

N.T. Survey Class #3 - Acts - Teaching notes

C-3 January 22, 2017

Most important book of the NT after the gospels.

- Between Jesus and the full-grown church of history there is a HUGE gap.
- How did it happen that a handful of obscure Galileans & Judeans become worldwide figures known throughout history?
- What changed the timidity that caused them to run for fear of their lives at Jesus' arrest to men who stood before ruler and emperor's in the face of death?
- How did these "unschooled ordinary" (Acts 4:13) men make such an impact on the world that it actually defined Western culture as we know it today?
- How did a movement that originated among the Jews, centered on a Jewish teacher, founded by Jewish teachings become a religion espoused largely — primarily among Gentiles today?

These questions, among others are answered in the book of Acts.

The only link between the teachings of Jesus and what appears to be a full blown faith by the time we read many of Paul's letters and the book of Hebrews.

Authorship

There are no serious doubts as to the authorship of the book of Acts of the Apostles. Luke is assigned as its author.

- As early as the last part of the 2nd century, Irenaeus cites passages so frequently from the Acts of the Apostles that it is certain that he had constant access to the book.
- He gives emphasis to the internal evidence of its authorship. Tertullian also ascribes the book to Luke, as does Clement of Alexandria.

- The Preface of the Book. The writer addresses Theophilus (Luke 1:3), who is the same individual to whom the gospel of Luke was also directed, and makes reference to a “former treatise” which dealt with “all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was received up” (1:1-2). This is very evidently a reference to the third gospel.

It is the backdrop upon which the rest of the NT rests.

Going to take a chronological walk thru Acts - All Dates should be seen with an “ish” next to them unless otherwise noted.

AD 30

- Execution, resurrection and ascension of Jesus
- Choosing of Matthias - Acts 1:12
- Pentecost - the church of the New Covenant officially begins. Acts 2
- Peter & John Preach, are arrested and released - Acts 3,4
- Death of Ananias & Sapphires Acts 5

AD 31-31

- Jerusalem persecution against the church begins with death of Stephen. - Acts 6,7
- Disciples scatter back to their homes Acts 8
- Philip goes to Samaria & preaches. *1st none Jewish church established.* Acts 8
- Philip meets Ethiopian and converts him *sending him into Africa with the gospel.* Acts 8
- Philip settles in Caesarea Acts 8:40

Where did the members of the early church come from?

Acts 2:9-11

Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and

Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

- in order starting from east and working west

THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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- They would be the ones returning to their homes with the gospel.

- We know very little/ nothing about these people or the churches they established - some appear later in history.
- Probable that soon after the dispersion of Acts 8, some of the other Apostles went to many of these areas.
- NOTE: God was in control.
 - He was the only one with a missions plan
 - He kept it united and organized.
 - Not saying we shouldn't try to plan, prepare, be organized and strive for unity ... but ultimately, it's really not up to us.

Acts 11:19-21

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

AD 33,34

- Saul/Paul is converted. Acts 9; Gal. 1:15-17

AD 34 - 37

- Saul/Paul Ministers in Damascus & Arabia

Gal. 1:15-20

But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. 17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. 20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

AD 36

- Pilate loses his position due to incompetence.

AD 36,37

- Saul/Paul meets with Peter and James(brother of Jesus) in Jerusalem to confirm his conversion. Acts 9:26-30; Gal. 1:21-24

AD 37 - 45

- Loose specific track of Saul/Paul for several years
- Ministers in Syria, Tarsus & Cilicia (he is unknown to the churches in Judea)

AD 37,38

- Peter converts Cornelius in Caesarea Acts 10,11

AD 40-45ish

- James writes his letter to the Jewish believers outside of Palestine Jm. 1:1
- Barnabas goes to Antioch to check out the Greek believers allowed into the faith.
- Barnabas then goes to Tarsus to meet Saul/Paul. They form an effective ministry team. Acts 11:25,26f
- James, the Apostle, is executed by Herod Acts 12:2
- Peter is arrested, but God breaks him out of jail Acts 12:1-19
- Herod dies Acts 12:21-23
- Josephus reports:

“On the second day of which shows he put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a contexture truly wonderful, and came into the theater early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment being illuminated by the fresh reflection of the sun’s rays upon it, shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those that looked intently upon him; and presently his flatterers cried out, one from one place, and another from another (though not for his good), that he was a god; and they added, ‘Be thou merciful to us; for although we have hitherto revered thee only as a man, yet shall we henceforth own thee as superior to mortal nature.’ Upon this the king did neither rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery.”

AD 44-46

- Guy names Thaudus persuades many Jews in Jerusalem to sell all their possessions and join him in the countryside claiming to be the Messiah. He was going to “split” the Jordan river. Romans had him captured and beheaded.
- *mention because it shows that early on many false teachers and doctrines.*

AD 44-47

- Pauls’ second visit to Jerusalem - Acts 11:27-30; Gal. 2:1-10
- Not as secret
- included Barnabas and Titus.
- involved a gift of money to the disciples due to the famine there.
- Also involved a sharp debate about the false doctrine in the church concerning holding to Jewish laws as Christians.

AD 46,47

- 1st Missionary Journey Acts 13:4-14:26
 - With Barnabas & others
 - Cities/Places: 1400 miles
 - Antioch (Syria today)
 - Seleucia

- Salamis and Paphos (on Cyprus)
- Perga
- ANTIOCH of Pisidia (Turkey today)
- Iconium
- Lystra and Derbe
- **RETURN**
- Lystra
- Iconium and Antioch (Turkey)
- Pisidia, Pamphylia, and Perga
- Attalia
- Antioch (Syria)
- Jerusalem (via Phoenicia and Samaria) Acts 15

AD 48,49

- Jerusalem Conference Acts 15:1-29
- Paul & barnabas return to Antioch Acts 15:30
- Paul & Barnabas plan 2nd Missionary Journey but split over the argument of taking John Mark along Acts 15:36-40

AD 48-50

- 2nd Missionary Journey Acts 15:36-18:22
- Acts Picks up life and ministry of Paul exclusively.
- Cities/Places: 2800 miles
- Syria and Cilicia
- Derbe and Lystra
- (past Mysia) Troas
- Samothracia (Samothrace) and Neapolis
- Philippi in Macedonia - imprisoned & released, Conversion of Jailer.
- Amphipolis and Apollonia
- Thessalonica
- Berea (Beroea)
- Athens (Mars Hill—"Areopagus")
- Corinth *Paul stays a while. Writes 1 & 2 Thessalonians from here.*
- Cenchrea (Cenchreae)

- Ephesus
 - **Acts 19:35** - *The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian (neocorus) of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?*
 - *Artemis = great source of income for city.*
 - *Slides*
- Caesarea (in Syria)
- “Went up” to Jerusalem
- Antioch (Syria)

AD 49

- Claudius expels Jews from Rome
- Aquila and Priscilla go to Corinth where they meet Paul Acts 18:2,3

AD 50

- Peter comes to Rome

AD 53-57

- 3rd Missionary Journey Acts 18:23-21:17
- Cities/Places: 2700 miles
- Galatia and Phrygia
- Ephesus -
- Macedonia
- Greece (Achaia)
- Macedonia, Philippi, and Troas
- Assos, Mitylene; near Chios, Samos,
- (Trogyllium), Miletus
- Cos, Rhodes, Patara
- Tyre and Ptolemais
- Caesarea
- Jerusalem
-

AD 53 - 55

- Mark Writes his gospel from Rome with Peters help
- Paul writes 1 Corinthians

AD 54

- Claudius dies
- Edict regarding Jews in Rome is lifted *evidently Peter was there secretly?*
- Aquila & Priscilla return and set up a House Church in their home Rom. 16:3-5

AD 54-68 - Nero in Power

AD 55

- Paul writes 2 Cor. from Macedonia Acts 20:1; 2 Cor. 1:16

AD 57

- Paul writes Romans
- Travels to Jerusalem Acts 21:1-16
- Visits James (the brother of Jesus) & the elders of the church - Acts 21:17-26
- Paul is arrested Acts 21:27-36

AD 57-59

- Paul is transferred to Caesarea to see Governor Felix Acts 23:23,24
 - Caesarea the seat of Roman power in Palestine.
 - After 2 years, Felix is succeeded by Festus Acts 24:27
 - Paul defends himself with Festus and Agrippa Acts 25,26

AD 60

- Paul begins for Rome Acts 27:1
- somewhere in AD 60's Hebrews is written

AD 62

- James is executed by High priest Ananus
- Peter writes 1 Peter from Rome - 1 Pt. 5:13 (Rome called Babylon).

AD 62

- Paul arrives in Rome
- Under House Arrest but is able to minister Acts 28:16-31
- Writes Ephesians
- Writes Colossians
- Writes Philemon
- Luke (who is with Paul) writes his Gospel and the book of Acts

AD 62-64

- Paul is Released
- Writes 1 Tim. from Macedonia
- Writes Titus from Nicopolis
- Returns to Rome & is Re-arrested 2 Tim. 1:16,16

AD 64

- Great fire of Rome
- Nero blames Christians
- Paul & Peter are arrested
- Paul writes 2 Timothy
- Peter Writes 2 Peter
- Paul & Peter are executed

AD 66

- great Jewish/Roman War begins with riot in Caesarea.
- Roman Procurator & Garrison are all killed.

AD 67

- Rome destroys Qumran community
- Apostle John escapes with Mary (Mother of Jesus) to Ephesus.

AD 68 Nero commits suicide

AD 69 Vespasian replaces Nero

AD 70

- Titus (Vespasian's son) lays siege to Jerusalem.
- After 5 months he takes & destroys Jerusalem & Temple.
 - no more Sadducean order

AD 73

- Fall of Masada
- 936 Jewish rebels commit suicide before being captured.

AD 79 Vesuvius erupts

AD 85-90

- John writes 1,2,& 3 John — probably from Ephesus.

AD 89,90

- John writes his gospel - — probably from Ephesus.

AD 95,96

- John is exiled to Isle of Patmos & writes Revelation Rev 1:9

AD 96-98 Nerva become Emperor

- Emperor Nerva ends official Roman persecution of the church.