

Acts Notes

Acts 1:1

- STATISTICS
 - 28 Chapters
 - 1,067 verses
 - 24,250 words

Acts is properly named by the King James translators "The Acts **of the Apostles**" as opposed to "The Acts of the Holy Spirit...or God...or Christians" etc...

There was no New Testament when the events of the book took place

- **Main Apostles**
 - Peter from [Acts 1-12](#)
 - Paul from [Acts 13-28](#)
 - [Galatians 2:7-8](#)
- **SIGNS**
 - [2 Cor. 12:12](#)
 - [Mark 16:17-20](#)
 - [1 Cor. 1:22](#)
 - There are signs for the Apostles and their converts
- **Author is Luke**
 - [Acts 1:1](#) compared to [Luke 1:3](#)
 - The use of "we" in [Acts 21:1, 3, 5-6, 17](#)
 - Luke is With Paul in [Col. 4:14](#)
 - Luke is with Paul in [2 Timothy 4:11](#)

A.T. Robertson says Luke was a Gentile - there is no evidence of this other than his Hellenized name - [Romans 3:2](#)

Display Chart, Outline of Acts

Acts 1:2

"up"

apostles **whom he had chosen**: This distinguishes from others like Barnabas and Mark and Matthias who are called "apostles" but were not personally chosen by Jesus Christ.

Table of Nations:

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Acts 1:3

"**infallible**" is changed to "convincing" in all the new versions

[1 Cor. 15:3-6](#)

"**forty days**" - Christ's resurrection interaction with his followers was not a flippant appearance or two. He spent more than a month with them.

"**kingdom of God**" - No Old Testament saints are born again - [John 3:3](#) - also see [Romans 14:17](#); and [Luke 9:27](#) - Jesus was most likely talking about the millennial kingdom of God, not the church age Kingdom of God which would later be revealed to Paul

Acts 1:4

"**not depart from Jerusalem**" in direct contrast with [Acts 1:8](#) - the difference being the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the amount of revelation at the given time

- "**Promise of the Father**" - [Luke 24:49](#)
 1. The **coming** of the Holy Spirit - [Luke 24:49](#)
 2. The **endowment** of power from the Holy Spirit - [Luke 24:49](#)
 3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit - [Acts 1:5](#)
 4. The Filling of the Holy Spirit - [Acts 2:4](#)
- These four things happen during [Acts 1-2](#) as all one in the same. This is the only place in the Bible where all four of these qualities are present at the same

time. Much false doctrine is derived from assuming that all four of these qualities have to be present EVERY time the Holy Ghost acts.

5. The beginning of a dispensation

Acts 1:5

Baptism of the Holy Ghost:

- [1 Cor. 12:12-13](#)
- [Acts 11:15-16](#)
- [Ephesians 4:5](#)

Similar to [Matthew 3:10-12](#)

[Heb. 10:26-27](#)

[Rev. 14:9-11](#)

This question is most likely anticipated from [Acts 1:3](#)

Jews lost the kingdom - [Jeremiah 22:28-30](#)

The restoration of the Kingdom is Promised in [Daniel 2:44](#); [7:18](#), [27](#)

Also compare with the question asked in [Matthew 24:1-3](#)

Peter is still anticipating an immediate return of Christ in [Acts 3:19](#).

There are TEN "booby-traps" found in the book of Acts just waiting for people to loosen enough rope to doctrinally tie their own noose.

1. [Acts 1:6](#) - Shows the mindset and expectation of the literal fulfillment of all the kingdom prophecies found in the Old Testament. Almost no commentator deals with this passage as it stands, in the context where it is found.
2. [Acts 2:16](#) - seems like it was placed there just to see if the reader is paying attention to what he's reading. The prophecy mentioned has nothing to do with the surrounding action of the moment.
3. [Acts 3:19](#) - presents a very real and difficult problem for those who do not take the Bible at its Word when speaking of the restoration of a literal physical kingdom.
4. [Acts 7:43](#) - "the star of your god Remphan" casts a whole new light on the "Star of David." The true origins of the star are a bit more sinister than we are led to believe.
5. [Acts 13:48](#) - Gives hyper-Calvinists just the wording they need to "prove" something that isn't so.

6. [Acts 14:13](#) - The Greek "Zeus" is abandoned for the Latin/Roman "Jupiter" by people expecting a god from outer space that happens to match the details of the advent of the Anti Christ.
7. [Acts 15:16](#) - "Spiritualizing" the Old Testament Kingdom prophecies takes another hit in this passage.
8. [Acts 17:22](#) - Paul credits the wisest, most logical, educated people of his day with being "too superstitious."
9. [Acts 19:35](#) - Jupiter has a female consort: Diana. (Jupiter's Throne in Rome is what became St. Peter's throne, and all the qualities attributed to Mary by Romanism - it's no mystery why none of them can be found in scripture).
10. [Acts 20:28](#) - an unapologetic statement that God has Blood!

[Matthew 3:10-12](#) Jews lost the kingdom - [Jeremiah 22:28-30](#)

The restoration of the Kingdom is Promised in [Daniel 2:44](#); [7:18](#), [27](#)

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Acts 1:7

Jesus doesn't just say "NO"

Many commentators criticize the disciples for asking Jesus this question, accusing them of being greedy, or impatient, or "not savoring the things that be of God..." or not understanding spiritual issues etc... However, on the contrary, based on the information they have at that point and their knowledge of the Old Testament, this is actually a very intelligent question. It is only from our perspective having the entire Bible in front of us that we can understand God's plan for an invisible spiritual kingdom during the church age. From their perspective, no such thing had been revealed yet. God had not yet opened their understanding ([Luke 24:45](#)) about these things. Also note [John 16:12-13](#).

Acts 1:8

The Order of witnessing: start where you are, and then branch out.

[2 Timothy 4:5](#)

Interesting that the word Gospel doesn't show up until [Acts 8:25](#). Here, they are not given instructions to preach a particular thing (gospel) such as in [Matt. 28:19-20](#).

Note the chart of Acts, and the Development of the Book according to this verse.

Acts 1:9

"**while they beheld**" - watching Jesus leave with one's own eyes would add immense intensity to the prospect of Him coming back "in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." This, along with the resurrection, helps explain the extreme conviction held by the apostles. The ascension is also accounted in [Luke 24:51](#).

Acts 1:10

the "**two men**" are probably just angels as in [Luke 24:4](#)
Some people think these two were Moses and Elijah, but if that were so, they probably would have been named, like in [Luke 9:30](#)

Acts 1:11

"**this SAME Jesus**" - this Jesus is the only Jesus, and he will never "appear" in a different body or as someone else (Buddha, Krishna, Muhammad, Lord Matraya, 12th Imam, Eckhart Tolle, etc...) - [Matt. 24:4-5,23-24](#), [II Cor. 11:3-4](#)

- [1 Tim. 3:16](#)
- [Hebrews 1:3](#)

"**in like manner**" - he ascended up into the sky - he will descend down from the sky - [Matt. 24:27](#)

"**as**" - Even to the same place "Mt. Olivet" - [v. 12](#) - [Zechariah 14:3-4](#)

"**Ye men of Galilee**" - note [Acts 2:7](#)

Acts 1:12

"**Jerusalem**" - Jesus told them to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they get endued with power from on high ([Luke 24:49](#)).

"**a sabbath day's journey**" - 7.5 furlongs. about 3,000 feet if the cubit is eighteen inches. [Ex. 16:29](#) and [Num. 35:5](#) are supposed to have been the basis for this "maximum" journey on the Sabbath; however, this is the work of Josephus and Rabbinical Talmudists.

Whoever Theophilus is, Luke expects him to understand this expression without explanation. Theophilus apparently understands at least this much about Judaism.

Acts 1:13

this "**Judas**" is likely the Jude that wrote the epistle just before Revelation.

Acts 1:14

"**Mary**" - this is the last mention of Mary in the Bible

"**...Jesus, and with his brethren.**" - Yes, Jesus had brothers. They are named in [Mark 6:3](#)

"Cousin" is used in [Luke 1:36](#) and [Luke 1:58](#), and could easily have been used in [Acts 1:14](#) or in [Mark 6:3](#) if it were intended.

Acts 1:16

"**by the mouth of David**" - [Psalm 41:9](#) ; [Gen. 3:15](#) - ; [John 6:70](#)

"**which was guide to them that took Jesus**" - [Luke 22:47](#)

Acts 1:18

"**purchased a field**" - he did this by proxy - he threw the money back down at the chief priests, and they went and purchased a field on his behalf with his money. [Matt. 27:1-10](#);

"**HEADlong**" - there's a theme throughout the Bible where the types of Anti Christs get wounded in the head just as will happen to the antichrist and to Satan

- Sisera - [Judges 4:21-22](#)
- Goliath - [1 Samuel 17:49-50](#)
- Serpent - [Genesis 3:15](#); [Romans 16:20](#)
- Abimelech - [Judges 9:53](#)

"**falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.**" - [Matthew 27:5](#), [51](#)

Acts 1:19

[Zechariah 11:12-13](#)

[Matt. 27:7-10](#)

Acts 1:20

[Psalm 109:6-8](#) is the cross reference, yet if you follow the passage, [Psalm 109:6-19](#) is all about the antichrist.

Apostles cannot just be replaced on a whim. Judas as an apostle can only be replaced because there is a specific prophecy dealing with his replacement.

Question from Carl: how did these apostles get their understanding of which passages in the OT pertained to Jesus?

Acts 1:21

Qualifications of an Apostle

- Accompanied with the apostles "all the time" that the Lord Jesus was going in and out among them.
 - Accompanied with them from the Baptism of John until the ascension
 - Physically witnessed the resurrected Christ ([1 Cor. 15:5-9](#)).
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Acts 1:22

See notes on [verse 21](#)

Note about false apostles - [Revelation 2:2](#)

Acts 1:23

The first person has 3 different names. On a side note: not all three names are used all the time. Example, sometimes Simon Peter is called Simon, sometimes Peter, and sometimes Cephas, etc... This also shows why some genealogies don't seem to match up some times and it can create a lot of difficulty in sorting out some biblical characters.

Acts 1:24

"thou hast chosen" - they are fully confident that God is doing the choosing, and not only that, but HAS ALREADY chosen

BOTH MEN ARE ALREADY SAVED! Chosen (ἐκλέγομαι) is NEVER about salvation. It is ALWAYS about service.

The point isn't calvinistic predestination. The point is that they recognized the severity of the choice and who was actually in control of the outcome ([Psalm 109:6-7](#) and [Pro. 16:33](#)).

Acts 1:25

"that he might go to his own place"

Judas - man - [Rev. 13:18](#)

- [John 6:70](#)
- [Rev. 9:11; 17:11](#)
- Son of Simon - [John 6:71](#) - indicating human birth
- Son of Perdition - [John 17:12](#); [II Thess. 2:3](#)

Antichrist...?

- Body of a man
- Soul of the Devil
- Spirit of Judas Iscariot

Acts 1:26

Casting Lots

- [Proverbs 16:33](#)
- [Leviticus 16:8](#)
- [Joshua 18:6-10](#)
- [Nehemiah 11:1](#)
- [Ps. 22:18](#)
- [Joshua 7](#)

Casting lots was the OT manner of seeking God's face since they did not believe in blind chance - no such thing. They believed God controlled the outcome of all things.

Casting lots should never be used for personal gain or to tempt God. Today, we have the complete scripture and wise decisions can be made by applying sound biblical principles. Just

because casting lots was used under the law, does not necessarily mean that it is a good practice for modern Christians today.
