

Bible reading

ACTS

There can be no reasonable doubt that the author is the same as the Gospel of Luke and that both Luke and Acts are two volumes of the same work as Acts begins exactly where Luke ends and they are written for the same person. They were both designed to fulfill the same purpose of confirming personal faith and to provide an understandable historical record of God's revelation to men in the work of Christ, both his personal ministry and through His church that would reach out to the ends of the earth.

The chronological period covered by Acts extends from the crucifixion of Christ about A.D.30 to the close of Paul's first imprisonment in Rome in A.D.60. However, Luke's interest was not primarily in chronology. He was pointing to the rise of the Gentile church over this period that started with the establishment of the church at Antioch, where the followers of Christ were first called Christians.

Luke also wanted to show that Christianity had no political pretensions and that its relations with Roman power had always been friendly and that the problems came from Judaist opposition on grounds of the Law.

Pentecost was the "birthday" of the church. The coming of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of predictions, prophecies and promises and proved the resurrection of Christ (2:32-36). It brought a unity to the believers that they had not yet known and they were made bold to proclaim the Gospel in the face of persecution and even death.

1. What is the key verse to this book?
2. What key event caused the scattering of the Christians from Jerusalem? (Give reference also).
3. What were the main points of Stephen's message? In summary of these points, what was Luke trying to get across to Theophilus?
4. List the conversion of two people. What was the significance of their conversions?
5. What happened in chapter 15?