

Acts

Breakdown

- Acts is the second part of a two-volume work written by Luke who also wrote the Gospel of Luke. Both books are dedicated to a person named Theophilus, and Luke even begins the book of Acts by referring back to his gospel account.
- Acts covers the time period from Jesus' resurrection and ascension around 33 A.D. to Paul's house arrest in Rome around 62 A.D. Biblical scholars believe Luke wrote the book around 62 A.D. which was pretty close to the same time he wrote his gospel.

Main Points

- The disciples had seen everything that Jesus did in His ministry, on the cross, and the empty tomb, Jesus even appeared to them after the resurrection, but then they watched Him ascend into heaven after telling them to wait in Jerusalem. They must have been wondering how the Kingdom could possibly work if Jesus wasn't there with them.
- The problem is that the disciples didn't understand that there was a much bigger plan coming together than what they were seeing with their physical eyes. God had to show them His plan both physically and spiritually, so the Holy Spirit came into the upper room with a bang! Even then, they didn't completely understand, but they knew the Holy Spirit changed everything. The disciples were no longer timid, faithless followers of Jesus. It was like they became completely different men – preaching boldly and healing people. They were fearless. And it all happened through the power of the Holy Spirit working in them.

Did you know?

- Peter was falsely imprisoned by Herod who commanded 4 squads of soldiers (a total of 16 soldiers) to keep guard over him. That night, Peter miraculously escaped even though he was bound with 2 chains between 2 guards. How did he escape?
- King Herod dressed in his royal robes, sat on his throne, and gave a speech to the people, but he immediately died a very unusual and very horrible death. What happened to him?
- John Mark (the writer of the Gospel of Mark) was one of the companions of Paul during his travels, but John Mark did something that greatly upset Paul. What did he do?
- A Jewish high priest named Sceva had 7 sons who tried to copy some of the extraordinary miracles that Paul was doing in Ephesus, but things went terribly wrong for Sceva's sons. What happened to them?
- As the authorities were transporting Paul by ship to Rome, they encountered a violent nor'easter, and the ship was tossed about for many days, but Paul told the men that no one would lose their life in the shipwreck. Why was Paul so sure they would all be saved?

Further Thought

- Even though the apostles were the people who were involved in the events recorded in The Acts of the Apostles, it was the Holy Spirit who actually performed the acts through the apostles. Why is it important for us to know how the Holy Spirit worked through them?
- Throughout Acts, we see that the apostles didn't do anything without first praying about it. Why did the apostles believe prayer was so important, and is it that important for us?