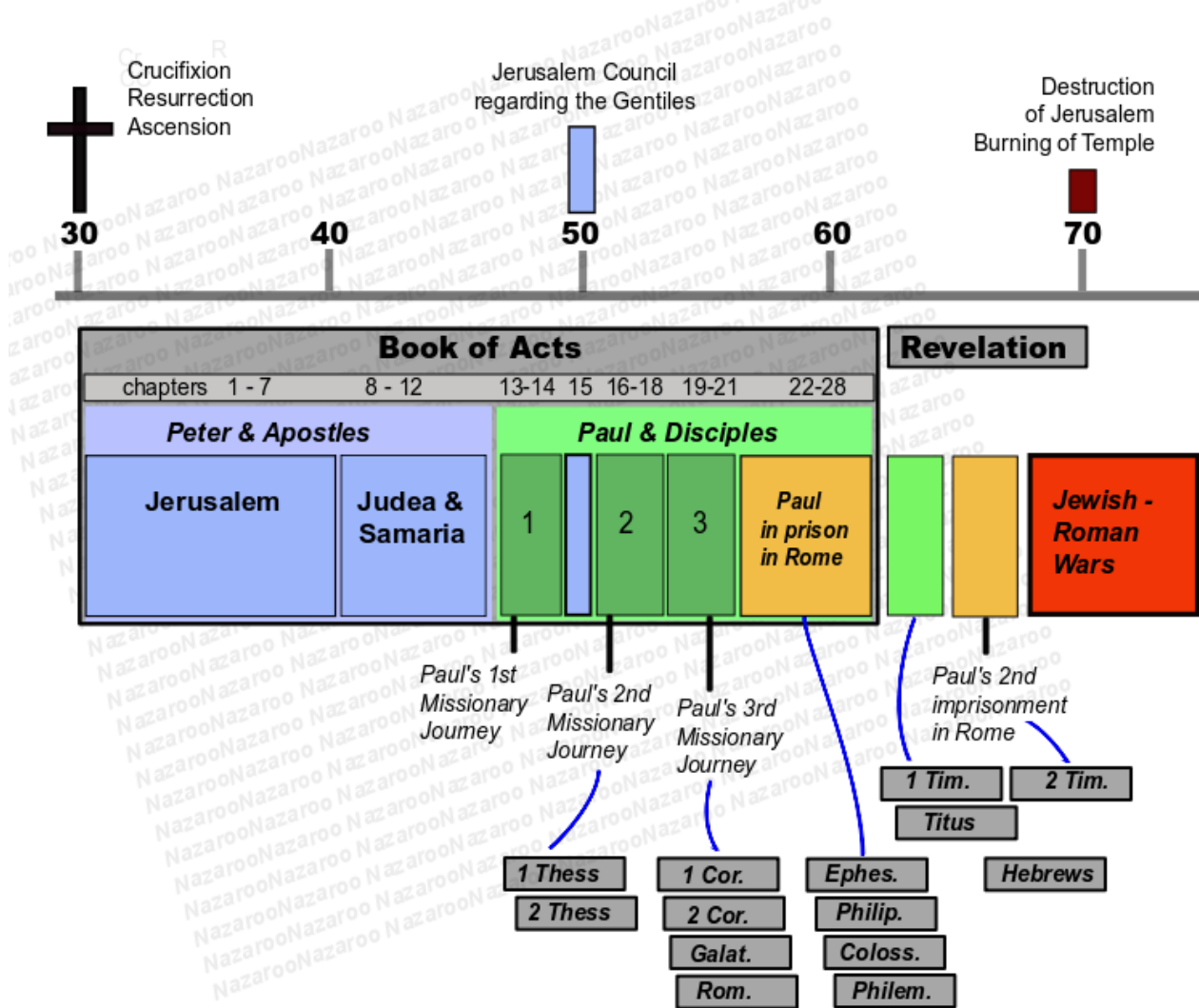


THE
ACTS
OF THE APOSTLES

NT 2725/5725
Chapters 1-14

ACTS

AD 30	The Church Established at “Jerusalem”	The Church Enlarged to “Judea and Samaria”	The Church Expanded to “the Ends of the Earth”	AD 60
	The church is . . .	The gospel is . . .	The witness is . . .	
	born	spreading	extended	
	tested	multiplying	received and rejected	
	purified	changing lives	changing lives	
	strengthened	breaking traditions	unifying Jews and Gentiles	
	CHAPTERS 1–7	CHAPTERS 8–12	CHAPTERS 13–28	
Leaders	The apostle Peter			The apostle Paul
Emphasis	Jewish evangelism	Transition		Gentile evangelism
Time	AD 33 (1:1–2:47)	AD 36 (8:1)	AD 40 (9:32)	AD 46 (13:1) AD 57 (21:18)
Scope	City evangelism	National evangelism		Cross-cultural evangelism
Theme	In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’s followers carry the good news of Christ to the world.			
Key Verse	1:8			
Christ in Acts	Jesus is the glorified, enthroned Savior, who continues His ministry in the world by means of the Holy Spirit working through His disciples until He returns (1:7–9).			



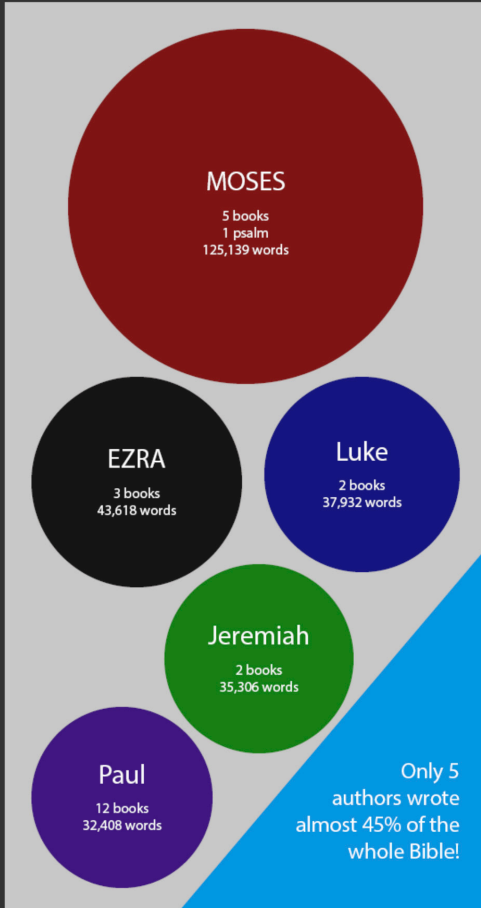
Chapter 1

Introduction-

Author: Luke

- The only Gentile writer of the New Testament (Colossians 4:1-11, 14).
- A ministry companion of Paul
- A “beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14)
- Wrote a two-volume book- Volume 1 is the Gospel of Luke, Volume 2 is the Acts of the Apostles
- Luke wrote more New Testament verses and words than anyone else - altogether, Luke wrote 27.5% of the whole New Testament

Who wrote most in the Bible?



Luke – 27.5 %

- Luke- Volume 1
- Acts- Volume 2

Paul – 26.0 %

- Galatians
- 1, 2 Thessalonians
- 1, 2 Corinthians
- Romans
- Ephesians
- Philemon
- Colossians
- Philippians
- 1, 2 Timothy
- Titus

The Holy Spirit used Luke and Paul to write over half of the New Testament.

53.5%

Image how different the New Testament would be if the next book after the Gospel of John was Romans!



After Jesus' resurrection and ascension in the Gospel of John, Paul writes a letter to Christians in Rome. Who is Paul and how did Christians get to Rome?

Chapter 1

Introduction-

Date: Early (before A.D. 64- Nero's fire at Rome) or late (after A.D. 70- the destruction of the temple at Jerusalem)

- Matthew was written around A.D. 50-60
- Mark was written around A.D. 50-60
- Luke was written around A.D. 61
- Acts was written around A.D. 62
- John was written around A.D. 80-90

Chapter 1

Introduction-

Purpose: Luke gives his purpose for writing this history at the beginning of his first book, the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 1:3-4-

*It seemed fitting to me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, **to write it out for you in an orderly sequence**, most excellent Theophilus; **so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.***

Chapter 1

Verse 1- *The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,*

The first account Luke refers to is the Gospel of Luke. It was important for him to begin with the gospel account in Volume 1 so he could record all the events in Volume 2, the Book of Acts. Luke writes as a historian with Greek that has a quality of style.

Later, we will discuss theories (liberal and conservative) of how Luke knew what to write since he (and Paul) was not a follower of Jesus during His earthly ministry (HINT: 2 Timothy 3:16). He carefully recorded what Jesus did and taught in His ministry.

Chapter 1

Verse 1- *The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,*

Who was Theophilus (“friend of God”)?

Some believe the name represented all believers in Christ, Jew, and Gentile.

Probably, Theophilus was a man who was part of the educated, ruling class of society. Maybe he was a God-fearer who attended the worship services in a Jewish synagogue but objected to circumcision. Hence, he was not a convert to Judaism (Kistemaker & Hendriksen).

Chapter 1

Theophilus a Godfearer?

Godfearers were not ethnically Jewish but revered God. Proselytes were those who had made a full commitment to the requirements of Judaism, especially the Law. Godfearers expressed enough interest in Judaism to attend synagogue and possibly give alms but did not fully embrace the Law (Genesis-Deuteronomy).

- **Acts 10: Cornelius, a Roman centurion described as a devout man who feared God, gave alms, and prayed regularly.**
- **Acts 13: In this chapter, Paul and Barnabas are preaching in the synagogue of Antioch where non-Jewish individuals were present at the synagogue gatherings and were interested in hearing the teachings of Paul and Barnabas.**
- **Acts 17: This chapter mentions that there were both Jews and “devout Greeks” who attended the synagogue in Athens and were interested in discussions about spirituality.**
- **Acts 18:17- A man from Corinth, Titius Justus, who lived next to the synagogue**

Chapter 1

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

Luke gives the most detailed account of the ascension of Jesus of all Bible writers (Luke 24:50-53). He also mentions it in this verse and later in verses 9-11.

During the forty days that separated the resurrection and the ascension, Jesus taught the disciples, preparing them to lead the early church. This is the only New Testament reference to these post-resurrection days (Gangel).

Chapter 1

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

Later, we will see how the Holy Spirit confirms the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus (the eleven and Matthias) on the day of Pentecost (2:4).

Chapter 1

Verse 3- *To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of things regarding the kingdom of God.*

Jesus appeared ten times in the forty days between His resurrection and ascension:

1. The women at the tomb (Matt. 28:9-10)
2. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)
3. Two men of Emmaus (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32)
4. Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5)

Chapter 1

Verse 3- *To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of things regarding the kingdom of God.*

5. Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23)
6. Eleven disciples (John 20:24-29; 1 Cor. 15:5)
7. Seven disciples fishing in Galilee (John 21:1-23)
8. Eleven disciples in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18)
9. Five hundred persons (presumably in Galilee; 1 Cor. 15:6)
10. James, the brother of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:7)

Chapter 1

Verse 3- *To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of things regarding the kingdom of God.*

The kingdom of God means God's reign or rule, both in the age to come (*eschaton*- "the end") and in our hearts and lives until then.

Chapter 1

Verse 4- *Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;*

Luke mentioned earlier that Jesus would give believers “power from on high.” They were to stop coming and going from Jerusalem and wait for that power. This would be the birth of the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49- *“And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; **but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**”*

Chapter 1

Verse 5- *for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

According to Jesus, John the Baptist was the greatest man to live in the pre-church era (Matthew 11:11). There is only one meaning for the transliterated word “baptize” (to immerse), and John immersed believers in water as an outward sign of commitment to following Jesus.

God gave the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament when He wanted to equip people temporarily with a skill (Exodus 31:3- tabernacle), for prophecy (Micah 3:8), or authority (1 Samuel 16:13- David).

Chapter 1

Verse 5- *for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

The baptism of John the Baptist was a baptism of repentance. In reality, he was the last of the Old Testament prophets

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the baptism of Jesus, a permanent condition when a person is saved, and the Holy Spirit begins to reside in him. The Holy Spirit will never leave a believer, even if he grieves Him through sin (Ephesians 4:30).

Here, the Holy Spirit first comes to believers about nine days after Jesus ascends into heaven, during the feast of Pentecost (2:14).

Chapter 1

Verse 6- *So, when they had come together, they began asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”*

Now that Jesus had died and was resurrected, His disciples expected Him to establish His kingdom as He promised. Jesus mentioned the “kingdom of God” 126 times in the Gospels. They still expected him to bring in an earthly rule and free Israel from the Roman rule when they would rule on twelve thrones (Luke 22:30). This kingdom would come “at the end of the age,” but until then, His kingdom would be in the hearts and lives of those who follow Him through the power and residence of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1

Verse 7- *But He said to them, “It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority;*

Jesus responds to their question about the kingdom by saying it was not theirs to know (Deut. 29:29). God is in control of time (*chronos*) and the “periods of time” (*kairos*). He will bring the present age to a close by His own power when the time (both quantity and quality) is right.

Chapter 1

Verse 8- THEME VERSE OF THE BOOK- *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 as far as the remotest part of the earth."*

Jesus promises every believer two things- *power* and *witness*. This is true of every believer since Jesus said it here. If we have been saved, *we have received power* given to us from the Holy Spirit. The question: Since we have it, will we use it? To live a life pleasing to God and to *be His witnesses*.

Chapter 1

Verse 8- THEME VERSE OF THE BOOK- *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 as far as the remotest part of the earth."*

After Pentecost, believers were to be witnesses (*martures*) of this power they were given. How they were to be witnesses is the outline of Acts- *Jerusalem* (chapters 1-7), *in all Judea, and Samaria* (chapters 8-12), *the remotest part of the earth* (chapters 13-28).