

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Acts: Taking the Gospel From Zion to Zimbabwe (35)

INTRODUCTION

- Luke-Acts** Should be read together – *Two Purpose Statements (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3)*
Transitional Period – *the work of the Spirit is unique; miracles testify to the veracity of the Word*
- Acts** Narrative Account of the Early Church (33 – 62 AD)
Chronological but unbalanced. Selective but representative. Gospel-centered (8:25; 15:7; 20:25)
32 speeches – different speakers; different audiences; different responses
1 Gospel = (1) All history leads to the coming of Christ (Peter, Stephen, and Paul)
(2) Death by crucifixion
(3) Resurrection from the grave
(4) Repent and Believe
- Literary
Pattern (1) Christian leaders arise and preach the gospel
(2) Listeners are converted and added to the church
(3) Opponents (Jew and Gentile) persecute Christian leaders
(4) God intervenes to rescue the preacher and the church

ACTS 1:8: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

- Mission** Where as Luke's Gospel moves everything to Jerusalem; Acts moves from Zion to Zimbabwe
Jerusalem (1-7); Judea-Samaria (8-12); Ends of the Earth (13-28)
- Spirit (56x)** The Spirit of Christ (1:2; 5:3,9, 32; 7:51; 10:38;
Pentecost and its Aftershocks (1:5,8; 2:17-18; 2:38; 8:15-19; 10:44-47; 11:16; 19:2, 6
Inspiration (1:16; 4:25; 11:28; 28:25)
Fullness and Filling (2:4; 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9, 52;
Ministry (6:10; 8:29, 39; 9:31; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2-4; 15:28; 16:7; 19:21; 20:22-23; 20:28; 21:4,11)
- Kingdom** The kingdom was central in Jesus teaching (Acts 1:3); The kingdom is advancing in the church
(1:5-8); Philip proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom (8:12); enter the kingdom through many
tribulations (14:22); Paul persuaded the Jews of the kingdom (19:8); Paul's ministry was
devoted to proclaiming the kingdom (20:25); Paul finished his ministry explaining the kingdom
from the Scriptures (28:23, 31)

ACTS 2:42-47: THE MAKEUP OF THE CHURCH

- Word(s)** 2:41; 4:4, 29-31; 6:2, 4; 8:4, 25; 10:44; 11:1, 16, 19; 12:24; 13:4-12, 44-49; 14:25; 15:7, 35-36;
16:6, 32; 17:11-13; 18:5, 11; 19:10, 20; 20:32
- Belief (52x)** 2:44; 4:4, 32; 5:14; 6:7; 8:12-13; 9:42; 11:21; 13:12, 48; 14:1; 16:31, 34; 17:12, 34; 18:8; 28:24
- Repent (10x)** 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20
- Miracles** Lame beggar (3-4); Ministry of healing (5:16) by Peter (9:32-43) and by Paul (19:12-13; 28:7-9)
- Prayer (30x)** 1:14, 24; 2:42; 4:29-31; 6:4; 8:15; 9:11; 10:9; 12:5, 12; 13:3; 14:23; 16:25; 28:8
- Generosity** 2:45; 4:32-37; Simon (9:43); Mary (12:12); T. Justus (18:7); Tyrannus (19:9); Mnason (21:15-16)

OUTLINE

PREPARATION FOR WITNESS (1:1-2:13)

Kingdom and the Church (1:1-11) – *The kingdom is a central theme (see above)*

Israel and the Church (1:12-26) – *The church is the New Israel*

The Spirit and the Church (2:1-13) – *Church is the dwelling place of God where Christ rules*

THE WITNESS IN JERUSALEM (2:14-8:3)

Peter's Programmatic Proclamation (2:14-41) – *Redemptive History, Christ Event, Repent and Believe*

Christian Community (2:42-47; cf. 4:23-31 & 4:32-5:16) – *Belief precedes belonging*

Peter and John stand trial (4:1-22; 5:17-42) – *Early church is persecuted for their faith*

Church Order Develops (6:1-7) – *Twofold ministry of Elders and Deacons begins to arise*

Stephen's Ministry (6:8-7:54) – *Powerful ministry; Message of judgment; Church is persecuted*

Persecution in Jerusalem (8:1-3) – *The church didn't spread until persecution came*

THE WITNESS IN JUDEA-SAMARIA (8:4-12:25)

Philip's Ministry to the Samaritans (8:4-25) – *The Spirit is poured out*

Philip's Ministry to the Ethiopian Eunuch (8:26-40) – *So far, Shem and Ham have the gospel*

Saul is converted (9:1-31) – *The apostle to the Gentiles is born; Japheth will soon be reached*

Peter's Ministry (9:32-11:18) – *Aeneas, Dorcas, Cornelius, and Peter's testimony in Jerusalem*

Persecution in Jerusalem (12:1-25) – *James is killed; Peter is delivered; The church spreads*

THE WITNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (13:1-28:31)

First Missionary Journey of Paul (13:1-14:28)

- The First International Church (13:1-3) – *Model for calling and sending ministers of the gospel*
- Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Antioch (13:4-14:28) – *the Word divides*
- Paul's Gospel Message (13:13-41) – *Like Peter: redemptive history, Christ Event, repent & believe*
- Persecution (13:42-52) – *The response is always divided; We should expect nothing else*

The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)

- The problem: Judaizers teaching Gentiles must become Jews to become Christians
- What about Presbyterian governance?
 - o Presbyterian: local church couldn't resolve, needed larger church, Jerusalem presbytery
 - o Baptist: Acts 15 is a matter of soteriology, not ecclesiology; Jerusalem did not convene
- What about infant baptism? (Acts 16:32-34)

Second Missionary Journey of Paul

- Barnabas, the encourager, takes Mark (15:36-41); Paul, the missionary, calls Timothy (16:1-5)
- Philippi (16:6-40) – *Luke, Lydia, the Jailer, the Roman Court*
- Thessalonica, Berea, Athens (17:1-34) – *Paul's message to the Aeropagus (17:22-34)*
- Corinth (18:1-22) – *Paul's confidence is in the promise of God (18:9-10)*

Third Missionary Journey of Paul (18:23-20:38)

- Ephesus (18:23-19:41) – *The Spirit comes to Ephesus; Seven Sons of Sceva; All Asia hears; Riots*
- Ephesian Elders (20:1-38) – *Reminds the elders of his kind of ministry*

Paul's Journey to Rome (21:1-28:31)

- Paul arrested in Jerusalem (21:1-23:35) – *Paul and the Law; Paul gives his first testimony*
- Paul imprisoned in Caerea (24:1-26:32) – *Paul's second testimony*
- Paul journeys to Rome (27:1-28:31) – *Voyage by ship (27); Ministry in Malta and Rome (28)*