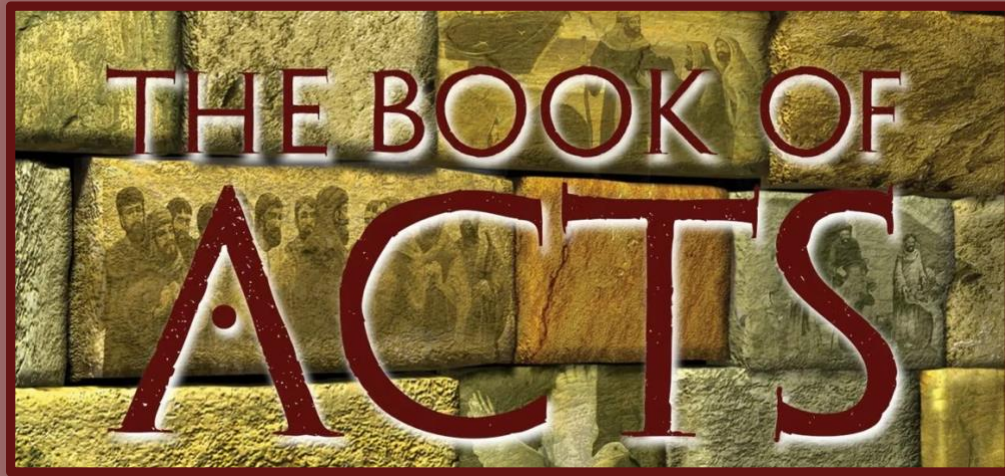




LUKE BEGINS THE BOOK OF ACTS where he left off in his gospel Acts records the initial fulfillment of the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19–20 as it traces the beginning and growth of the New Testament church. Christ’s last words before His ascension were so perfectly realized in the Book of Acts that they effectively and concisely outline its contents: “ ‘You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem [chs. 1–7], and in all Judea and Samaria [chs. 8–12], and to the end of the earth [chs. 13–28].’ ” (1:8) Thus, Acts traces the rapid expansion of the gospel, beginning in Jerusalem and spreading throughout the Roman Empire.

Key Word: Growth of the Church

Key Verses (1:8; 2:42-47) — “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (1:8)

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
(2:42-47)

Key Chapter (2) — Chapter 2 records the earth-changing events of the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit comes, fulfilling Christ’s promise to wait until the Holy Spirit arrives to empower and direct the witness. The Spirit transforms a small group of fearful men into a thriving, worldwide church that is ever moving forward and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Outline of Acts

Part One: The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-8:4)

- I. **The Power of the Church, 1:1-2:47**
 - A. Prologue to Acts, 1:1-2
 - B. Appearances of the Resurrected Christ, 1:3-8
 - C. Ascension of Christ, 1:9-11
 - D. Anticipation of the Spirit, 1:12-14
 - E. Appointment of Matthias, 1:15-26
 - F. Filling with the Holy Spirit, 2:1-4
 - G. Speaking with Other Tongues, 2:5-13
 - H. Peter Explains Pentecost, 2:14-41
 - I. Practices of the Early Church, 2:42-47

- II. **The Progress of the Church, 3:1-8:4**
 - A. Peter Heals the Lame Man, 3:1-11
 - B. Peter's Second Sermon, 3:12-26
 - C. Peter and John Are Put into Custody, 4:1-4
 - D. Peter Preaches to the Sanhedrin, 4:5-12
 - E. Sanhedrin Commands Peter Not to Preach, 4:13-22
 - F. Apostles' Prayer for Boldness, 4:23-31
 - G. Early Church Voluntarily Shares, 4:32-37
 - H. Ananias and Sapphira Lie, 5:1-11
 - I. Apostles' Mighty Miracles, 5:12-16
 - J. Apostles' Persecution, 5:17-42
 - 1. Apostles Are Miraculously Freed from Prison, 5:17-28
 - 2. Apostles Preach to the Council, 5:29-32
 - 3. Gamaliel's Advice, 5:33-39
 - 4. Apostles Are Beaten, 5:40-42
 - K. Deacons Are Appointed, 6:1-8
 - L. Stephen Is Martyred, 6:9-7:60
 - 1. Stephen Is Brought before the Council, 6:9-15
 - 2. Stephen Preaches to the Council, 7:1-60
 - M. Saul Persecutes the Church, 8:1-4

Part Two: The Witness in Judea and Samaria (8:5-12:25)

- I. **The Witness of Philip, 8:5-40**
 - A. Philip Witnesses to the Samaritans, 8:5-25
 - B. Philip Witnesses to the Ethiopian Treasurer, 8:26-40

- II. **The Conversion of Saul, 9:1-31**
 - A. Saul Is Converted and Blinded, 9:1-9
 - B. Saul Is Filled with the Spirit, 9:10-19
 - C. Saul Preaches at Damascus, 9:20-22
 - D. Saul Witnesses in Jerusalem, 9:23-31

- III. **The Witness of Peter, 9:32-11:18**
 - A. Peter Heals Aeneas at Lydda, 9:32-35
 - B. Peter Raises Dorcas at Joppa, 9:36-43
 - C. Peter Witnesses to Cornelius at Caesarea, 10:1-11:18
 - 1. Cornelius Sends for Peter, 10:1-8
 - 2. Peter Sees the Great Sheet, 10:9-22
 - 3. Peter Preaches to the Gentiles, 10:23-43
 - 4. Gentiles Are Converted and Speak in Tongues, 10:44-48
 - 5. Peter Defends His Ministry to the Gentiles, 11:1-18

- IV. **The Witness of the Early Church, 11:19-12:25**
 - A. The Witness of the Antioch Church, 11:19-30
 - B. The Persecution by Herod, 12:1-25
 - 1. Herod Kills James, 12:1-2
 - 2. Peter Is Miraculously Released from Prison, 12:3-19
 - 3. Herod Blasphemes and Dies, 12:20-25

Part Three: The Witness to the End of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

- I. **The First Missionary Journey, 13:1-14:28**
 - A. Barnabas and Saul Are Sent from Antioch, 13:1-3
 - B. Ministry at Cyprus, 13:4-13
 - 1. Preaching in the Synagogues, 13:4-5
 - 2. Controversy with Bar-Jesus, 13:6-13
 - C. Ministry at Antioch, 13:14-50
 - 1. Paul Preaches on First Sabbath, 13:14-43
 - 2. Paul Preaches on Second Sabbath, 13:44-50
 - D. Ministry at Iconium, 13:51-14:5
 - E. Ministry at Lystra, 14:6-20
 - 1. A Lame Man Is Healed, 14:6-10
 - 2. Paul and Barnabas Are Deified, 14:11-18
 - 3. Paul Is Stoned, 14:19-20
 - F. Ministry on the Return Trip, 14:21-25
 - G. Report on the First Missionary Journey, 14:26-28
- II. **The Jerusalem Council, 15:1-35**
 - A. Debate over Gentiles Keeping the Law, 15:1-5
 - B. Peter Preaches Salvation through Grace, 15:6-11
 - C. Paul and Barnabas Testify, 15:12
 - D. James Proves Gentiles Are Free from the Law, 15:13-21
 - E. The Council Sends an Official Letter, 15:22-29
 - F. Report to Antioch, 15:30-35
- III. **The Second Missionary Journey, 15:36-18:22**
 - A. Contention over John Mark, 15:36-41
 - B. Derbe and Lystra: Timothy Is Circumcised, 16:1-5
 - C. Troas: Macedonian Call, 16:6-10
 - D. Philippi: Extensive Ministry, 16:11-40
 - 1. Lydia Is Converted, 16:11-15
 - 2. Spirit of Divination Is Cast Out, 16:16-24
 - 3. Philippian Jailer Is Converted, 16:25-34
 - 4. Paul Is Released from Prison, 16:35-40
 - E. Thessalonica: "Turn the World Upside Down," 17:1-9
 - F. Berea: Many Received the Word, 17:10-15
 - G. Athens: Paul's Sermon on Mars' Hill, 17:16-34
 - H. Corinth: One-and-a-half Years of Ministry, 18:1-17
 - 1. Paul Works with Aquila and Priscilla, 18:1-3
 - 2. Jews Reject Paul, 18:4-6
 - 3. Crispus, the Gentile, Is Converted, 18:7-11
 - 4. Gallio Will Not Try Paul, 18:12-17
 - I. Return Trip to Antioch, 18:18-22
- IV. **The Third Missionary Journey, 18:23-21:16**
 - A. Galatia and Phrygia: Strengthening the Disciples, 18:23

- B. Ephesus: Three Years of Ministry, 18:24-19:41
 - 1. Apollos Teaches Effectively, 18:24-28
 - 2. Disciples of John Receive the Holy Spirit, 19:1-7
 - 3. Paul Teaches in Tyrannus' School, 19:8-10
 - 4. Miracles Are Performed at Ephesus, 19:11-20
 - 5. Timothy and Erastus Are Sent to Macedonia, 19:21-22
 - 6. Demetrius Causes Uproar at Ephesus, 19:23-41
- C. Macedonia: Three Months of Ministry, 20:1-5
- D. Troas, Eutychus Falls from Loft, 20:6-12
- E. Miletus: Paul Bids Farewell to Ephesian Elders, 20:13-38
- F. Tyre: Paul Is Warned about Jerusalem, 21:1-6
- G. Caesarea: Agabus' Prediction, 21:7-16

V. **The Trip to Rome, 21:17-28:31**

- A. Paul Witnesses in Jerusalem, 21:17-23:33
 - 1. Paul Conforms to Jewish Customs, 21:17-26
 - 2. Paul's Arrest, 21:27-39
 - 3. Paul's Defense before the Crowd, 21:40-22:23
 - 4. Paul's Defense before the Centurion, 22:24-29
 - 5. Paul's Defense before the Sanhedrin, 22:30-23:11
 - 6. Jews' Plan to Kill Paul, 23:12-22
 - 7. Paul's Rescue, 23:23-33
- B. Paul's Witnesses in Caesarea, 23:34-28:31
 - 1. Paul Is Tried before Felix, 23:34-24:27
 - 2. Paul Is Tried before Festus, 25:1-22
 - 3. Paul Is Tried before Agrippa, 25:23-26:32
- C. Paul Witnesses in Rome, 27:1-28:31
 - 1. Paul's Witness during the Shipwreck, 27:1-44
 - 2. Paul's Witness on Malta, 28:1-15
 - 3. Paul's Witness in Rome, 28:16:31

ACTS

Focus	Witness in Jerusalem		Witness in Judea & Samaria		Witness to the End of the Earth	
	1:1	8:4	8:5	12:25	13:1	28:31
Divisions	Power of the Church	Progress of the Church	Expansion of the Church	Paul's Three Journeys	Paul's Three Trials	
	1:1 2:47	3:1 8:4	8:5 12:25	13:1 21:16	21:17	28:31
Topics	Jews		Samaritans	Gentiles		
	Peter		Philip	Paul		
Place	Jerusalem		Judea & Samaria	Uttermost Part		
Time	2 Years (A.D. 33-35)		13 Years (A.D. 35-48)	14 Years (A.D. 48-62)		

* Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa. *Talk thru the Bible*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002.