



Acts Book Study Chapters 1-2
Sunday June 02, 2024

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A.D. 30 to A.D. 70

The book of Acts records approximately the first 40 years of the Early Church (A.D. 30 to A.D. 70), beginning with the outpouring of God’s Spirit in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. The Gospel spread from Jerusalem, across Asia Minor, into Europe, and all the way to the then capital of the world, Rome. The book of Acts records what the Holy Spirit can do through people and communities as He empowers them and moves in and through them powerfully.

Luke, the Author of the Book of Acts

Luke, the author of Acts, was most likely a Greek who lived in the city of Antioch in Syria. Luke was a physician by profession (Colossians 4:14). The Scriptures are silent as to when, where, and how Luke came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. Perhaps he was part of the group that was converted in Acts 11:20-21 when believers were scattered from Jerusalem and went as far as Antioch preaching the Gospel. Antioch in Syria was also Paul’s “home church” and hence Luke may have been associated with Paul from the very beginning of his ministry in Antioch. Luke, being a physician uses several medical terms not found in other portions of Scripture. He also records 18 sermons that were preached, and we see the common theme of Gospel preaching presenting the death, resurrection, and power of Jesus Christ, demonstrated through signs and wonders, and calling people to faith in Christ.

Luke is also the author of the Gospel that bears his name. Having recorded what the Lord Jesus did during his earthly life and ministry till His ascension, Luke continues in the book of Acts to record what happened in the early years after Christ’s ascension.

In the book of Acts, there are four “we-sections” (Acts 16:10-40; Acts 20:5-15; Acts 21:1-18; Acts 27:1-28:16). These are passages where Luke includes himself in the writing, indicating that he was personally there and part of what was happening.

We could divide the book of Acts into three sections:

A. The First Eight Years Acts 1 - Acts 7 (A.D. 30 - A.D. 38)

The first eight years highlight the establishment of a Spirit filled community of believers, the Church in Jerusalem.



B. The Next Ten Years Acts 8 - Acts 12 (A.D. 38 - A.D. 47)

The next 10 years reveal how the Church in Jerusalem was moved into multiplying and relating to churches across the region.

C. The Next Twenty Years Acts 13 - Acts 28 (A.D. 48 - A.D. 68)

The next 20 years focuses on the work and ministry of Paul the apostle as he expanded the reach of the Gospel through planting churches and nurturing leaders.

The Church's DNA and Pattern for fulfilling the Great Commission

As we study the book of Acts there are two compelling perspectives that we develop: (A) the Church's DNA – what a Spirit filled church would look like and (B) how the Church would go about fulfilling the Great Commission empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The book of Acts is really a record of the acts of the Holy Spirit through the early church.

ACTS CHAPTER ONE

We mention key highlights in chapter One.

Theophilus (Acts 1:1)

We do not know too much about Theophilus. Theophilus was a common Roman name, and hence we presume he was a Roman believer in Jesus. Luke had addressed the gospel of Luke to him (Luke 1:3-4) were Luke recognized that Theophilus was taught about Jesus Christ.

Many Infallible Proofs (Acts 1:3)

The Lord Jesus presented him alive to many (about 500 people, 1 Corinthians 15:6) during the 40 days following His resurrection. The apostles and others were absolutely convinced about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They were not believing and preaching a myth or supposition. They saw Him, believed in Him and gave their lives for this truth.

The Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3)

Jesus began His earthly ministry preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and He continued proclaiming the message about the Kingdom of God right till His ascension. This presents to us the importance of understanding the Kingdom of God, living life from a Kingdom of God perspective. God's Kingdom is God's rule, reign and dominion released spiritually in the hearts and lives of people and extending its influence in our world in practical ways. There will also come a time for the King to rule and reign literally on the earth (Revelation 20:4).



The Promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5,8)

The Lord Jesus commissioned His disciples to go and disciple nations. He did not give them specific methods but pointed them to the promise of the Holy Spirit through whom they would receive power to be His witnesses. What we see unfolding in the book of Acts is the fulfilling of the Great Commission through the power of the Holy Spirit. If we were to make one summary statement of what we see unfold in the book of Acts, we could capture it as: *The establishing of Spirit filled communities of believers, called local churches, is the Holy Spirit's method for world evangelization and discipleship.*

Times or Seasons (Acts 1:6-7)

It seems apparent that the early group of believers were expecting Jesus to setup a literal kingdom at that time and bring Israel out from control of the Roman empire. The Lord Jesus reveals to us that there are things with the Father has planned for what He is unfolding on the earth, for which He alone has the timings. We leave that to the Father, and must go about the work He has currently given us to do.

This Same Jesus (Acts 1:9-11)

As the Lord Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12), the angels announced that this same Jesus will return just as they had seen Him ascend. Let's try to put ourselves "in the shoes" of the early believers: They have seen the resurrected Jesus – they know that He is alive beyond a doubt. They have seen Him ascend – they know He is coming back. They have not been given a time frame when this would happen – this is in the Father's hands. They have been given a commission – go and make disciples of all nations. They have been left with one instruction – wait till you receive power from above and then go be witnesses. What kind of emotions would they have been experiencing? What kind of thoughts would they have had? What would they have resolved to do with the rest of their lives?

One Accord, In Prayer (Acts 1:14)

About 120 disciples spent the next ten days, being in one accord and in continuous prayer (Acts 1:14). These two postures stand out: being of one heart and one mind and being together in prayer. This is what they decided to do, as they prepared to give the rest of their lives to follow Jesus and to fulfill the Great Commission.

And with His Brothers (Acts 1:14)

What is notable is the mention of Jesus' brothers being there in the Upper Room. The brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him during His earthly ministry (John 7:3-5). The only thing that could have made believers out of them was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is another strong evidence to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



They Cast Lots, We Don't (Acts 1:15-26)

This happened before they received the Holy Spirit, and so was alright for them to do this. We do not do the same. As believers we are led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14-16), follow the instruction of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17), use our renewed mind, receive godly counsel, receive prophetic words, receive dreams and visions from the Holy Spirit as way through with God leads and guides us.

ACTS CHAPTER TWO

The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)

It is estimated that a city that normally had about 100,000 residents was bursting over with nearly 500,000 people who were visiting Jerusalem, over that two-month period in A.D. 30, at the time of the Passover (when Christ was crucified), feast of First fruits (when Christ was resurrected), and feast of Pentecost (50 days after First fruits).

During such a time the Father poured out the Holy Spirit on the 120 in the Upper Room. The entire event was unusual and unprecedented. The 120 were filled with the Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. As we see in the book of Acts, this outpouring of the Spirit accompanied with the speaking in other tongues, became a repeated experience in the life of the Church. While the phenomena of the sound of a rushing wind, tongues of fire were special to this first outpouring, the being filled with the Spirit with supernatural utterance continued to happen.

Reactions to what was witnessed at the outpouring were quite diverse: some were confused (Acts 2:6), some were amazed and marveled (Acts 2:7), some were amazed and perplexed (Acts 2:12), and some others mocked at what happened (Acts 2:13).

They heard them speaking and declaring the wonderful works of God in tongues (Acts 2:11). Hence, we say that we can praise and worship God in tongues.

The Inaugural Sermon of the Church (Acts 2:14-41)

Peter stood up to preach the first sermon of the Church. Here is his sermon outline – which of course came by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit given at that moment, unprepared:

- He references Joel to explain the outpouring of the Spirit (Acts 2:14-21).
- He points to the life, miracle ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:22-24).



- He references Old Testament Scriptures pointing to the resurrection concluding that Jesus is Lord and Messiah (Acts 2:25-36).
- He called people to salvation, repentance, water baptism and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-40).
- Three thousand people responded (Acts 2:41).

A great outline for us to follow in preaching the Gospel. Point to the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Point to who He is today. Invite people to experience salvation through Jesus Christ by calling them to repentance. Invite them to water baptism and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Promise is for all whom God will call (Acts 2:38-39). We wish to highlight that the gift of the Holy Spirit, as poured out on the day of Pentecost, is for us today. Peter announced to his audience that the gift of the Holy Spirit is for them, their children, to those who are far away (across all nations) and as many as God will call (across all time).

Side note:

Although Acts 2 (sound of a rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire, other languages) bore no resemblance to Joel's prophecy in Joel 2 (visions, dreams, prophecy), the Holy Spirit still said, "*this is that!*" (Acts 2:16). An important lesson here is that the supernatural manifestations don't necessarily have to be identical in every outpouring of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will do as He desires in each outpouring.

A Spirit Filled Church Community (Acts 2:42-47)

The next few verses capture very succinctly the life of this newly formed Spirit filled community of believers in Jesus Christ. This was a community of about 3000 and growing new believers in Jesus Christ. What happened in their early days is something we need to emulate in our context, of course.

Characteristics of a Spirit Filled Church Community

#1, Revelatory ministry of the Word – the apostles preached from the Old Testament pointing to Jesus, seeing by revelation Jesus in the Old Testament.

#2, The teachings of Jesus – the apostles passed on everything they had heard Jesus teach them.

#3, Supernatural demonstrations.

#4, Spiritual practices of prayer, worship, fellowship, generosity.

#5, Divine favor.

#6, Constant growth.

This is what we must be as a Spirit filled community of believers in Jesus Christ.



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 1-2
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 1-2
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Please request Life group members to read acts chapters 1-2, before the Life Group Meeting. This can help save time.*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Discuss the importance of being in one accord (unity) and collective prayer, as we see in Acts 1:14. What are some ways we can practice this today, in large cities, where believers live quite a distance from each other.



2, Discuss the key points of Peter's inaugural sermon, and how this should continue to be our focus in Gospel preaching today. How do we respond if the world says that this is an "outdated message"?

3, Discuss the characteristics of the Spirit filled church community (Acts 2:4-47). What are some ways we can grow into becoming such a community?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The book of Acts records the first 40 years of the Early Church. This is a book study of the Acts of the apostles, or more correctly, the acts of the Holy Spirit through the early believers. As we study the book of Acts there are two compelling perspectives that we develop: (A) the Church's DNA – what a Spirit filled church would look like and (B) how the Church would go about fulfilling the Great Commission empowered by the Holy Spirit. We glean spiritual and practical insights from each chapter and share ways we can apply these in our lives. In this sermon we cover Acts chapters 1-2. We cover the Day of Pentecost, Peter's inaugural sermon, and the characteristics of a Spirit Filled Church community.

KEYWORDS

Acts of the apostles, book study of Acts, Gospel preaching, Spirit filled church community, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 1-2 Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

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Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

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