

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Introduction – Chapter 3

Author

Who does the Tradition of the Church identify as the author of the Book of Acts?

What is the evidence for the authorship of the Book of Acts by Saint Luke who also wrote one of the Gospels?

Date

When is it likely that Luke wrote the Book of Acts? What evidence is there for this position?

Structure

What are the three different ways the Book of Acts can be outlined in terms of structure?

Themes

What historical period does the Book of Acts recount?

How do the ministry of Saint Peter and Paul parallel each other in the Book of Acts?

Read 1:1-5 What is the historical evidence for the miracle of the Resurrection of Jesus? What is the significance of the 40-day period between the Resurrection and the Ascension? (Note 1:3)

Read 1:6-11 How does the book of Acts record the spreading of the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth? (Note 1:8)

How does the Ascension of Jesus culminate? (Note 1:9)

Read 1:12-26 What was the condition necessary for the candidate to replace the Apostolic position vacated by Judas Iscariot? (Note 1:20) (Note 1:21)

Why cast lots and what is the significance of the 12 and the restored tribes of Israel before the Ascension? (Note 1:26)

Read 2:1 What is the Jewish Feast of Weeks and how does it relate to Pentecost? (Note 2:1)

Read 2:2-13 How does the Holy Spirit animate the life of the Church? How does the hearing of the Gospel in many languages contrast to the tragedy of Babel? (Note 2:4)

Read 2:14-21 Peter quotes the prophet Joel 2:28-32 in his speech. What does this passage have to say about the messianic age and the Spirit, miracles, and wonders in the heavens? (Note 2:17-21)

Read 2:22-28 In Psalm 16:8-11, what is meant when the Psalmist says, "For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor let your Holy One see corruption."? (Note 2:25)

Read 2:29-36 Did God ensure that the Davidic dynastic line would continue forever? (Note 2:30)

What is the meaning of Psalm 110:1 "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies a stool for your feet."? (Note 2:34)

Topical Essay -- Peter, Prince of the Apostles

Was Peter lifted to an unrivaled position of honor and preeminence among the early Apostles? What are some examples of Peter's primacy in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts?

Read 2:37-42 What is the importance of baptism as it relates to salvation? Why did the apostles baptize entire households? (Note 2:38) (Note 2:39)

What is meant by the breaking of the bread? (Note 2:42)

Read 3:1-10 How do these two passages relate to the Messianic age?

"And **leaping** up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and **leaping** and praising God." (Acts 3:8)

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the **lame shall leap** like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy." (Isaiah 35:5-6)

(Note 3:8)

Read 3:17-23 Does Jesus fulfill the prophecy made by Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15-19? (Note 3:22)

Read 3:24-26 What is the covenant oath sworn by God to Abraham in Genesis 22:18? How is this promise fulfilled? (Note 3:25)