

Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 1

Luke is widely accepted as the author of Acts. He was a gentile and thought to have been a physician, as the Apostle Paul referred to him in Colossians 4:14. It is not known what city was his birthplace, but his most significant connection identified by scripture is with Philippi. He apparently first met Paul at Troas, as related in Acts 16:10-12.

The ISBE relates that the best evidence supports that Acts is a unified book, written by a single author. The date of its writing is uncertain, but given that the book ends on the event of Paul's captivity in Rome, and does not relate his death in any manner, it may have been written around 63 AD. As with Luke's writing of his gospel account, he seemingly relied on the teaching of the Apostles for the events related in the book as well as his own witness to certain events, all guided by inspiration of the Spirit.

As Acts is a familiar study, we will not follow a conventional verse-by-verse study. Rather, our study will focus on five general themes that appear in the book:

- The nature of Jesus
- The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy
- The work of the Holy Spirit in the church
- The authority and work of the Apostles in the church
- The nature and work of the church

Question 1: What events had the apostles experienced in the almost 50 days leading up to the events of Acts 1?

- Luke 22:14-34 _____
- Luke 22:39-46 *v.45 _____
- Luke 22:54-62 _____
- Luke 23:18-25 _____
- Luke 23:44-49 _____
- Luke 24:1-12 _____
- Luke 24:19-27 _____
- Luke 24:37-53 _____

☞ Acts 1:1-11

Question 2: What did Jesus do in the time from his resurrection leading up to the events of Acts 1? What then is the foundation of the book of Acts?

Question 3: What promise concerning Jesus do his angels give? How may that promise be significant for the apostles' ministry? vv. 10-11.

Question 4: Does Jesus' statement in vv. 7-8 show a limited purpose of God's revelation to the Apostles?

Question 5: What was the apostles response to Jesus' statement in v.8 and the angels in v. 11? v.14.

Question 6: What proof of the apostles' authority and teaching does Luke provide at the outset of his book? vv. 2-3. What may this indicate about a purpose of his writing the book?

Question 7: Who promised the apostles their baptism in the Holy Spirit? vv. 4-5.

Question 8: For what purpose did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit? v. 8

☞ **Acts 1:12-26**

Question 9: On what did Peter rely for the instruction to select another apostle? vv. 16-20.

Question 10: Why may it be significant that Peter appealed to earlier revelation in asserting it was proper for another disciple to take Judas' place as an apostle? Is there significance also in the fact this was done prior to the apostles' baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Question 11: What was the basis for qualification as an apostle? vv. 21-22. For what purpose? John 15:27.

Question 12: Who did the apostles recognize as appointing Judas' replacement? vv. 24-25. Was there any difference then in Matthias' authority as an apostle?