

ACTS 1-7 SUMMARY:

The church begins in Jerusalem.

The Acts of the apostles is a history written by Luke to Theophilus. It provides us with a continuation of the gospel according to Luke, and gives us a background for much of the New Testament.

Jesus told the apostles, "...you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." This is exactly how the gospel spread--beginning at Jerusalem and proceeding outward to Judea (as the first 7 chapters show). Chapter 8 extends to Samaria. Chapter 9 extends into Syria, and later chapters extend to remote places.

Acts 1 : Ascension of Christ, 40 days after his resurrection.
Matthias is chosen as an apostle to replace Judas.

Acts 2 : Pentecost--The apostles receive "power" from the Holy Ghost.
The church begins--they hold all things common & take care of needy saints.

Acts 3 : A lame man is healed by the temple gate (called "beautiful").
Peter credits Jesus, of whom all the prophets spoke.

Acts 4 : Sadducees arrest Peter & John for disturbing the temple and preaching Jesus' resurrection. The Sanhedrin warns them to cease & releases them. They keep preaching. The church grows & cares for its needy.

Acts 5 : Ananias & Sapphira lie to God & die. The apostles are imprisoned but an angel releases them to preach. they are recaptured & questioned by the Sanhedrin, then threatened, beaten, & released--they keep preaching.

Acts 6 ; 7 "deacons" are chosen to minister to "Grecian" widows. Stephen disputes with Freedmen. Falsely accused of blasphemy, he is seized & brought to the Sanhedrin.

Acts 7. : Stephen's "defense". He condemns the Jews of resisting the Holy Spirit in rejecting Christ. They stone him to death. Saul approves.