

A Survey of the Book of Acts (Part 1):
The First Thirty Years of the Church of Jesus Christ
Associate Minister's Class

7-21-15

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INTRODUCTION: The Book of Acts, the only book of history in the New Testament, chronicles the most crucial three decades of church history. Acts presents several themes, which provide important lessons for the church today. They include:

- A pattern for church growth
- Church problems and solutions
- Missionary strategy
- The place of the Holy Spirit in church life, and the life of a believer
- An emphasis on evangelism

A careful study of Acts presents to us a clear picture of the ancient church, so that we can better understand the purpose, plan, and function of the modern church.

We will divide Acts into three distinct divisions, by which we will be able to follow the “flow” of the book, and gain clear understanding of the Holy Spirit’s work in establishing the church.

I. The Structure of the Book

- a. The Author
- b. The Date of Acts
- c. The Purpose of Acts
- d. The Division of Acts

II. II. First Division: Acts 1-12 (Jerusalem)

- a. The Disciples Query (1:6)
- b. Jesus’ Response (1:7-8)
- c. The Blessing of Pentecostal Power (2:1-4, 5-11, 41, 46-47)
- d. Peter’s Second Sermon (3:11-13a, 19)
- e. Persecution of the Church Begins (4:1-3, 4, 29-30)
- f. Hypocrisy Enters the Church/Persecution Continues (5:1-10, 11, 28-29, 41-42)
- g. Dissension Enters the Church (6:1-7)
- h. The Sermon and the Stoning of Stephen (7:1-53, 58)
- i. The Church is Scattered (8:1-4, 5-8, 27-39)