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## FCBC Cantonese CTP Class, Fall 2022

### 新約精覽New Testament Survey

Ken Law 10/16/2022 (part 1) and 10/23/2022 (part 2)

## Lesson 7 Acts of the Apostles Part (two sessions)

Acts of the Apostles / Acts of the Holy Spirit 使徒行傳 / 聖靈行傳

The Body of Christ: The beginning of the church 基督的身體: 基督教會的開始

Theme: Acts 1:8

- I. Structure according to people development
  - From 1-12 Peter's teaching to the Jews, "Repent"
  - From 13-28 Paul's message to the Gentiles, "Believe!"
- II. Structure according to geographic advancement (also theme of Acts, v 1:8)
  - Jerusalem, Judea
  - Samaria
  - the uttermost of the world
- III. Some highlights
  - "The Holy Spirit" mentioned over 70 times
  - "Witnessing" mentioned over 30 times
  - Church growth through persecutions
  - How God works among Gentiles
- IV. Map of the time  
[http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible\\_map\\_detail?m\\_id=113](http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible_map_detail?m_id=113)  
  
Distribution of descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth  
[http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible\\_map\\_detail?m\\_id=007](http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible_map_detail?m_id=007)
- V. The structure of this book
  1. Theme: The Great Commission 大使命!!  
但聖靈降臨在你們身上，你們就必得著能力，並要在耶路撒冷，猶太全地，和撒瑪利亞，直到地極，作我的見證。  
Acts 1:8  
Matt 28:18-20  
Mark 16:15  
Luke 24:47  
John 20:21
  2. The beginning of the church Acts 2-7
    - a. Training of the young church
      - Acts 2 The Pentecostal inauguration
      - Acts 3 Peter healing a lame man (training of handling fame)
      - Acts 4 Persecution, first jailing, the unity of believers (training of faithfulness)
      - Acts 5 Lying to the Holy Spirit, second jailing (training of integrity)

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- Acts 6 Church works and workers (training of responsibility)
  - Acts 7 Martyrdom of Stephen (training in God's grace)
  - b. Gospel is for ALL people
    - To Samaria and nearby areas Acts 8-11
    - Acts 8 Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion
    - Acts 9 Saul's conversion 9:15
    - Acts 10 Cornelius' conversion
    - Acts 11 Peter's defense of Gentile conversion
  - c. Persecution to spread the gospel Acts 12
3. Gospel spread to the world (nine chapters)
- a. The first missionary journey (AD 45) (Asia minor) Acts 13:1 – 14:25  
[http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible\\_map\\_detail?m\\_id=116](http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible_map_detail?m_id=116)  
The council of Jerusalem Acts 15 (Accepting Gentiles)
  - b. The second missionary journey (to Europe: ..., Athens & Corinth) Acts 15:36 – 18:22  
[http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible\\_map\\_detail?m\\_id=117](http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible_map_detail?m_id=117)
    - o Paul's sermon at Areopagus, Athens (Acts 17:22-31) (to the intellectual world)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagus\\_sermon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagus_sermon)
    - o The Epicureans and Stoics (Acts 17:18) (philosophies of the world)
  - c. The third missionary journey (Ephesus) Acts 18:23 – 21:14  
[http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible\\_map\\_detail?m\\_id=118](http://biblegeography.holylight.org.tw/index/condensedbible_map_detail?m_id=118)
    - o The significance of Ephesus (The idol Artemis)  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephesus>
4. The path to Rome (eight chapters)
- "...For he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and Kings and sons of Israel" Acts 9:15
- a. Acts 22-23 Paul's defense before the Jews and the Assembly (Israel)
  - b. Acts 24 Paul's defense before Governor Felix (AD 57)
  - c. Acts 25 Paul's defense before Governor Festus
  - d. Acts 26 Paul's defense before King Agrippa (Herod)
  - e. Acts 27-28 To Rome Paul goes!

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Important ideas to unlock the book of Acts

(Extracted from “How to Read the Bible for all Its Worth”, by Fee and Stuart)

- I. The scope of the book Acts
  1. Acts of the Holy Spirit emphasized, not methods
  2. Gospel progress emphasized, not people
  3. Witnessing emphasized, not church structure
  4. Salvation model not a standard
  5. The record is limited to from Jerusalem to Rome, other areas not included
- II. Some interpretation questions to consider
  1. The difference between devotional reading and thematic study
  2. The differences between primary and secondary teachings of a passage
  3. Differentiating God’s will and human as vessels
  4. Interpreting the differences among the following ideas in this book
    - an event
    - precedent
    - repeated happening
    - routine
    - model
    - doctrine