Acts Week 1: Introduction and 1.1-1:26

Acts Outline

1. The Birth of the church 1:1-5:42
   1. 1:1-2:47 (40 days, Pentecost)
   2. 3:1-5:42 (healing cripple, Peter and John before

Sanhedrin, All things in Common, Ananias and Sapphira)

1. Persecution and expansion 6:1-9:31

Salvador Dali’s “The Ascension of Christ”

* 1. 6:1-8:1a (Deacons, Stephen, Stoning of Stephen)
  2. 8:1b-9:31 (Philip, Road to Damascus)

1. The Acts of Peter and Beginnings of Gentile Christianity 9:32-12:24
   1. 9:32-10:48 (Peter at Lydda and Joppa, Cornelius’s Vision, Peter’s vision, Gentiles receive good news)
   2. 11:1-12:24 (Peter defends himself to Apostles, Peter escapes Jail, Herod’s death)
2. Church Extension from Antioch and Apostolic Decree at Jerusalem 12:25-15:35
   1. 12:25-14:28 (Mission Journey 1: Barnabas and Saul in… Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe)
   2. 15:1-35 (Jerusalem Council)
3. Paul Leaves Antioch and Moves to the Aegean World 15:36-19:20
   1. 15:36-17:34 (Mission Journey 2: Revisiting churches, Asia Minor, Paul and Silas imprisoned, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens)
   2. 18:1-19:20 (Mission Journey 3: Corinth, Ephesus)
4. Paul Plans to Visit Rome and Gets There by an Unforeseen Route 19:21-28:31
   1. 19:21-21:16 (Mission Journey 3: Riot at Ephesus, Paul heads toward Jerusalem)
   2. 21:17-23:30 (Paul in Jerusalem)
   3. 23:31-26:32 (Paul at Caesarea)
   4. 27:1-28:31 (Voyage to Rome)

Introduction

**Author:** Luke

**Audience:** Most Excellent Theophilus, Christians, and a larger gentile audience

**Purpose**: The purpose is continued from Luke, to present an orderly account to Theophilus of the things that have been accomplished among the Christians. (Lk 1:1-4) A second purpose might be to present the Son of Man who was rejected by Israel and the consequent going out of the gospel to the gentiles.

**Key Verse:** 12:24 “But the Word of God increased and multiplied.”

**Important notes**:

* A second volume to the first book
* Descriptive as opposed to Prescriptive
* Acts of *the Apostles*
* Jew – Gentile interplay

Text

* The 40 days (1:1-11)
  + How did Jesus give commands to the apostles after he was taken up? (1:2)
  + “appearing to them for forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” (1:3)
  + “will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (1:6)
    - what are they expecting the kingdom to be?
    - Are they right?
    - How does Jesus respond?
  + What will the apostles be for Jesus and where?
  + “will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
* Matthias Chosen (1:12-26)
  + “with the Women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (1:14)
  + 120 followers at time of ascension
  + “and was allotted his share in this ministry” (1:17ff)
    - Is the account of Judas’s death accurate?
    - How do we deal with seeming contradictions in the Bible?
  + Requirements to replace Judas:
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + What is casting lots?
  + So, Is Matthias the twelfth apostle, or is Paul? (PvD)