

THE BOOK OF ACTS AND THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

FROM BEFORE TIME BEGAN

THE PROPHECIES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

TO THE PRESENT TIME

And its future



The Day of Pentecost

Charles R. Williams

NOTE: This booklet may be used as a standalone study for the book of Acts or in conjunction with the book *A SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY* by Don Shackelford, ThD. Amridge University Press: Montgomery, Alabama, 2010. See “LESSON PLAN” on page 3 of this booklet if you are using this material in conjunction with the “church history” book.

WHEN, HOW, AND WHERE HAS THE CHURCH EXISTED?

THE **PLAN** BEFORE TIME BEGAN

THE **PROMISE** TO EVE, ABRAHAM AND THEIR DESCENDENTS

THE **PROPHECIES** THROUGH THE PROPHETS

THE **PREPARATION** BY JOHN THE BAPTIST, JESUS, AND THEIR DISCIPLES

THE **PERFECTION** WHEN JESUS RETURNED TO HEAVEN AND
BUILT HIS CHURCH ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

THE APOSTASY, REFORMATION, AND RESTORATION PERIODS

EMPHASIS: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE LORD’S CHURCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THIS BOOKLET

INTRODUCTION:

The Church: A Definition.....	4
The Church Through the Ages: Before, When, and After It Was Built.....	5

THE BOOK OF ACTS:

Introduction to the Book of Acts: Date, Author, Recipient and Theme.....	9
Outline of the Book of Acts.....	10

COMPLETE LESSON PLAN

Book: *A SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY* by Don Shackelford

Part I. The New Testament Church, pp. 1-26

Booklet: *THE BOOK OF ACTS AND HISTORY OF THE CHURCH: From Before Time Began Through the **Book of Acts***, by Charles Williams, pp. 1-29

Book: *A SURVEY OF CHURCH OF HISTORY* by Don Shackelford

Part II. Apostasy, pp. 27-48

Part III. The Reformation That Resulted in Protestant Denominationalism, pp. 49-62

Part IV. The Restoration Principles and New Testament Christianity, pp. 63-74

Part V. Rediscovering the Restoration Plea, pp. 75-82

Bible Study: Outline of the Letter to the **Ephesians** by Charles Williams (see web site under “Ephesians” at biblestudyplus.info)

Bible Study: Outline of the Letter to the **Colossians** by Charles Williams (see web site under “Colossians” at biblestudyplus.info)

Islam and Worldviews: (See web site under “Islam” at biblestudyplus.info for materials)

NOTE AGAIN: The book, *A SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY*, can be purchased from Amridge University Press in Montgomery, Alabama.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Church: a definition

- a. The word “church” means “the called out, an assembled people.”

Note: For a complete study of the word “church,” and the meaning and usage of the word the Holy Spirit chose in the Greek language, which is translated as “church” in our English Bibles, see pages 83-85 in *A SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY* by Don Shackelford.

- b. The church of Christ is identified as the body of Christ. (Romans 16:16; Ephesians 1:22-23).
 - c. The church is also identified in scripture as the kingdom of Christ, the household or family of God, the bride of Christ, and other terms that demonstrate the Christians relationship to God and His Son. (Colossians 1:13)
 - d. Those who are added to the church are referred to as the saved, Christians, disciples, brothers and sisters, fellow citizens, fellow servants, fellow soldiers, fellow workers and other terms. (Acts 2:47; 11:26; Ephesians 2:19; Colossians 1:17)
- ### 2. The church and God’s plan to save man from sin existed before time began (Titus 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:9)
- a. It existed in the mind of God as a plan.
 - b. It was revealed by God through promises, prophecies, preparation, and perfection.

THE CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES

Introduction:

1. When Jesus made the promise, "I will build my church," it was not an afterthought, but rather it was in God's plan in the very beginning.
2. The church was a part of God's eternal plan to save men from sin.
 - a. God's plan was hidden from the ages and from the generations, Colossians 1:24-28.
 - (1) It was a mystery though the ages but has now been revealed to His saints.
 - (2) The Gentiles can be saved by the same plan as the Jews.
 - (3) Christ now lives his people that they may be presented perfect in Christ Jesus.
 - b. God's plan was hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ, Ephesians 3:7-11.
 - (1) God's plan of saving Jews and Gentiles was a mystery but was made known when He gave His Son and built the church.
 - (2) The church was built according to an eternal purpose.
 - c. God's plan was a mystery but was revealed when He gave His Son and built his church, Ephesians 5:32.
 - d. God's plan to save the world from sin by the blood of Christ existed before the foundation of the world, 1 Peter 1:18-20.
 - (1) We are redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) This plan was hidden and a mystery, but it was foreknown and foreordained by God before the world.
2. When did the church exist?

I. The Church Existed As God's PLAN.

- A. It was hidden in the ages, Colossians 1:24-28; Ephesians 5:22-32.
- B. It had eternal purpose before the world and all generations, Colossians 1:24-28; Ephesians 5:22-32.
- C. The blood of Christ and the church cannot be separated; for, he purchased the church with his blood. Acts 20:28.

- D. The church was not an afterthought or substitute for the kingdom of God, Mark 9:1; Matthew 16:16-18.
- E. The church that Jesus built was not from the minds of men, but from the mind of God.
- F. The church was in God's plan from the beginning all along.
- G. The church as God's plan, demonstrates the manifold wisdom of God, 1 Cor. 2:6-10.
 - a. It is described as a mystery that was hidden and that was foreordained before the world.
 - b. God 's plan was for those who love him.

II. The Church Existed In PROMISE.

- A. The promise was made to Eve, Genesis 3:15.
 - 1. Christ dealt a mighty blow to Satan's head when He resurrected from the dead.
 - 2. The promise was accomplished through woman's seed, Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:31-34.
- B. It was promised to Abraham.
 - 1. There was the seed promise, Genesis 12:1-3, 7.
 - 2. There was the land promise, Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:5-7.
 - 3. There was the extended land promise, Genesis 15:18.
 - 4. All of these promises were fulfilled;
 - a. The seed promise was fulfilled, Galatians 3:16, 29.
 - b. The land promise was fulfilled, Joshua 21:43-45.
 - c. The extended land promise was fulfilled, 2 Chron. 9:26.
 - d. The land promises were conditional (1 Kings 9:4-7; 2 Kings 21:7-9; 2 Chron. 33:8); therefore, when the Israelites disobeyed they forfeited their right to the land, Mal. 1:6-14; 3:7.
 - e. Remember what Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world," John 18:36.

III. The Church Existed In PROPHECY.

- A. God revealed to Daniel that a new kingdom would be established in the days of the fourth kingdom from Daniel; Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman, Daniel 2:44.
- B. Isaiah prophesied of the same kingdom, Isaiah 2:2-3.
- C. Zechariah prophesied about the branch of David who would become king and priest; Zech. 6:9-13.

IV. The Church Existed In PREPARATION.

- A. Jesus spoke of the kingdom in parables and told his disciples that it was at hand, Mark 1:4, 14.
- B. Jesus gave the time of its coming, Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1.
- C. Jesus gave the promise of its coming, Matthew 16:18.
- D. The church was established after the death of Jesus.
 - 1. If it was established before his death, it had no head; for, he was not given rule or made head until after his ascension, Acts 2:32-39; Eph. 1:18-21.
 - 2. If it was established before his death, it had no foundation under it; for, the middle wall of partition had to be torn down between Jew and Gentile first; 1 Cor. 3:10-11; Eph. 2:13-22.
 - 3. If it was established before his death, it had no blood in it; and if it had no blood in it, it had no blood with which to seal the covenant which governs it, John 19:33-34; Heb. 10:19-23.
 - 4. Conclusion: The church was built after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, which is the good news, 1 Cor. 15:1-10.

V. The Church Exists In PERFECTION.

- A. On the day of Pentecost Peter states that what the people were seeing is that which was prophesied by Joel, Acts 2:16.
- B. The law went out, Hebrews 8:6-13.
- C. The new and final tabernacle and temple has been built, Acts 15:13-17.
- D. The term kingdom was used in present tense after Pentecost, Col. 1:13; Eph. 1:22-23.

E. The kingdom will be given to the Father by the Son at his second coming, 1 Cor. 15:24.

CONCLUSION:

1. All those who are saved, are saved by God's plan.
2. Christ and the church are God's plan for our salvation.

BOOK OF ACTS

Introduction:

DATE: The book of Acts was probably written about A.D. 63

AUTHOR and RECIPIENT: Internal evidence in the book implies that Luke wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

1. Both are addressed to the same person and with similar words.
2. Luke begins his gospel by addressing it to Theophilus.

¹ Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. **Luke 1:1-4**

3. The author of the book of Acts addressed it to Theophilus and refers to “the former account” he wrote, which was about Jesus.

¹ The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. **Acts 1:1-3**

4. The author of the book of Acts refers to “them,” “they,” and “we,” and when “we” is used, Luke is included in the number, but when “them” or “they” is used, Luke’s name is absent (Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16).

THEME:

1. The theme of the book of Acts is the continuation of what Jesus did to continue to do and teach through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven (See John 14:26; 16:12-15).
2. Acts records the beginning of the church and the preaching of the gospel.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

I. The Church Was Introduced. (Acts 1)

- A. Jesus reaffirmed His promise regarding His kingdom.
- B. Jesus ascended into heaven and His return was prophesied.
- C. Jesus told the apostles and disciples to wait for the coming of the kingdom when it would come with power.
- D. The disciples returned to Jerusalem and entered the upper room where they were staying.
- E. Matthias was selected to replace Judas.

II. The Church That Was Planned and Promised was Built. (Acts 2)

- A. It came with the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
- B. It came to fulfill God's plan, promise, and prophecies.
- C. It was built with those who had responded to John's and Jesus' teachings before the Day of Pentecost (See Mark 1).
- D. It came with the preaching of the gospel for salvation.
 - 1. Peter quoted from the prophet Joel to define what was happening.
 - a. The apostles spoke in tongues.
 - b. The crowd heard them speak in the languages in which they were born.
 - 2. They were pricked in their hearts when they heard the word preached about Jesus, and how He was crucified because of their sins.
 - 3. They believed what Peter said was true and asked what they needed to do.
 - 4. They were commanded to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.
 - 5. Those who received the word were baptized, some three thousand.
- E. The disciples were united in the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

F. The Lord added those who were being saved to those who had been saved.

III. The Church and the Gospel Spread in Jerusalem and Judea. (Acts 3:1-8:3)

A. Signs were given to convince Israel that this was God's work.

1. A man who was lame since birth was healed by Peter.
2. The crowd responded, and Peter preached a sermon.

B. Peter gave warnings to Israel if they rejected the plan of God, and he preached that they should repent and be converted that their sins may be blotted out.

C. Many of those who heard the word believed and the number of the men came to be about five thousand (4:4)

IV. The Church Experienced Struggles from Within and Without. (Acts 4-7)

A. The high priest, Sadducees, and Sanhedrin tried to stop the apostles' preaching

1. They had the apostles arrested and placed into custody.
2. Peter spoke boldly to the Sanhedrin regarding the fact that no one can be saved by any other name than the name of Jesus Christ.
 - a. They saw that Peter and John had been with Jesus.
 - b. They could not deny the miraculous healing of the lame man.
 - c. They commanded them not speak anymore in the name of Jesus.
 - 1) Peter said they could not but speak the things they had seen and heard.
 - 2) Peter said they had to listen to God more than they.

B. Peter and John assembled with other Christians and they rejoiced together and prayed that God would grant them boldness in preaching the word of God.

1. The people were of one heart.
2. The people sold their possessions in order to help one another.

C. Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied about their contribution and were struck dead, which resulted in great fear coming upon all the church.

D. The church grew rapidly as signs and healings were wrought through the hands of the apostles.

1. Believers were increasingly added to the Lord, both men and women.
 2. Many people brought their sick to Jerusalem in order that they would be healed.
- E. The high priest and those that were with him were filled with indignation and placed the apostles in a common prison.
1. An angel came at night and opened the doors and told them to go to the temple and speak the words of life.
 2. The apostles went to the temple area and began preaching the gospel.
 3. The high priest and the council of the Sanhedrin were upset by their preaching.
 4. The apostles responded by saying, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”
 5. The Sanhedrin beat the apostles and commanded that they not speak about Jesus.
 6. The apostles ceased not to preach Jesus Christ in the temple and in every house.
- F. There was racial tension between the Grecian and Hebrew Christians. (Acts 6)
1. The Grecian widows were being neglected in their need for care.
 2. The problem was solved by appointing seven men, full of the Holy Spirit to oversee the work.
- G. The first disciple of Christ was put to death because of his teaching and preaching. (Acts 7).
1. Stephen preached a stern message about Israel’s disobedience to God.
 - a. He reviewed the history of Israel’s disobedience.
 - b. He declared that they were responsible for the murder of the Just One.
 - c. He urged them to repent.
 2. Stephen spoke with a wisdom and spirit that could not be resisted by the Jews.
 1. They stirred up the people and brought false witnesses against him.
 2. They cast Stephen out of the city and stoned him to death.
 3. Stephen, before his death, looked into heaven, saw the glory of God and Jesus standing on His right hand, and prayed that Jesus would receive His spirit and that this sin would not be laid to the charge of those who stoned him.

V. The Church Was Scattered into Palestine and Syria. (Acts 8-12)

- A. Saul, who cared for the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen, persecuted the church.
- B. Phillip, one of the appointed seven, preached about Jesus and the kingdom.
 - 1. He went to Samaria, preached about Christ and the kingdom, and worked many miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The people who believed concerning the things of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, were baptized, both men and women.
 - b. The people had been astonished by Simon the sorcerer, but he was even more astonished at the real miracles and signs that Phillip did.
 - 1) Simon, believing and being baptized, continued with Phillip.
 - 2) Simon saw that by the laying on of the hands of the apostles, Peter and John, the people received the Holy Spirit.
 - 3) Simon wanted to purchase the power to do that, but was condemned by Peter and commanded to repent.
 - 2. Phillip was told by an angel and by the Holy Spirit to teach an Ethiopian riding in his chariot near Gaza.
 - a. The Eunuch was reading Isaiah, chapter 53, about the suffering servant.
 - b. The Eunuch asked who this was about and Phillip preached to him Jesus.
 - c. The Eunuch wanted to know what hindered him from being baptized.
 - d. The Eunuch and Phillip went down into the water and Phillip baptized him.
 - e. The Eunuch then went on his way rejoicing after he came up from the water.

VI. The Church Experienced a Great Persecution from Saul. (Acts 9)

- A. Saul breathed threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord.
 - 1. Jesus appeared to him while he was on his way to Damascus to arrest disciples.
 - 2. Jesus asked him why he was persecuting Him.
 - 3. Jesus was asked by him, “Who are You, Lord?” and He said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”

- B. Saul, trembling and astonished, asked, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”
- C. Saul is told by Jesus to go to Damascus and he would be told what he must do.
 - 1. Ananias, after having a vision from Jesus that Saul was to preach His name before the Gentiles, went to Saul.
 - 2. Ananias laid his hands on Saul to receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- D. Saul received his sight, arose, and was baptized (See Acts 22:16).
- E. Saul immediately began preaching that Christ is the Son of God.
 - 1. The Jews plotted to kill him.
 - 2. The Jews failed because the disciples helped him to escape.
- F. Saul came to Jerusalem and tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him.
 - 1. Barnabas took Saul to the apostles in Jerusalem and told them of his having seen and heard Jesus.
 - 2. Barnabas told them about his preaching boldly the name of Jesus in Damascus.
- G. Saul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed with the Hellenists who attempted to kill him, but the disciples took him to Caesarea and then to Tarsus.
- H. Saul’s persecutions having stopped, “...the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified...walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Spirit, they were multiplied.”

VII. The Church Continued to Multiply Through the Ministry of Peter. (Acts 9:32-43; 10:1-11:18)

- A. Peter healed Aeneas, a paralyzed man in Lydda, and many turned to the Lord.
- B. Peter brought back the life of Tabitha (Dorcas), a woman full of good works, and many believed on the Lord in Joppa.
- C. Peter was chosen by God to preach the first gospel sermon to the Gentiles.
 - 1. He, while in Joppa, greeted three men sent by Cornelius of Caesarea.
 - a. Cornelius, a Roman Centurion of the Italian Regiment, sent the three men after he saw in a vision an angel who commanded him to send for Peter.

- b. Cornelius was told by the angel, “Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon...who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.” (11:13-14).
 - c. Cornelius was a devout man who feared God, gave alms generously to the people and prayed to God always.
 - 2. He received a vision with a voice commanding him to eat unclean animals.
 - a. Peter refused because of the laws that forbade eating unclean meats.
 - b. Peter then heard a voice that said, “What God has cleansed you must not call common,” and he wondered within himself what this meant.
 - 3. He was told by the Spirit to go with the three men who were seeking him.
 - 4. He met Cornelius’ relatives and friends and heard how an angel came to him.
 - 5. He perceived that “God was no respecter of persons, but in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
 - 6. He preached to them about Israel, Jesus Christ, and salvation in Him.
 - a. While he was preaching, the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles and they spoke with tongues.
 - b. The Jews were astonished.
 - 7. He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.
- D. Peter explained what happened regarding the Gentiles, in order, from the beginning.
 - 1. He came to Jerusalem but there was contention with the Jews because of his association with the Gentiles.
 - 2. He told of his vision from God and Cornelius’ vision from the angel.
 - 3. He told them that as he began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles just as He had fallen on the Jews in the beginning. (See 2:1-4; 10:45, 11:15-17; 15:7-9).
 - a. This was the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised (See Acts 1:4-5; 11:16-17).
 - b. The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred only three times in the New Testament.

- 1) It happened on the day of Pentecost as a sign to the Jews that the kingdom had come with power (Acts 2) (Acts 2:1-10).
 - 2) It is implied that it happened to Saul after he was baptized for forgiveness of sins since he was personally appointed by Jesus to be an apostle equal to the others in authority and the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:18; Galatians 1:11-18; 2:7-9; 1 Cor. 14:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:6).
 - 3) It happened to Cornelius as a sign to the Jews that the Gentiles could enter the kingdom of God (Acts 11:16-18) because Luke and Peter say so (11:16-17).
 - 4) NOTE: After the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, there was and is only “one baptism” that is necessary, baptism for the remission of sins (Ephesians 4:5).
4. He concluded, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”
 - a. This was prophesied in the Old Testament.
 - 1) Isaiah 62:2-3---“The Gentiles shall see your righteousness...”
 - 2) Isaiah 65:1---“I said, “here I am, here I am,” to a nation that was not called by My name.
 - 3) Isaiah 66:12---“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream...”
 - 4) Isaiah 66:19b---“And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.”
 - b. This opened the doors to the kingdom to all the world.
 5. Jews, Greeks, Romans, masters, slaves, men, and women, all had the same requirements for salvation, both male and female.

VIII. The Church Reached Out to the World Beginning in Antioch of Syria. (Acts 11:19-12:25)

- A. The persecution that followed Stephen’s death scattered the disciples, and they preached the word as they went.
- B. The word was preached in Antioch and both Jews and Gentiles were converted.
- C. Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, preached at Antioch.
 1. He encouraged them all that they would with purpose of heart continue with the Lord.

2. The result: “a great many people were added to the Lord.”
- D. Barnabas went to Tarsus to seek out Saul, and they spent a whole year assembling with the church in Antioch.
1. They were first called “Christians” in Antioch: Acts 11:26.
 - a. It was prophesied that when the Gentiles saw the righteousness of God, His followers would be called by a new name by His mouth (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:18; 15:14-17; See also Isaiah 63:19; 65:1; 66:19, 23).
 - b. The Greek word for “called” is *kreematizo*, and it means “to call or reveal from above.”
 - 1) The word is used nine times in the New Testament: Matt. 2:12, 22; Luke 2:26; Acts 10:22; 11:26; Romans 7:3; Hebrews 8:5; 11:7; 12: 25.
 - 2) The word is translated thusly in those verses: “being warned of God,” “revealed to him by the Holy Spirit,” “was warned from God by an angel,” “was admonished by God,” “shall be called (by God) an adulterous,” “refused Him (God) that spoke on earth.”
 - 3) Considering the use of this word, it is obvious that the name “Christian” was given by God from above.
 2. Barnabas and Saul became a missionary team beginning in Antioch.
- E. Agabus, a prophet from Jerusalem, came to Antioch and preached that there would be a famine throughout the world during the reign of Claudius Caesar, emperor of Rome.
1. The disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.
 2. It was sent to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.
- F. God continues to protect the Jerusalem church (12).
1. James, the brother of John, is put to death by Herod.
 2. Peter was imprisoned by Herod but was released by an angel.
 - a. He then went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where they rejoiced at his release.
 - b. He then went from Judea to Caesarea, while in the meantime Herod looked for him.
 3. Herod suffered a violent death from an angel of the Lord.

4. The word of God grew and multiplied.

G. Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem and took with them John Mark.

IX. The Church Grows and the Word of God is Preached to the World. (Acts 13:1-

A. There were five preachers at Antioch in Syria who ministered to the Lord.

FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Acts 13:1-



B. As directed by the Holy Spirit, Barnabas and Saul were separated and sent to preach, with John Mark as their assistant.

1. They went to Seleucia then sailed to Cyprus and arrived in Salamis, where they preached the word of God in synagogues.
2. They went to the Island to Paphos where Paul blinded Elymas the sorcerer because of his deceit in trying to lead the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, away from the faith.
 - a. The proconsul believed when he saw the miracle.
 - b. The proconsul was also astonished at the teaching of the Lord.
3. They sailed to Perga in Pamphylia where John returned to Jerusalem.

4. They came to Antioch in Pisidia where they went into the synagogue, read from the Law and the Prophets, and were then asked to give a word of exhortation to the sons of the family of Abraham and the God-fearers (Gentiles).
 - a. Paul stood up and gave a brief history of Israel from the time they were in Egypt to the raising up of David's seed, a Savior, Jesus.
 - b. Paul tells them that the "word of salvation has been sent."
 - c. Paul tells them that all that was prophesied about Jesus was fulfilled, including His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - d. Paul quotes Old Testament scriptures and warns them not to reject what has been declared to them.
 - 1) The whole city came to hear the word of God proclaimed, both Jews and Gentiles.
 - 2) The Jews were envious, but the Gentiles were made glad and rejoiced.
 - 3) The word of the Lord was spread throughout all the region, but the Jews raised up a persecution against them and expelled them from the region.
5. They came to Iconium and spoke in the synagogue of the Jews, where both Jews and Gentiles believed.
 - a. The Jews stirred up the unbelieving Gentiles and poisoned their minds.
 - b. Paul and Barnabas continued to speak boldly in the Lord who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
6. They fled from Iconium to Lystra and Derby because a violent attempt was made by some Jews and Gentiles to abuse and stone them.
7. They came to Lystra where Paul healed a lame man, which caused the people to believe that Barnabas and Paul were the gods Zeus (Jupiter) and Hermes (Mercury, son of Zeus).
 - a. They rejected their sacrifices and pointed out that they were men like they, and then proceeded to preach about the living God who provides for all.
 - b. Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and caused Paul to be stoned and left for dead.
8. They came the next day to Derbe and many disciples were made.

9. They returned to the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to **continue in the faith**.
 - a. They appointed elders in every church and prayed with fasting.
 - b. They commended them to the Lord in whom they believed.
 10. They then passed through Pisidia, came to Pamphylia, preached the word in Perga, and then went down to Attalia, and sailed back to Antioch where they had started.
 11. They reported to the church in Antioch that God has opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, and they stayed there a long time with the disciples.
- C. A conflict arose regarding whether Gentiles should obey the Mosaic custom of circumcision before they could be saved.
1. Paul, Barnabas, and others went to Jerusalem to settle the matter.
 - a. They were received by the church, the elders, and the apostles and reported all things that God had done with them.
 - b. Some of the sect of the Pharisees insisted that circumcision was necessary and command them to keep the law of Moses.
 2. Peter reminded them that by his mouth the Gentiles heard the word of the gospel and believed.
 - a. God placed His stamp of approval by giving them the Holy Spirit.
 - b. God saved the Jew and Gentile alike.
 3. Paul and Barnabas told of the many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles without the requirement of circumcision.
 4. James declared that what Peter said agrees with the prophets.
 - a. God would visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.
 - b. God prophesied this in Amos 9:11-12 (See also Isaiah 62:2; 65:11).
 5. The apostles, the elders, and the whole church agreed and wrote letters describing their conclusion of the matter.
- D. Paul and Barnabas came to Antioch and delivered the letter from Jerusalem.
1. They rejoiced over its encouragement.

2. They continued preaching the word of the Lord.
- E. Paul implemented a plan for Barnabas and himself to revisit the brethren where they had preached the word.
1. Barnabas wanted to take his nephew John Mark again, but Paul said no.
 - a. Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus.
 - b. Paul chose Silas and departed.
 2. The word of God continued to be preached and the kingdom grew.

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Acts



- F. Paul and Silas departed to revisit the churches to strengthen them and then go further west into Europe (Macedonia and Greece).
1. They came to Derbe and Lystra where they met Timothy who believed.
 2. They took Timothy with them and the churches were strengthened and increased in number daily.
 3. They went through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and attempted to preach the word in Asia (the Roman province of Asia) to the southwest and Bithynia in the northwest, but the Holy Spirit forbade them.

4. They instead passed from Mysia to Troas where Paul had a vision of someone calling him to come into Macedonia and “help us.”
5. They therefore sailed from Troas to Samothrace, then to Neapolis and to Philippi, the foremost city of Macedonia.
 - a. Paul and Silas spoke to a group of women gathered by the riverside.
 - 1) Lydia, a seller of purple, heeded the things spoken.
 - 2) Lydia and her household were baptized, and they stayed in her house.
 - b. Paul cast a demon out of a girl who was possessed, which removed her as a profit maker to her masters.
 - 1) Her masters seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.
 - 2) The multitude rose up against them, and beat them with many stripes and then cast them into prison.
 - c. Paul and Silas sang hymns while in prison as others listened.
 - 1) There was a great earthquake and the doors opened.
 - 2) Their chains were loosed and prison doors were opened.
 - 3) The keeper of the prison was ready to take his own life but they went to his house, taught him the word of the Lord and that same hour was baptized.
 - 4) They rejoiced having believed in God.
 - d. Paul and Silas declared to the magistrates that they were Roman citizens whom they had beaten without cause, which brought fear on the leaders.
 - e. Paul and Silas were asked to leave, and they entered the house of Lydia where they were encouraged and then departed.
6. They came to Amphipolis, Apollonia, and then to Thessalonica.
 - a. Paul reasoned with the Jews from the scriptures in their synagogue for three Sabbaths.
 - b. Paul persuaded a great multitude made up of Greeks and leading women.

- c. Paul was unable to persuade some of the Jews when afterwards they gathered a mob, attached the house of Jason, saying, ‘They have turned the world upside down.’
 - 1) The mob accused them of preaching another king besides Caesar.
 - 2) The mob troubled the crowd and the leaders of the city.
 - d. Paul and Silas were sent away during the night by the brethren.
7. They came to Berea where the people were more noble than those in Thessalonica because they were “fair minded” in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
- a. Many believed as a result.
 - b. However, Jews from Thessalonica came and stirred up the crowds.
 - c. The brethren sent Paul away, but Silas and Timothy remained there.
8. Paul came to Athens.
- a. He saw many idols, and while standing on the Areopagus, he preached about the one true and living God and the resurrection of Jesus.
 - b. The Greek philosophers, among them Stoics and Epicureans, mocked him.
 - c. Some of the Athenians believed.
9. Paul departed from Athens and came to Corinth.
- a. He met Aquila and Priscilla, husband and wife, and worked with them while making tents.
 - b. He reasoned in the Synagogues and testified to the Jews about Jesus.
 - c. He persuaded Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, to believe, and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized.
 - d. He remained in Corinth a year and six months; some caused trouble, but Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia, told the troublemakers that Paul had committed no crimes, and he therefore took no notice of these things.
10. Paul departed Corinth with Pricilla and Aquila and came to Ephesus where he left them after which he entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.
11. Paul sailed to Caesarea and then went down to Antioch.

G. Apollos, an eloquent man mighty in the Scriptures and one who was instructed in the way of the Lord, came to Ephesus: Acts 18:24-28

1. He taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.
2. He was taken aside by Aquila and Priscilla who explained to him the way of God more accurately.
3. He crossed to Achaia where he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly; showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Acts 18:23; 19:1-41



H. Paul departed Antioch and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening the disciples, after which he headed west revisiting the churches in Europe (Macedonia and Greece) and then back to Ephesus in the province of Asia where he had promised before to return (18:23; 19:1-41).

1. He found twelve disciples who apparently heard Apollo's preaching and were baptized into John's baptism.
 - a. They were baptized again but into the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - b. Paul laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit's gift of speaking in tongues and prophesying.
2. He preached in the synagogue for three months reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

- a. Some hardened their hearts and spoke evil of the Way.
- b. He then left and began reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.
3. He preached in Ephesus for three years and all of Asia (a province of Rome) heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.
4. He worked unusual miracles through the power of God (sick, diseases, and evil spirits).
 - a. Those who practiced magic brought their books and burned them.
 - b. However, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.
5. He purposed to go to Jerusalem and then to Spain after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia; however, in the meanwhile he sent Timothy and Erastus into Macedonia while he stayed in Asia for a time.
6. He was challenged by Demetrius, a silversmith, who had profited off of the silver shrines of the goddess Diana.
 - a. The whole city was filled with confusion.
 - b. The crowd seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's travel companions.
 - c. The city clerk reasoned with the crowd that if they had anything against these men, they should take it to a lawful court assembly; after which, he dismissed the assembly.
7. He departed Ephesus to go to Macedonia, encouraging them with many words.
8. He came to Greece and stayed three months; after which, he returned to the Macedonia area because the Jews plotted to kill him.
9. He went to Asia (a province of Rome) being accompanied by Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus.
10. He sailed from Philippi and in five days joined these men in Troas, where they stayed seven days.
 - a. After seven days, the disciples came together to break bread (Lord's Supper) on the first day of the week.
 - 1) Paul continued his message until midnight.
 - 2) Paul brought back to life a man who had been killed after falling asleep and falling out of a third story window.

- b. The disciples broke bread and ate, and Paul spoke till daybreak.
11. He met a group in Assos and then he sailed to Samos, Trogyllium and then to Miletus going past Ephesus because he was hurrying to get to Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost.
12. He called for the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus.
- a. Paul describes his life to the elders.
 - 1) He served the Lord with all humility through many trials and tears.
 - 2) He kept back nothing that was helpful.
 - 3) He taught publicly and from house to house.
 - 4) He taught repentance and faith.
 - 5) He told them that chains and tribulations await him in Jerusalem, but those things do not move him for he will finish his race with joy.
 - 6) He preached the kingdom of God to them, but they probably will not see his face again.
 - 7) He declared to them the whole counsel of God.
 - b. Paul warns the elders of the church in Ephesus.
 - 1) Take heed to yourselves:
 - a) Some will arise from among you speaking perverse things.
 - b) Some will draw away the disciples after themselves.
 - 2) Be good shepherds.
 - a) They are overseers of the church which Jesus purchased with his own blood.
 - b) They are to shepherd and feed the flock.
 - c) They are to watch and grow in the word of His grace, which is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
 - d) They are to support the weak for it is more blessed to give than to receive, as Jesus said.
13. He runs a straight course to Cos then Rhodes and from there to Patara.

14. He sailed to Phoenicia, and then passing by Cyprus, sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, staying there some seven days.
 15. He came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and with his companions came to Caesarea and stayed with Phillip who had four virgin daughters who prophesied.
 16. Paul is told by Agabus that he would be bound and delivered to the Gentiles.
- I. Paul arrives in Jerusalem, which began a long journey that would lead him to Rome under arrest. (Acts 21:15-28:31)
1. Because of problems and misunderstanding among the Jews, Paul took a vow and went to the Temple.
 2. A crowd was aroused against Paul, and they began to seek to kill him.
 3. Soldiers came and stopped the beating and took him to the barracks.
 4. Paul told the story of his life and conversion.
 5. Paul told them that he was a Roman citizen and he appealed to Caesar.
 6. Paul divided the Jewish crowd by bringing up the subject of resurrection, which the Pharisees believed in but the Sadducees did not.
 7. Some of the Jews plotted to kill him, but the plot was discovered and the Roman commander had several hundred soldiers prepared to stop the ambush.
 8. Paul was taken to Felix the governor to whom Paul reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come.
 - a. Felix's response was, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:25).
 - b. Paul was left in prison for two years.
 9. Paul was brought by Festus before his accusers, but because he appealed to Caesar, he said, "To Caesarea you shall go."
 10. Paul is taken before King Agrippa and Paul tells him his life's story and his conversion.
 - a. Agrippa replied, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
 - b. Paul said that he wished he were as he except for the chains.
 - c. Agrippa and his counsel agreed that Paul had done nothing wrong, and he would have set him free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME: Acts 27:1-28:31

J. Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment, set sail to Italy with Paul and others as prisoners (276 persons on the ship; Acts 27:37).

1. A tempest arose and threatened to destroy the ship.
2. Paul informed the people that no one would be harmed, because he had received a message from an angel.
3. They shipped wreck on the Island of Malta.
 - a. Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake but was not affected.
 - b. The people of the Island brought their sick to Paul, and they were healed.
4. After three months they sailed to Syracuse, then to Rhegium, and then to Puteoli where they found brethren and were invited to stay 7 days.

K. Paul arrived in Rome.

1. He was delivered by the centurion to the captain of the guard where he was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.
2. He called the leaders of the Jews together and explained his situation.
3. He was appointed a day to speak to them.
 - a. Paul told them of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.
 - b. Paul was able to persuade some, but others did not believe.
 - c. Paul told them as they departed that the Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to the fathers in that hearing they did not hear and seeing they did not see; thus, they could not be healed by the Lord. (Isaiah 6:
 - d. Paul told them that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles and "they will hear it."
 - e. After spoke concluded, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.
5. Paul dwelt to whole years in his own rented house.
 - a. He received all that came to him.

- b. He preached the kingdom of God and taught the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence with no one forbidding him to do so.