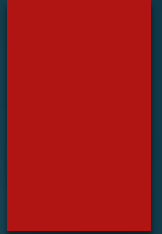


# Overview of the Book of Acts



# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ Author: Luke the physician
- ▶ Place written: Likely written from Rome
- ▶ When: 63 A.D. based on the fact that Acts ends abruptly with Paul under house arrest awaiting trial in Rome.
- ▶ Written to: Your Excellency Theophilus, who is thought to be a high ranking government official and believer. The name means “God lover”.

# Overview of the Book of Acts

## Purpose

- ▶ To record the establishment and early growth of the church
- ▶ Give examples of conversions to the gospel of Christ
- ▶ Reveal the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the apostles and the early church

# Overview of the Book of

## Acts

### ▶ Theme

- ▶ The book begins in Jerusalem and ends at Rome. It describes the establishment and growth of the church throughout the Mediterranean world through the work of the apostles and other Christians under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ Key verse: Acts 1:8
- ▶ “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ What is the duty of a witness?
  - ▶ To state that which is true.
- ▶ What does it mean to be a witness of Christ?
  - ▶ Confess by words or by way of life that one is a child of God and the Lord Jesus is his personal Savior
  - ▶ Confess that one is a member of God's kingdom here on earth.
  - ▶ Confess that there is only one saving faith and that God has only one kingdom

# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ Basic Outline
- ▶ I. Witnesses in Jerusalem
- ▶ II. Witnesses in Judea and Samaria
- ▶ III. Witnesses unto the end of the earth

# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ I. Witnesses in Jerusalem (1:1-8:3)
  - ▶ Early Happenings (1:1-26)
    - ▶ Introduction to the book (1:1-3)
    - ▶ The promise of the Spirit (1:4-8)
    - ▶ Jesus ascension into heaven (1:9-11)
    - ▶ Awaiting the Spirit (1:12-14)
    - ▶ The selection of Mathias (1:16-26)



# Overview of the Book of Acts

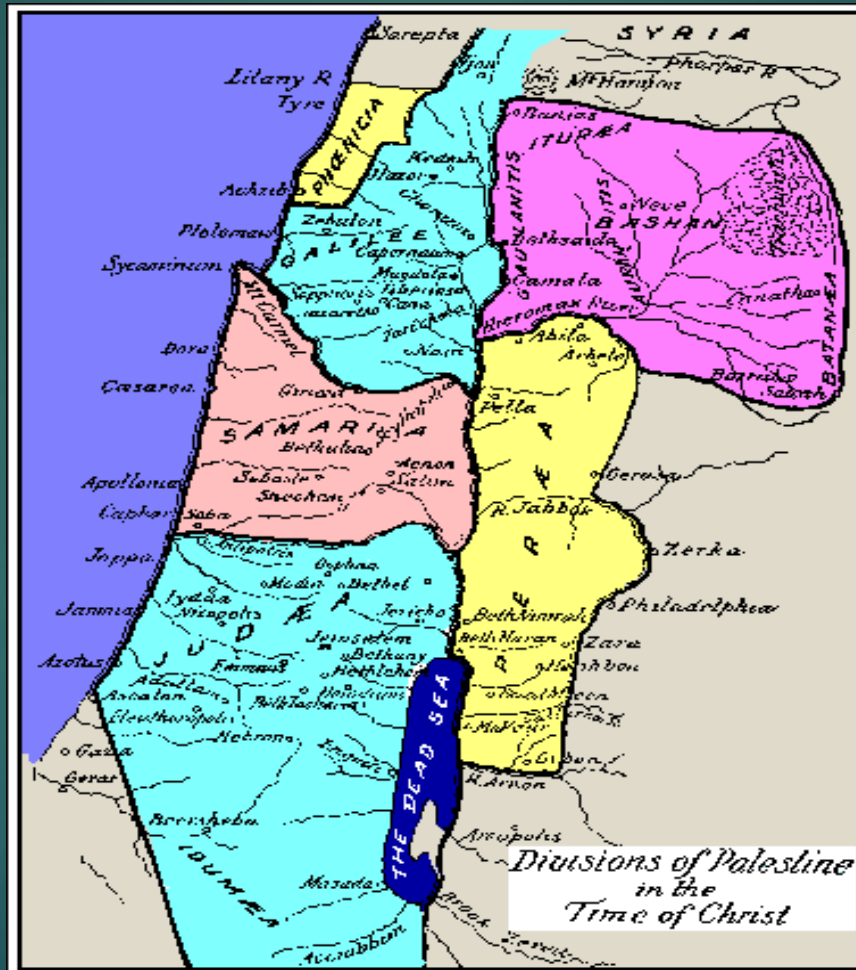
- ▶ Establishment of the church(2:1-47)
  - ▶ Outpouring of the Spirit
  - ▶ Reaction of the crowd
  - ▶ Explanation by Peter
  - ▶ First gospel sermon (Peter)
  - ▶ Conversion of 3000 souls
  - ▶ Establishing the early New Testament church

# Overview of the Book of Acts

10

- ▶ The church in Jerusalem (3:1-8:3)
  - ▶ Healing of the lame man; Peter's second sermon
  - ▶ Persecution and church freedom
  - ▶ Battling within the church; increasing persecution without
  - ▶ Matters resolved within; persecution intensifies
  - ▶ Stephens confession of faith and martyrdom
  - ▶ Saul persecutes the church

# Witnesses in Judea and Samaria



# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ II. Witnesses in Judea and Samaria (8:4-12:25)
  - ▶ The preaching of Philip (8:4-40)
    - ▶ Conversion of the Samaritans
    - ▶ Conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch
  - ▶ The conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
    - ▶ Saul blinded on the road to Damascus; hears the voice of Jesus
    - ▶ Conversion and baptism of Saul by Ananias
    - ▶ Saul becomes Paul and begins the work of the Spirit

# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ Miracles performed through Peter (9:32-43)
  - ▶ Healing of Aeneas
  - ▶ Raising of Dorcas from the dead
- ▶ The conversion of Cornelius (10:1-11:19)
  - ▶ As recorded by Luke
  - ▶ As told by Peter

# Overview of the Book of Acts

- ▶ The ministry of Barnabas, Saul and Peter (11:19-12:25)
  - ▶ Barnabas and Paul at Antioch
  - ▶ Barnabas and Paul in Judea
  - ▶ Persecution by Herod; James is beheaded, Peter is arrested
  - ▶ Peter freed from prison by an angel; Herod dies