

Introduction and Background

Introduction: "We would be at a total _____ without this book. To go from the life of our Lord in the Gospels right into the Epistles would be a tremendous leap. Who were the congregations being addressed and how did they come to be? Acts answers these and many other questions" (MacDonald).

I. Author

- A. The physician, _____, wrote the book of Acts (Col. 4:14).
- B. Luke was a close traveling companion of _____ (Acts 16:10-17, 20:5-21; 27:1-28:16).
- C. Luke wrote more content in his gospel and Acts than Paul wrote.
- D. He wanted to continue the work he _____ with the gospel (Lu. 1:3,4; Acts 1:1)

II. Date/Setting

- A. Acts was written around A.D. _____.
- B. "Luke begins the book of Acts where he left off in his gospel. Acts records the _____ fulfillment of the Great Commission" (Talk Thru the Bible).
- C. The book covers about _____ years of church history.
- D. The first 7 chapters are in _____, the next 5 chapters cover Samaria, and the rest of the book covers the known world of that time.

III. Theme/Purpose

- A. This book is the _____ link between the Gospels and the Epistles.
- B. It is a _____ book: from Judaism to Christianity, from the Jews to the Gentiles, from the Law to Grace, and from Jerusalem to the world.
- C. The purpose of Acts is more historical than it is _____.
- D. The epistles are what record the _____ for the local church.
- E. "The Acts of the Apostles throbs with life and _____. In it we see the Holy Spirit at work, forming the church, empowering the church, and expanding her outreach" (MacDonald).
- F. Acts "records the earth-changing events of the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit comes, fulfilling Christ's _____ to wait until the Holy Spirit arrives to empower and direct the witness" (Talk Thru the Bible).
- G. "The Spirit transforms a small group of fearful men into a thriving, world-wide church that is ever moving _____ and fulfilling the Great Commission" (idid.).

IV. Key Passages

- A. The key verses are _____ and 2:42-47.
- B. The key chapter is _____.

Conclusion: "The Acts of the Apostles is the only *inspired* church history; it is also the *first* church history, and the only primary church history to cover the earliest days of the faith" (MacDonald).