

# BEYOND THE BASICS

## Book of Acts – Overview

### Author:

The book of Acts was written by Luke<sup>i</sup>. In his Gospel, Luke focused on Christ's life and work and ended with the Great Commission. The Gospel of Luke prepared disciples to go, but here in Acts we have the record of the "going". With Luke being the only Gentile<sup>ii</sup> write of any book of the Bible, it is significant that we are shown the Gospel being taken to the Jews (chapters 1-12) as well as the Gentiles (chapters 13-28).

### Date:

Acts closes with Paul's being in prison in Rome two years. Most likely this was around 63 AD.

### Purpose:

Luke's purpose for writing was to give detailed accounts of how men and women were converted and how churches were planted throughout the Roman world. Christians today can and must submit to Christ in the same way that converts did in the first century<sup>iii</sup>.

### Theme:

"Witness" and "Testify" are two words repeated consistently through Acts<sup>iv</sup>. These words show that God's people are witnessing and testifying of God's ability and power to change lives and forgive sin. Christianity was not a "Jewish only" religion, but one for all people for all time.

### Outline:

The outline can be found in (1:8) where Luke mentions that the Gospel went from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria, and all of the earth. Acts is laid out to show the Gospel going into those areas, and the profound impact it had on its recipients.

Gospel in Jerusalem	(1:1 - 7:60)
Gospel in Judea	(8:1-4)
Gospel in Samaria	(8:5-25)
Gospel to all the Earth	(8:26 - 28:31)

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<sup>i</sup> Luke 1:1-3; Acts 1:1

<sup>ii</sup> Col 4:10-14

<sup>iii</sup> Shackelford. New Testament Survey, pg 181.

<sup>iv</sup> Both words from the same root word "martur" (martyr) and appear about 30 times; 1:8, 22; 4:33; 10:38-43; 13:31; 22:15; 26:16