

DEVINE - 3 - Father - Son - Holy Spirit  
Human - 4 - air - water - fire - earth  
spring, summer, fall, winter  
7 - Perfect number

Test. W. ed.

NORTHWEST BIBLE INSTITUTE, SEATTLE, WASH.

NEW TESTAMENT SYNTHESIS  
"THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES"

I. Theme The book of Acts gives the history of the establishment and growth of the Christian church, and of the proclaiming of the Gospel to the then known world according to Christ's command and by the power of His Spirit. It is a record of Christ's ministry as it was continued through His servants.

II. Key Words. Mr. Leon Tucker suggests the following excellent key words:

Ascension, descension, extension.

The ascension of Christ is followed by the descension of the Spirit; and the descension of the Spirit is followed by the extension of the Gospel.

III. Key Verse. Acts 1:8

IV. Author - Luke

V. Proof of Authorship - As we consider the dedication of the book to Theophilus (Acts 1:1; compare Luke 1:3), the reference to a former treatise (Acts 1:1), its style, the fact that the author was a companion of Paul as shown by the fact that portions of the book are written in the first person (16:10), and that this companion accompanied Paul to Rome (27:1) Compare Col. 4:14; Philemon 24:; II Tim. 4:11), we conclude that the Acts was written by Luke. Ancient writers bear out this fact.

VI. To whom written - It was written in particular to Theophilus, a Christian gentleman, but in general for the whole church.

VII. When written - Probably 80 A. D. Scofield - 33-65 A. D.

VIII. Scope - A period of about 32 years from A. D. 33 to A. D. 65.

CONTENTS:

1. The church of Jerusalem. 1:1 to 8:4
2. The transition period. The church of palestine and Syria. 8:5 to 12:23
3. The church of the Gentiles. 12:24; 21:17.
4. Closing scenes in Paul's life. 21:18 to 28:31

Steadfastness  
Discernment

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
(Parenthetical)

Written for the Church by Luke, from Rome, A. D. 64. This book forms the sequel of Luke's Gospel. It is the history of the foundation and spread of the Christian Church - the former under Peter (1-12), the latter under Paul (12-28). It was founded on the day of Pentecost; its first sons were Jews, hence it appeared only a Jewish sect in Judea. The former part of the book is occupied with its establishment there, with arguments in its favor, and with challenges to disprove the fundamental fact of Christ's resurrection. Its first development into an organized community, with official staff, provoked the first persecution and martyrdom, which precipitated its extension to Samaria and Syria, caused a new and more independent centre of operations to be planted at Antioch, whence under Paul (the first converted persecutor) it spread to Asia Minor, Greece, Rome, and various parts of the Gentile world. The motive influence was the direct impulse of the Holy Spirit, not any preconceived plan of the apostolic body (2:4; 11:17; 15:6,7, 9.)

CENTRAL AND COLLATERAL TRUTHS IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES:

The Power Of The Gospel

Depravity - Darkness - <sup>"SAUL" FROM Dark to good</sup> Conversion - <sup>PHILIPPIAN/JAILER</sup> Illumination - Service. *act of one who serves.*

Key thoughts: (1) Christ in heaven, and the energy of the Holy Ghost on earth. (2) "By the name of Jesus does this man stand before you whole." Others give chapter 1:8, as the key verse. It is a most suggestive fact that prayer, and united prayer, occupies so prominent a place in this instructive book. Another striking fact is the scriptural preaching of the apostles; and further, the dependence of the apostles and early Christians upon the Spirit.

Looking at the writings of Luke, in his Gospel and the Acts, as one book, they present to us four great thoughts clustered about their key words, "The Son of man."

1. Christ is the Son of man in the sense that he has our true humanity, and is one of our "brethren."
2. Christ is the Son of man in the sense that he belongs to the whole race as "the uni-national man."
3. Christ as the Son of man sends forth every Christian to "act" in his stead, and sends the Holy Spirit to give strength for the required activity.
4. *important* Christ as the Son of man, is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Christ as the Son of man, feeling our infirmities, grasping the whole race with his atoning love, calling the Church to noble activity, and longing to save every lost soul.

Notice the frequent words, "accused" and "accusers" in contrast with "accord" and "added." Contrast also the oft repeated words, "boldness" with "bonds," and "joy" with "prisons."

*Deprave = to make bad or worse. Impair good quality of. Corruption to moral - Profligate*

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
(Parenthetical)

Among the doctrines prominent in this book are: The divine nature of the Son of God; also of the Holy Ghost. Jesus is the object of divine worship by Stephen. He is spoken of as Lord of all. The Holy Ghost is called God, and many instances of his personality are given (8:29; 10:19; 13:2; 16:7; 20:28).

Prophecies and promises fulfilled. The Gospels close with a prophetic allusion to several facts recorded in the Acts, a promise of the Holy Spirit, of which this book gives the fulfillment (Luke 24:47-49; Mark 16:17,18; John 14:12-17).

Biographies. Paul. His history, as given by himself in different parts of the New Testament, is as follows: He was a Jew of Tarsus, a city of Cilicia; a freeborn Roman citizen; a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee; Circumcised the eighth day; of the Tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of the Hebrews; brought up at the feet of Gamaliel; taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers; being conversant, also, not only with Jewish but Greek Literature; and thus distinguished from the rest of the apostles as a man of education and learning. None of the twelve apostles were - humanly speaking - fitted to preach the Gospel to the cultivated Gentile world. To be by divine grace the spiritual conqueror of Asia and Europe, God raised up another instrument, from among the highly educated and zealous Pharisees.

Connection with other parts of the Scriptures. Luke undoubtedly intended this book as an appendix to his Gospel, if not, indeed, the whole may be considered as one publication in two parts. The careful reader will observe that where Luke's Gospel leaves off, the latter begins after the introduction contained in the first thirteen verses. The epistles plainly suppose that those facts had actually occurred which this history relates. Hence appears the importance of the Acts, as a kind of proscript to the Gospels, and as an introduction to the epistles, in the study of which it forms a most useful guide. Read this book particularly in connection with the epistles to the Romans, Ephesians, Colossians; Philippians, and Thessalonians; also the Gospel by Luke and Joel 2.

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MADISONIA







# 1.

33°

35°

37°



