

Syllabus for ACTS Bible Study

I. INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts is the fifth book listed in the New Testament and is most often called "The Acts of the Apostles" although some critics claim it should be called "the actions of the Holy Spirit within the Church." It is a chronological narrative account ranging from about 33 to 64 AD.

A. The Purpose of Acts

1. The history book of the early church
2. Second part of a two-volume work: "Luke-Acts"
3. The story of "Christian Beginnings"
4. The account of Jesus + the account of the new church
5. An evangelistic work to its readers
6. The Gospel is for Jews AND the Non-Jews (Gentiles)
7. Primary intent of the book is to factually record Christian beginnings for strengthening faith and to give assurance that the foundation of the Gospel is firm.

B. Mission and Message

1. Acts 1 :8 is the key verse:
"But 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."
2. The message is expounded in a series of "sermons" or public speeches as recorded throughout the book. These messages deal with the exaltation of Jesus and empowerment by the Holy Spirit.
3. Prayer, visions, speaking in tongues, and prophesying show that there is a very real experience and close communion with God.
4. Throughout the book, we see the emphasis the spreading of the Gospel message.
5. There is also an emphasis on the opposition that accompanies church growth and how progress is made DESPITE the opposition.