

# Acts - Intro

**What do you know about the Book of Acts?**

**What is the Book of Acts all about?**

Sequel to Luke's gospel: Written to the same guy. "Theophilus"

## Acts 1:1

<sup>1</sup>The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

## Acts 1:2

<sup>2</sup>until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

## Luke 1:1

<sup>1</sup>In as much as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,

## Luke 1:2

<sup>2</sup>just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the <sup>o</sup>word,

## Luke 1:3

<sup>3</sup>it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;

## Luke 1:4

<sup>4</sup>so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

Who are the main characters of the book of Acts?

*Except Paul,*

These are the same guys from the gospel.

**BUT THESE ARE NOT THE SAME GUYS!!!!**

These are the guys who.....

**Misunderstand their role in ministry...**

They fight over who will be the greatest in the Kingdom

## Mark 10:35

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came\* up to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You."

## Mark 10:36

<sup>36</sup>And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

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## Mark 10:37

<sup>37</sup>They said to Him, “Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on *Your* left, in Your glory.”

*One passage says their “MOM” asks them*

**These two guys were just at the transfiguration earlier!!!!**

After Three years, only Peter is willing to profess who He really is; Messiah

## They were afraid to be with Him.... They were afraid to be without Him.

Remember the walking on water?.... They were terrified of Him  
Over and Over, they were frightened by his miracles (calming the storm, transfiguration)

## Mark 4:36

<sup>36</sup>Leaving the crowd, they took\* Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him.

## Mark 4:37

<sup>37</sup>And there arose\* a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

## Mark 4:38

<sup>38</sup>Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke\* Him and said\* to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

## Mark 4:39

<sup>39</sup>And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

## Mark 4:40

<sup>40</sup>And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?”

## Mark 4:41

<sup>41</sup>They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

But without him, the sheep scattered..... They all ran and hid after his death

## Mark 14:27

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus said\* to them, “You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.’”

## Mark 14:28

<sup>28</sup>“But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

## Mark 14:29

<sup>29</sup>But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may fall away, yet I will not.”

## Mark 14:30

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<sup>30</sup>And Jesus said\* to him, “Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.”

They were supposed to go to Gallilee.... They stayed in Jerusalem

## They misunderstood His heart for them:

When the storm came and he was asleep, they thought he didn't care for them because he wasn't helping bail out the boat.

## They misinterpret His abilities:

- Feedings of thousands. It happened more than once

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- They thought he had to touch people to heal them....  
Remember Lazerus? “Lord if you had been here, my brother would still be alive”  
*The centurion (a non-Jew/non disciple) knew better*

## They have their own plans for Him:

- Peter, with Satan speaking through him, tries to get Jesus to follow the earthly plan of protecting himself

### Matthew 16:22

<sup>22</sup>Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You.”

### Matthew 16:23

<sup>23</sup>But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.”

But just go up to the previous section..... Peter was **AWESOME....**

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## Matthew 16:16

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

## Matthew 16:17

<sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

- His brothers advise him about going to Jerusalem, to become “famous”
- At the time of his ascension, they ask about the millennial kingdom

## John 6:15

<sup>15</sup>So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

## And they left him in his most difficult moments:

- They couldn’t even stay awake with him in Gethsemene to pray
- At His arrest, they all desert him.....
- At His death, only John shows up with the women at the cross.
- At His burial, no one was there..... Just two secret followers, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus

**But now, in the Book of Acts, something is VERY different.**

These are the same guys.... BUT these are NOT the same guys  
Something has happened to these guys.  
Something has changed...

## **Secular Historians..... “These guys changed the World”**

The Course of Western Civilization was permanently altered by the apostles of Jesus

My goal for this study is:

We are the same as they  
We have the same Holy Spirit  
We have the same Mission....  
Let’s see what that is.....

**Our Mission is to do just what historians said they did..... To change the world**

## Acts 1:8

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<sup>8</sup>but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

## Jeremiah 31:33

<sup>33</sup>“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

## Jeremiah 31:34

<sup>34</sup>“They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

## 2 Corinthians 3:6

<sup>6</sup>who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**Do you ever wonder why God keeps us here on Earth?** Why

didn't He just Zap us to heaven.... When saved.

**(Psa 116:15 NIV) Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**

**He would rather have us with Him**

**(2 Cor 5:8 NIV) We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.**

**So God would rather us be with Him in Heaven...  
We would rather be there....**

**Then..... The obvious question is “Why are we here?”**

## We Are Strategically placed:

In this time in history  
In this community  
In this church  
In this room today!!

**The reason for it all..... Same as in the Book of Acts.... To change the World**

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Never underestimate this.  
Never think you are too small to have impact

Chris Perkins → just being his friend.... Warming steadily to gospel

John Stott? Moody?

Testimony of a Sunday school teacher who felt insignificant, didn't want to go teach class, only 6 showed up..... Day he was converted.... Became a great Bible Teacher

## **Bad Christian World View.....**

“The world is on its way to hell, so what's the use”  
(stay away from politics, or abortion issue, etc)

**The church is still here.....**

**Because they did NOT think that way**

**countless acts of faith**

**Unnamed saints..... held the church together....**

**St Suzanna**

**Emperor Diocletian (295AD)**

**Emperor's nephew asked to marry Suzanna**

**She keeps refusing/avoiding**

**Her father.... Bishop of underground church in Rome**

**Her uncles not save....urge her to marry**

**Finally suspicion mounts.... They insist that she worships Jupiter at the temple in Rome**

**She refuses and is martyred..... 11 years later... Christianity legalized...**

**The book of Acts is a story of how a handful of Christians**

**Strategically placed by God**

**To Change the World forever**

**We are here to do the same kind of thing**