

THE BOOK OF
ACTS
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Message + Mission + Multiply

When was Acts written?

The book of Acts does not mention the persecution of the Church under Nero (65 AD), the fall of Jerusalem (70 AD) and the death of James (62 AD) so it was likely written before 62 AD.

Who was the author?

The author of the Book of Acts is identified as Luke by many of the historical early Church writings.

Acts 1:1 NIV

*In my former book,
Theophilus, I wrote
about all that Jesus
began to do and to
teach*

Question

Who was Theophilus?

Please turn to

Luke 1: 1-4

Luke 1: 1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

Luke 1: 1-4

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you,

Luke 1: 1-4

most excellent

Theophilus, so that you
may know the certainty of
the things you have been
taught.

Most Excellent

A title used to address
governors

Acts 23: 26

Acts 24: 3

Acts 26: 25

Acts 23: 26
*To His Excellency,
Governor Felix*

Acts 24: 3
most excellent Felix

Acts 26: 25
most excellent Festus

Question

What is the meaning of the name Theophilus?

Theophilus

Theos—God
Philos—Love

lover of God
or
beloved by God

Theophilus

The book of Acts was
written to those who love
God, to us!!!

Acts 1:1 NIV

In my former book,
Theophilus, I wrote
about all that Jesus
began to do and to
teach

Question

What was his former
book?

Acts 1: 2 NIV

*until the day he was
taken up to heaven,
after giving
instructions through
the Holy Spirit to the
apostles he had
chosen.*

Question

Luke is describing his first book, the book of Luke. What timeframe is Luke saying his first book covered?

Acts 1:1-2a NIV

*In my former book,
Theophilus, I wrote
about all that Jesus
began to do and to
teach until the day he
was taken up to
heaven*

Question

What did Jesus do before
he was taken up to
heaven?

Acts 1: 2b NIV

until the day he was
taken up to heaven,
after giving
instructions through
the Holy Spirit to the
apostles he had
chosen.

Question

What power did Jesus use to get his message across to his disciples?

Acts 1: 2b NIV

until the day he was
taken up to heaven,
after giving
instructions through
the Holy Spirit to
the apostles he had
chosen.

Acts 1: 3a NIV

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.

Question

How did the suffering of
Jesus end?

Acts 1: 3b NIV

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.

Question

Do you think the disciples
were convinced?

Why?

Acts 1: 3b NIV

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.

Acts 1: 3b NIV

*He appeared to them
over a period of forty
days and spoke
about the kingdom of
God.*

Question

How many days did Jesus appear to the disciples after His resurrection?

40

Question

Who did Jesus appear to?

Please turn to

1 Corinthians 15: 5-8

1 Corinthians 15: 5-8 NIV

and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15: 5-8 NIV

*Then he appeared to James,
then to all the apostles, and
last of all he appeared to me
also, as to one abnormally
born.*

Question

What did Jesus speak
about?

Acts 1: 3b NIV

*He appeared to them
over a period of forty
days and spoke
about the kingdom
of God.*

Acts 1: 4 NIV

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Acts 1: 5 NIV

For John baptized with a water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Question

Is there any significance to the fact that Jesus was eating with them?

Question

What did Jesus command
the disciples to do?

Acts 1: 4 NIV

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

“Do not leave

Jerusalem, but wait for

the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Question

What did the disciples do
after Jesus was crucified
up until now?

Please turn to

John 21: 1-3

John 21: 1-3 NIV

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

John 21: 1-3 NIV

*“I’m going out to fish,”
Simon Peter told them, and
they said, “We’ll go with
you.” So they went out and
got into the boat, but that
night they caught nothing.*

Question

It is obvious the disciples did not have the power to take a stand for Jesus, what power were they missing?

Acts 1: 4 NIV

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.”

Question

When did Jesus speak
about the Holy Spirit?

Jesus speaking about the Holy Spirit

John 7: 37-39

John 14: 16

John 14: 26

John 15: 26

John 16: 7

Acts 1:6 NIV

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Question

What did the disciples think Jesus was getting ready to do?

Please turn to

Luke 19: 11

Luke 19: 11 NIV

While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

Acts 1:7 NIV

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

Acts 1: 8 NIV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Question

What will the Holy Spirit
power be used for?

Question

What can we learn from
this?

Acts 1: 8 NIV

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Question

What is a witness?

Witness

Translated from the
Greek word martyres

μάρτυρες

Question

Do you think the following sounded familiar to the disciples?

Acts 1: 8 NIV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Please turn to

Matthew 28: 18-20

Matthew 28: 18-20 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28: 18-20 NIV

and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 1: 9 NIV

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1: 10 NIV

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Acts 1: 11 NIV

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Question

What is this telling us?

Please turn to

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 NIV

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 NIV

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Next Week

Please read

Acts 1: 12-26