

Acts Summary & Outline

Acts begins with Jesus instructing his Apostles & ascending to heaven. A week later the Holy Spirit gives power to them on Pentecost & they proclaim Jesus as Lord & Christ--the church grows rapidly. The Jewish rulers try to stop them from preaching, but cannot, so they become violent, killing Stephen and persecuting Christians who then scatter everywhere, preaching the word--the church grew.

Philip preached in Samaria, then to an Ethiopian eunuch, then to the cities on the coastal plain, finally settling in Caesarea, where he stayed & raised 4 daughters to be prophetesses.

Peter traveled westward to Lydda & Joppa performing miracles. At Joppa God sent him to preach to Gentiles, where the Holy Spirit gave the Gentiles spiritual gifts like He did to the Jews on Pentecost, showing God's acceptance of Gentiles as well as Jews.

Saul (later named Paul) got letters from the high priest to persecute Christians in Damascus, but Jesus stopped him on the road & convicted him. Saul turned from persecutor to preacher of truth.

The scattered church extended the gospel message to Phoenicia, Cyprus, Cyrene, & Antioch in Syria, where both Jew & Gentile worshipped together. Here Paul began 3 missionary journeys into Cyprus, Galatia, Cilicia, Asia Minor, Macedonia, & Greece. He returned to report to the Jerusalem church of his progress, to render aid during the famine, & to discuss the dispute over circumcision.

On his last return to Jerusalem, Asian Jews stirred up a mob & tried to kill Paul, but a Roman Tribune saved & imprisoned him. The remainder of Acts deals with Paul's defense before the mob in Jerusalem, Felix, Festus & Herod Agrippa II, finally with an arduous trip to Rome to make his defense to Caesar.

FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 1-7 the beginnings of the church in Jerusalem

Acts 8 extension to Samaria, Ethiopia & coastal cities.

Acts 9, 22, & 26 tell the conversion of Saul

Acts 10-11 the gospel preached to Gentiles & the church at Antioch in Syria begins

Acts 12 persecution continues in Jerusalem--James is killed, Herod Agrippa I dies

Acts 13-21 Paul's Missionary Journeys

Acts 15 council meeting to decide if Gentiles must be circumcised.

Acts 22-28 Paul's imprisonment, defenses, & trip to Rome