

A Few Important Details:

Jesus ascends to heaven and the Apostles pick a replacement for Judas Iscariot



Author

Luke (a doctor who accompanied Paul on his church planting trips).

Scope of the Book

The book focuses in on the work of the Apostles (especially Peter and Paul) during the first 30 years of the Church.

Introduction

The book of Acts, sometimes called the "Acts of the Apostles", tells us what happened after Jesus left the earth and ascended back to heaven. The accounts (gospels) written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us Jesus amassed a significant number of followers during His ministry. So, what happened to them when He left? This is their story. But more important than their individual stories, this is the story of how God worked through them to accomplish His bigger worldwide plan.

The Apostles receive the Holy Spirit's power and invite people to join the Kingdom of God. Peter and John heal a lame man and preach to the people in the Temple. Peter and John arrested by the Jewish leaders, but are later released without punishment. Ananias and Sapphira lie about their charity. An angel breaks the Apostles out of prison. 7 men chosen to care for the widows of the Church. Stephen arrested for preaching Jesus. Stephen is murdered after angering the Jewish council with his preaching. Simon, a magician, and an Ethiopian treasurer become disciples after hearing Phillip teach. Saul (Paul) becomes a disciple. Peter heals Aeneas and raises Dorcas from the dead. Peter visits Cornelius' house and baptizes the first Gentile converts. Peter defends his work at Cornelius' house. Barnabas and Paul begin working in Antioch. Herod kills the Apostle James. Peter is imprisoned but an angel frees him in the night. Paul and Barnabas set out to plant churches. They visit Cyprus and Antioch in Pisidia. Barnabas and Paul visit Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe before returning to Antioch in Syria The saints meet in Jerusalem to discuss circumcision. Paul starts his 2nd missionary trip. Paul, Silas, and Timothy go to Philippi. While there, they baptize Lydia and the local jailer. Paul preaches in Thessalonica and Berea before visiting the Areopagus in Athens. Paul works in Corinth and Ephesus before going back to Antioch. He then begins a 3rd trip. Paul preaches in Ephesus for ~2 years. The idolatrous craftsmen start a riot in the city. Paul in Macedonia, Greece, Troas, and Ephesus. Eutychus raised from the dead in Troas. From Ephesus, Paul travels by sea to Caesarea. In Jerusalem, a mob of Jews attack Paul. Paul recounts his conversion to the Jews who attacked him. He is put in jail for the night. Paul appears before the Jewish council. He is sent to Governor Felix to evade a murder plot. Paul and the Jews make their case before Felix. Felix keeps Paul in prison without cause. Paul put on trial before Festus, the new governor, and king Agrippa in Caesarea.

Paul gives his defense before Agrippa and tells him the story of his conversion.

Paul finally makes it to Rome and spends 2 years in house arrest.

Paul begins his journey to Rome to stand trial. His ship is wrecked on the island of Malta.