

## Outline of Acts

1-7 Jewish Period  
8-12 Transition Period  
13-28 Gentile Period

### Author

The title, "Acts of the Apostles" is perhaps a bit misleading, because it only contains a few acts of some apostles, namely Peter and Paul. The recipient of the book, Theophilus, is the same person addressed in the first volume, the Gospel of Luke. The author does not name himself. However internal evidence from the book leads to the conclusion that it was Luke. For example certain passages make use of the pronoun (first person plural) "we", and we know the author was a companion of Paul on his travels (16:10-40; 20:5; 21:18; 27:1; 28:16). The book was probably written soon after the last event recorded around 63AD.

### Theophilus

Theophilus may have been one of the God-fearers that Luke referred to several times (E.g., Ac.10:2). God-fearers were Gentiles who respected and learned about God from the Jews. They went to Jewish synagogues and listened to the Scriptures as they were read.

### Summary

The book of Acts provides the first 30 years of the church's history (32-63AD). Luke demonstrates the objectivity of his account by recording

## ACTS

*The message of Acts is that the church of Jesus Christ is God's instrument to glorify Himself in the present age. The nature of the church is that it is one organic whole empowered by the life of Christ showing the transition from Jew to Gentiles.*

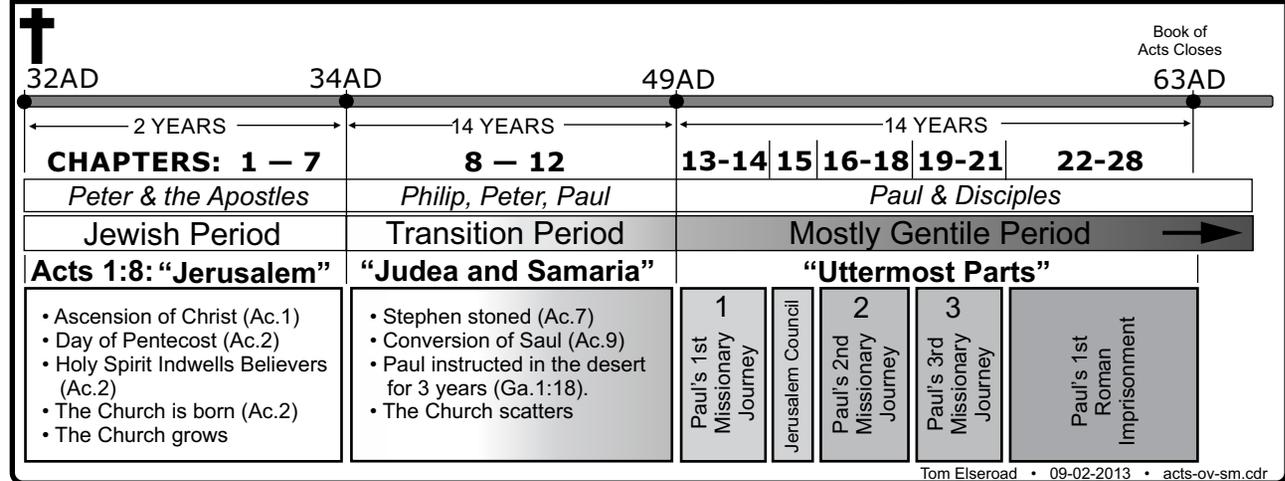
failures as well as the successes. One famous example is the discord between Paul and Barnabas (Ac.15:39). Luke and Acts should be seen as a double work with a single purpose. It is historical but primarily

## EARLY CHURCH

work in the church. There are powerful principles found in the book. (1) the church's passion must be to glorify God. This motivated the lives of Peter and Paul; (2) the church's governing principle must

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## BOOK OF ACTS BRIEF



theological in nature. Possibly the question asked by Theophilus (Gentile Christian) was, "How is it that Christianity is primarily Gentile in nature if it came from Judaism?" Luke writes these two volumes to argue that the Christian Gospel is not anti-Semitic, but is rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures' promise of salvation to both Jew and Gentile. The book records a historical transition from Judaism to Christianity. The God who was at work in the history of His ancient people, Israel, bringing them salvation, is the same God who is at

be loyalty to Christ. The leaders of the early church put Christ's interests before their own; (3) the church's power must be the Holy Spirit. The references to prayer shows the church's dependence on God's power.



### CHRIST IN ACTS

- All the activity and messages of the Apostles is that Jesus is the only one to believe in (Ac.4:12) because He is the only Lord God and Savior of the world.