

BAC Podcast Notes

Episode 10: "Acts"

This week's episode covers the book of Acts, also known as the "Acts of the Apostles."

Intro to the Book of Acts

- Written by Luke (part 2 of his Gospel)
- Addressed to Theophilus, like the Gospel of Luke
- **Key verse: Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**
 - Jesus continues his work through his disciples by pouring out the Holy Spirit
 - This verse provides the structure for the rest of the book:
 - 1:1–6:7: The Gospel begins in **Jerusalem**
 - 6:8–9:31: The Gospel spreads in **Judea and Samaria**
 - 9:32–28:30: The Gospel spreads throughout the Roman empire ("**ends of the earth**")

Structure of the Book of Acts

- **1:1–6:7: The Gospel begins in Jerusalem**
 - Chapter 2: The Holy Spirit fills believers on the day of Pentecost, Peter preaches, and 3,000 people are saved
 - Records the life of the early church (2:42–47)
 - The Gospel continues to spread in Jerusalem despite persecution
 - **Summary statement:** "'So the Word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith" (6:7).
- **6:8–9:31: The Gospel spreads in Judea and Samaria**
 - Judea: area surrounding Jerusalem
 - Samaria: area north of Judea
 - **Summary statement:** "'So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers" (9:31).
- **9:32–12:24: The Gospel spreads to the Gentiles**
 - Chapter 9: Records conversion of Saul (becomes prominent figure in book and takes the Gospel to the Gentiles)
 - Chapter 10: Cornelius—a Roman centurion—and his family become the first Gentile converts
 - **Summary statement:** "But the Word of God spread and multiplied" (12:24).
- **12:25–16:5: The Gospel spreads in Asia Minor**
 - The church in Antioch becomes "home base" for mission work
 - Chapter 13: The church in Antioch commissions Paul and Barnabas to go on their first missionary journey in the region of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey)
 - **Summary statement:** "So the churches strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (16:5)

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- **16:6–19:20: The Gospel Spreads to Europe**
 - Paul goes on his second and third missionary journeys, taking the Gospel to the region of modern-day Greece
 - **Summary statement:** "In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed" (19:20)
- **19:21–28:30: The Gospel Spreads to Rome**
 - Paul is imprisoned and put on trial
 - Chapters 25–27: Paul appeals to Caesar and is sent to Rome
 - Chapter 28: Paul is under "house arrest" for two years and continues his ministry of proclaiming the Gospel and writing letters (28:30–31)

Key Themes to Look for in the Book of Acts

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit
2. The Necessity of Prayer
3. The Gospel cannot be chained