence & protective custody.

### **Chapter 22** AD 58 Jerusalem

**Major events:** Paul's defence to the Jews. His background as a Roman born, Greek educated Jew. His study under Gamaliel, an account of his conversion. Appeals to his Roman rights.

### **Chapter 23** AD 58 Jerusalem

**Major events:** Paul before the Sanhedrin, causes division between Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus appears in night vision – you will go to Rome. Plot to kill Paul. Paul is sent to Caesarea. Letter from Claudius Lysias to Felix.

### **Chapter 24** AD 58 – 60 Caesarea

**Major events:** High Priest and Jews come down to make accusations against Paul. Paul's defence before Felix. Preaches to Felix & Drusilla. Paul imprisoned for two years.

### **Chapter 25** AD 60 mid-year, Caesarea

**Major events:** Festus takes up his appointment as Governor. Paul appears before Festus, then appeals to Caesar. Paul appeals before Agrippa and Bernice.

### **Chapter 26** AD 60 mid-year, Caesarea

**Major events:** Paul appears before Agrippa, and recounts his conversion. Agrippa declares "he's done nothing worthy of death, and might have been released had he not appealed to Caesar"

### **Chapter 27** Mid – late AD 60 Begins Journey to Rome

**Major events:** Begins journey to Rome. Went to Sidon, sailed under Cyprus, came to Myra. Sailed under Crete to Fair Havens. Paul predicts the shipwreck. The shipwreck.

### **Chapter 28** Late AD 60 – AD 63 Completion of journey to Rome

**Major events:** The safe landing at Malta, Paul bitten by a snake but is not harmed, Publius' father healed by Paul, many others also healed. Winter on the island for 3 months. The journey to Rome. Paul meets with the Jews. Paul's 2 year house arrest. [Writes Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon from Rome].