

The Book of Acts

Part One: The Holy Land, Greater Jerusalem Crusade. Headed by Peter, the fisherman. Assisted by: John, Stephen, and Philip (Acts 1-12).

I. THE ACTIVITIES OF PETER.

- A. Peter and the 120 (1:1-26).
 - 1. On the Mount of Olives (1:1-12).
 - a. Receiving the assurance of Christ (1:8).
 - b. Witnessing the ascension of Christ (1:11).
 - 2. In the upper room (1:13-26).
 - a. The prayer meeting (1:13-14).
 - b. The business meeting (1:15-26).
 - (1) Concerning the defection of Judas (1:15-20).
 - (2) Concerning the election of Matthias (1:21-26).
- B. Peter and the pentecostal crowd (2:1-47).
 - 1. The cloven tongues (2:1-4).
 - 2. The congregation (2:5-11).
 - 3. The confusion (2:12-13).
 - 4. The clarification (2:14-15).
 - 5. The comparison (2:16-21).
 - 6. The condemnation (2:22-28).
 - a. The Messiah had been crucified by the Jews (2:22-24).
 - b. The Messiah had been resurrected by the Father (2:24).
 - 7. The conclusion (2:29-36).
 - 8. The conviction (2:37-40).
 - 9. The conversions (2:41).
 - 10. The communion (2:42-47).
- C. Peter and the lame man (3:1-26).
 - 1. The miracle (3:1-11).
 - a. The need for the healing (3:2).
 - b. The name in the healing (3:6).
 - c. The new convert after the healing (3:8).
 - 2. The message (3:12-26). Peter now delivers a powerful sermon on the Cross.
 - a. The promoters of the Cross--the Jews (3:13-15).
 - b. The prophecies about the Cross--the Old Testament Scriptures (3:18).
 - c. The power of the Cross (3:16, 26).
 - (1) It had healed the body of a man (3:16).
 - (2) It could heal the souls of all men (3:26).
 - d. The program of the Cross (3:15, 18, 21).
 - (1) Christ would suffer and die (3:18).
 - (2) God would raise him from the dead (3:15).
 - (3) He would be taken up for awhile (3:21).
 - (4) He will come again (3:19-20).
 - e. The plea of the Cross (3:19, 26).
- D. Peter and the high priest (4:1-37). Annas, the Jewish high priest has Peter and John arrested.
 - 1. The reason for the arrest (4:2).
 - 2. The evidence supporting the arrest (4:4).
 - 3. The dialogue in the arrest.
 - a. Their question (4:7).
 - b. Peter's answer (4:8-12).
 - 4. The conference during the arrest (4:13-17).
 - 5. The warning accompanying the arrest (4:18-22).
 - a. You can't continue (4:16).
 - b. We must continue (4:19-20).
 - 6. The praise service following the arrest (4:23-30).
 - 7. The blessings resulting from the arrest (4:31-37).
 - a. The believers were filled by the Spirit of God (4:31).
 - b. The brotherhood was supplied by the grace of God (4:32, 34-35).
- E. Peter and Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11).
 - 1. Their deception (5:1-2).
 - 2. Their discovery (5:3).

3. Their deaths (5:5, 10).
- F. Peter and the sick (5:12-16).
- G. Peter and the lawyer Gamaliel (5:17-42). For the second time Peter is arrested for preaching Christ.
 1. The anger of the Sadducees (5:17-18).
 2. The appearance of the angel of the Lord (5:19-20).
 3. The astonishment of the jailors (5:21-26).
 4. The address of the preacher (5:27-32).
 5. The advice of the lawyer (5:33-39).
 6. The attitude of the apostles (5:40-42).
- H. Peter and Simon the sorcerer (8:9-25).
 1. Simon's pride (8:9-11).
 2. His perversion (8:18-19).
 3. His punishment (8:20-21).
 4. His plea (8:24).
- I. Peter and Aeneas (9:32-35).
- J. Peter and the raising of Dorcas (9:36-42).
- K. Peter and Cornelius (9:43--10:48).
 1. Cornelius--a religious sinner in Caesarea (10:1-8).
 - a. His veneration for God (10:1-2).
 - b. His visitation from God (10:3-8).
 2. Peter--a reluctant soulwinner in Joppa (10:9-23).
 - a. The message of the trance (10:11-14).
 - b. The meaning of the trance (10:15-23).
 3. Peter and Cornelius--redeemed saints in Christ (10:24-35).
 - a. The conversation with Cornelius (10:24-35).
 - (1) The reception (10:25-26).
 - (2) The perception (10:28, 34-35).
 - b. The clarification to Cornelius (10:36-43).
 - c. Peter's sermon (10:38-40, 42-43).
 - d. The conversion of Cornelius (10:44-48).
- L. Peter and the Jewish believers at Jerusalem (11:1-18).
 1. The accusation (11:1-3).
 2. The argumentation (11:4-17).
 3. The acceptance (11:18).
- M. Peter and the angel of the Lord (12:1-24).
 1. The angel in a prison (12:1-18).
 - a. The martyrdom of James (12:1-2).
 - b. The freedom of Peter (12:3-18).
 - (1) His precision in escaping the prison house (12:3-11).
 - (2) His problem in entering the prayer house (12:12-17).
 - (3) The perplexity of the soldiers (12:18).
 2. The angel in a palace (12:19-24).

II. THE ACTIVITIES OF STEPHEN (6:1--7:60).

- A. The complaint of some disciples (6:1).
- B. The conference of the twelve (6:2-4).
- C. The choice of the seven (6:5-7). The first seven deacons are now chosen. Stephen is one of them.
 1. The spiritual maturity of Stephen.
 - a. He was a man full of faith (6:5).
 - b. He was spirit controlled (6:5, 10).
 - c. He possessed divine wisdom (6:10).
 2. The miracles of Stephen (6:8).
 3. The maligning of Stephen (6:9-14).
 4. The meekness of Stephen (6:15).
 5. The message of Stephen (7:1-53). As has been seen (7:13-14), the charge against Stephen was that he had predicted the coming destruction of Israel's second (Herodian) Temple. In his definition Stephen points out the following:
 - a. Israel had been blessed by God even before possession of the first (Solomonic) Temple.
 - (1) God had led Abraham into Canaan (7:2-8).
 - (2) God had protected his seed while in Egypt (7:9-17).
 - (3) God had brought Israel out of Egypt (7:18-36).
 - (4) God had led them back into Canaan (7:37-45).

- b. Israel had nevertheless turned from God.
 - (1) During the days of its first Temple (7:43).
 - (2) During the days of its second Temple (7:51-53).
- 6. The martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7:54-60).
 - a. His persecutors (7:54, 57-58).
 - b. His preview of glory (7:55-56).
 - c. His prayers (7:59-60).
 - (1) For himself (7:59).
 - (2) For his enemies (7:60a).
 - d. His passing (7:60b).

III. THE ACTIVITIES OF PHILIP (6:5; 8:5-8, 26-40).

- A. The public evangelist in Samaria (8:5-8).
- B. The personal soulwinner in Gaza (8:26-40).
 - 1. His mission from an angel (8:26).
 - 2. His ministry to a eunuch (8:27-40).
 - a. The confusion of the eunuch (8:31-34).
 - b. The conversion of the eunuch (8:36-37).
 - c. The confession of the eunuch (8:38-40).

Part Two: The Whole Earth, Global Crusade. Headed up by Paul, the tentmaker. Assisted by: Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Mark, Luke (Acts 13-28).

I. THE CONVERSION OF PAUL (9:1-19; 22:5-16; 26:12).

- A. His vendetta against the saints of God (9:1-2; 22:4; 26:9-12).
 - 1. Luke's official account of this vendetta (9:1-2).
 - 2. Paul's personal account of the vendetta (22:4).
- B. Paul's vision of the Son of God (9:3-9; 22:6-11; 26:12-18).
 - 1. What he saw: A blinding light brighter than the noonday sun (9:3; 22:6; 26:13).
 - 2. What he heard:
 - a. The Savior reviewing--"I am the One you have been persecuting." (9:4-5; 22:7-8; 26:14-15).
 - b. The Savior previewing--"I am the One you shall be proclaiming." (9:6; 22:10; 26:16-18).
- C. His visitation by a servant of God (9:10-18; 22:13-16).
 - 1. Ananias protesting (9:11, 13-16).
 - 2. Ananias pastoring (9:17-18).
 - 3. Ananias predicting (22:14-15).

II. THE EARLY MINISTRY OF PAUL (9:19-30; 11:24-30; 12:25--13:3; 22:21; GAL. 1:16-21; 2:1-10).

- A. Preaching Christ in the Damascus synagogues (Acts 9:19-21).
- B. Retiring to the Arabian desert for a period of several years (Gal. 1:16-17).
- C. Returning to Damascus with greater knowledge and preaching power (Acts 9:22; Gal. 1:17).
- D. Escaping from Damascus (Acts 9:23-25).
- E. Visiting Jerusalem for the first time since his conversion (9:26-29; Gal. 1:18-19).
 - 1. The duration of this visit (Gal. 1:18-19).
 - 2. The difficulties during this visit (Acts 9:26, 29).
 - a. The fears (9:26).
 - b. The fellowship (9:27).
- F. Escaping from Jerusalem and settling in Tarsus (9:29-30; 22:17-21; Gal. 1:21).
 - 1. The villains in the plot to kill Paul (9:29).
 - 2. The vision about the plot to kill Paul (22:17-21).
- G. Joining Barnabas in the work at Antioch (11:19-26).
 - 1. The background of the Antioch Church (11:19-21). It was started by Christians who were driven from Jerusalem following the persecution at the time of Stephen's death.
 - 2. The missionary pastor of the Antioch church--Barnabas (11:22-24).
 - 3. The associate pastor of the Antioch church--Saul (11:25-26).
- H. Visiting Jerusalem for the second time, carrying a love offering for the needy there (11:27-30; Gal. 2:1).
 - 1. The messages from the Spirit of God directing the visit (11:28; Gal. 2:2).
 - a. The revelation to Agabus (11:28).
 - b. The revelation to Paul (Gal. 2:2).
 - 2. The meeting with the saints of God during the visit (Gal. 2:9).
- I. Returning to Antioch to preach and teach the Word (Acts 12:25--13:1).

III. THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL (13:2--14:2).

- A. First stop, Cyprus (13:4-12).
 - 1. Preaching at Salamis, the island's eastern city (13:5).
 - 2. Preaching at Paphos, the island's western city (13:6-12).
 - a. The opportunity (13:6). Paul and his companions have the opportunity to preach to Sergius Paulus, the governor of the island. In fact, he was anxious to hear God's Word.
 - b. The opposition (13:6, 8-11).
 - (1) His brazenness (13:6, 8).
 - (2) His blindness (13:9-11).
 - c. The open heart (13:12).
- B. Second stop, Perga (13:13). John Mark leaves the team at this point.
- C. Third stop, Antioch in Pisidia (13:14-50). Paul spends several weeks here and preaches two sermons in the synagogue in Antioch.

His First Sermon (13:14-43): Jesus Christ, the Savior!

- 1. The preparation for this Savior.
 - a. Historical preparations.
 - (1) God chose a nation--Israel (13:17).
 - (2) He led that nation out of Egypt into Canaan (13:18-19).
 - (3) He sent judges to deliver them (13:20).
 - (4) He chose kings to rule over them (13:21).
 - b. Prophetical preparations. The Psalms had predicted his death and resurrection (13:33-37).
 - c. Homiletical preparation (13:24-25). John the Baptist had preached sermons about him.
- 2. The identity of this Savior.
 - a. He came from the seed of David (13:23).
 - b. His name is Jesus (13:23).
- 3. The rejection of this Savior (13:27-29).
- 4. The resurrection of this Savior (13:30-32).
- 5. The salvation from this Savior (13:38-39).

His Second Sermon (13:44-50).

- 6. Rejected by the Jewish listeners (13:45-46, 50).
- 7. Received by the Gentile listeners (13:47-49).

D. Fourth stop, Iconium (13:51--14:5).

E. Fifth stop, Lystra (14:6-23).

- 1. The cripple (14:8).
- 2. The cure (14:9-10).
- 3. The commotion (14:11).
- 4. The confusion (14:12).
- 5. The corruption (14:13).
- 6. The consternation (14:14).
- 7. The correction (14:15-18).
- 8. The condemnation (14:19-20).
- 9. The confirmation (14:21-23).

F. Sixth stop, back to Antioch in Syria (14:24-28).

IV. THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL, ATTENDED BY PAUL (15:1-35).

- A. The reason for the council (15:1-2, 5-6).
- B. The reports given in the council.
 - 1. Peter's report (15:7-11).
 - 2. Paul's report (15:12).
 - 3. James's report (15:13-21).
 - a. The summary: James summarizes the no-circumcision-for-Gentiles position through two arguments.
 - (1) A practical argument--God had already saved Gentiles without the rite of circumcision (15:14).
 - (2) A prophetical argument--Amos the prophet had already predicted this would happen (15:15-18).
 - b. The suggestion (15:19-21).
- C. The recommendation of the council (15:22-35).
 - 1. The messengers who carried their recommendation (15:22-27).

2. The message contained in their recommendation (15:28-35).

V. THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN PAUL AND BARNABAS (15:36-40).

- A. The background of the disagreement (15:36-38).
- B. The blessing from the disagreement (15:39-40).
Thus, there were now twice as many missionaries on the field.

VI. THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL (15:41--18:22).

- A. First stop, Lystra (16:1-5).
 - 1. The choosing of Timothy (16:1-2).
 - 2. The circumcising of Timothy (16:3).
- B. Second stop, Troas (16:6-10).
 - 1. Forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go north or south (16:6-7).
 - 2. Bidden by the Holy Spirit to go west (16:9-10).

Note: Observe the "we" in 16:10, indicating that Luke, author of Acts, had now joined the team.
- C. Third stop, Philippi (16:11-40). At Philippi three tremendous conversions took place.
 - 1. The salvation of a businesswoman (16:13-15).
 - 2. The salvation of a demoniac girl (16:16-18).
 - 3. The salvation of a prison keeper (16:19-40).
 - a. Paul the slandered (16:19-21).
 - b. Paul the sufferer (16:22-24).
 - c. Paul the singer (16:25).
 - d. Paul the spokesman (16:26-28).
 - e. Paul the soulwinner (16:29-34).
 - f. Paul the citizen (16:35-40).
- D. Fourth stop, Thessalonica (17:1-9).
- E. Fifth stop, Berea (17:10-14). Timothy and Silas remain in Berea.
- F. Sixth stop, Athens (17:15-34). Here Paul preaches his famous sermon on Mars Hill.
 - 1. The need for this sermon (17:16-17).
 - 2. The audience of this sermon (17:18-21).
 - 3. The introduction to this sermon (17:22).
 - 4. The text of this sermon (17:23).
 - 5. The points in this sermon (17:24-31).
 - a. Regarding the past: God is the Creator of all men (17:24-26, 28-29).
 - b. Regarding the present: God desires to be the Savior of all men (17:27, 30).
 - (1) Providing men reach out (17:27).
 - (2) Providing men repent (17:30).
 - c. Regarding the future: God will judge all men (17:31).
 - 6. The reaction to this sermon (17:32-34).
 - a. Some mocked (17:32).
 - b. Some delayed (17:32).
 - c. Some believed (17:34).
- G. Seventh stop, Corinth (18:1-18).
 - 1. Paul's friends in this city (18:1-5).
 - a. The tentmakers (18:1-3). He meets a godly couple, Aquila and Priscilla who, like Paul, are tentmakers by trade.
 - b. The team members (18:5). Silas and Timothy now catch up with Paul from Macedonia.
 - 2. Paul's foes in this city (18:5-6, 12-17).
 - a. Their identity (18:5).
 - b. Their insolence (18:6).
 - c. Their insurrection (18:12-17).
 - (1) The futility of their efforts (18:12-16). They unsuccessfully attempt to indict Paul before Gallio, the Roman deputy.
 - (2) The irony of their efforts (16:17).
 - 3. Paul's fruits in this city (18:8, 11).
 - 4. Paul's heavenly Father in this city (18:9-10).
- H. Eighth stop, Ephesus (18:19-21).
 - 1. He is accompanied by his friends Aquila and Priscilla (18:18).
 - 2. He is asked by his converts to dwell in Ephesus (18:20-21).
- I. Final stop, Back to Antioch (18:22).

VII. THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL (18:23--21:14).

- A. First stop, Asia Minor (18:23). Paul revisits these churches to exhort and strengthen them.
- B. Second stop, Ephesus (18:24--19:41).
 - 1. The forerunner of Paul in Ephesus--Apollos (18:24-28).
 - a. The teaching of Apollos (18:25).
 - b. The teachers of Apollos (18:26).
 - 2. The fruits of Paul in Ephesus (19:1-41).
 - a. The disciples of John (19:1-7). Paul finds twelve disciples of John the Baptist who knew only of the ministry of Christ and nothing of Pentecost. He brings them up to date.
 - b. The duration with Tyrannus (19:8-10).
 - c. The distribution of prayer cloths (19:11-12).
 - d. The divinations of the sons of Sceva (19:13-17).
 - e. The dedication of the converts (19:18-20).
 - f. The decision of Paul (19:21-22). At this time Paul determines to someday visit Rome!
 - g. The defenders of Diana (19:23-41).
 - (1) The libel of Demetrius (19:23-28). An anti-Paul meeting is conducted by Demetrius, a silversmith who has profited by making silver shrines for the goddess statue of Diana.
 - (2) The lunacy of the crowd (19:29-34).
 - (3) The logic of the town clerk (19:35-41). This intelligent Greek official calms down the mob through four logical arguments:
 - One: The divinity of the statue (19:35-36).
 - Two: The honesty of the opponents (19:37).
 - Three: The legality of the matter (19:38-39).
 - Four: The (possible) hostility of the Romans (19:40).
- C. Third stop, Greece (20:1-5). After a stay of three months he leaves to escape a plot of the Jews to kill him.
- D. Fourth stop, Troas (20:6-12).
 - 1. The midnight address (20:7).
 - 2. The midmorning accident (20:8-9).
 - 3. The miraculous awakening (20:10-12).
- E. Fifth stop, Miletus (20:13-38).
 - 1. He reviews the past (20:31).
 - a. His role as a servant of Christ (20:19).
 - b. His role as a teacher of saints (20:20, 27).
 - c. His role as a witness to sinners (20:21, 26).
 - d. His role as an example to all (20:33-35).
 - 2. He views the present.
 - a. Summarizing his situation (20:22-23, 25).
 - b. Summarizing their situation (20:28, 32).
 - (1) What they were to do (20:28).
 - (2) How they were to do it (20:32).
 - 3. He previews the future.
 - a. What his desire was (20:24).
 - b. What their dangers would be (20:29-30).
- F. Sixth stop, Tyre (21:1-6).
 - 1. A message from the Spirit (21:4).
 - 2. A meeting on the sand (21:5-6).
- G. Seventh stop, Ptolemais (21:7).
- H. Eighth stop, Caesarea (21:8-14).
 - 1. The warrior of God (21:8).
 - 2. The women of God (21:9).
 - 3. The warning from God (21:10-11).
 - 4. The will of God (21:12-14).

VIII. THE FINAL VISIT TO JERUSALEM BY PAUL (21:15-30).

- A. The rumors against Paul (21:18-22, 27-30).
 - 1. That he had degraded the Law of Moses (21:18-21). James informs Paul that many Jews were saying this about him.
 - 2. That he had desecrated the Temple of God (21:27-30). He was incorrectly accused of bringing a Gentile named Trophimus into the Temple.
- B. The reaction by Paul (21:23-26). To counteract these false rumors, Paul agrees to put himself back under the law, shaves his head, and takes a seven-day vow.
- C. The rescue of Paul (21:30-32). In spite of Paul's efforts, the rumors persist and he is set upon by a murderous Jewish mob.

- D. The replies by Paul (21:33--23:10).
 - 1. His replies to the chief captain.
 - a. First dialogue (21:33-39).
 - (1) The captain's confusion (21:38).
 - (2) The apostle's correction (21:39).
 - b. Second dialogue (21:24-30).
 - (1) The command of the captain (21:24). In an attempt to secure more information, the captain orders Paul to be scourged.
 - (2) The concern of the captain (21:28-29).
 - 2. His reply to the Jewish mob (21:40--22:23).
 - a. The speech (22:1-21).
 - (1) His conversion (22:1-16).
 - (2) His call (22:17-21).
 - b. The screams (22:22-23).
 - 3. His reply to the Sanhedrin (23:1-10).
 - a. The reprisal (23:1-2).
 - b. The retaliation (23:3).
 - c. The regret (23:4-5).
 - d. The ruse (23:6-10).
- E. The revelation to Paul (23:11).
- F. The revenge against Paul (23:12-15).
- G. The relative of Paul (23:16-22).
- H. The removal of Paul (23:23-32).
 - 1. The soldiers (23:23-24).
 - 2. The salutation (23:25-32). The chief captain wrote a letter to Felix explaining the circumstances surrounding Paul's arrest.

IX. THE IMPRISONMENT OF PAUL IN CAESAREA (23:33--26:32).

- A. Paul before Felix (23:33--24:27).
 - 1. The accusations of Tertullus (24:1-9). He was an articulate Jewish lawyer who accused Paul of being three things:
 - a. A political rebel (24:5).
 - b. A religious heretic (24:5).
 - c. A Temple desecrator (24:6).
 - 2. The answer of Paul (24:10-21).
 - a. Concerning the first and third charges--innocent! (24:11-13).
 - b. Concerning the second charge--guilty! (24:14-16, 20-21).
 - 3. The apprehension of Felix (24:22-27).
- B. Paul before Festus (25:1-12).
 - 1. The trip (25:1-6). Upon succeeding Felix, Festus visits Jerusalem and invites the Jews to once again present their case against Paul in Caesarea.
 - 2. The tormentors (25:7).
 - 3. The tormented (25:8).
 - 4. The treachery (25:9).
 - 5. The transfer (25:10-12).
- C. Paul before Agrippa (25:13--26:32).
 - 1. The summarizer (26:2-23).
 - a. His activities as a religious man (26:2-5, 9-11).
 - b. His activities as a redeemed man (26:12-23).
 - (1) His conversion (26:12-15).
 - (2) His call (26:16-18).
 - (3) His consecration (26:19).
 - (4) His conflicts (26:21).
 - (5) His consistency (26:22-23).
 - 2. The soulwinner (26:24-32).
 - a. Paul and Festus (26:24-25).
 - b. Paul and Agrippa (26:26-32).

X. THE VOYAGE OF PAUL TO ROME (27:1--28:31).

- A. Phase one: From Caesarea to Fair Havens (27:1-12).
 - 1. Julius' kindness to Paul (27:1-3).
 - 2. Paul's caution to Julius (27:9-11).

- B. Phase two: From Fair Havens to Melita (27:13-44).
 - 1. The fearful storm (27:14-20).
 - 2. The cheerful saint (27:21-26, 33-37).
 - a. The prophetic aspect (27:23-25).
 - (1) There would be no loss of life (27:22).
 - (2) Only the ship would be lost (27:22).
 - (3) They would be cast onto an island (27:26).
 - b. The practical aspect (27:33-37).
 - c. The political aspect (27:39-44).
- C. Phase three: At Melita (28:1-10).
 - 1. Paul and the people (28:1-6).
 - a. First viewed as a murderer (28:2-4).
 - b. Finally viewed as a messiah (28:5-6).
 - 2. Paul and Publius (28:7-10).
 - a. Healing his father-in-law (28:8).
 - b. Healing his friends (28:9).
- D. Phase four: From Melita to Rome (28:11-15).
- E. Phase five: At Rome (28:16-31).
 - 1. The two meetings--during which the gospel is explained to the Roman Jews (28:17-29).
 - a. First meeting (28:17-22).
 - (1) The review of the apostle: He gives them the background for his appearing there in chains (28:17-20).
 - (2) The reaction of the audience (28:21-22).
 - b. Second meeting (28:23-29).
 - (1) The sermon of God expounded (28:23-24).
 - (2) The scripture of God employed (28:25-26).
 - (3) The salvation of God expanded (28:28).
 - 2. The two years--during which the gospel is explained to all (28:30-31).