

## **Acts: *The Unfinished Story***

### **Introduction**

*“The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles and others, during the first generation of the history of the church”* (W. Graham Scroggie)

**I. The Author**— Almost all of church history ascribes both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to Luke, thus, making his gospel the only one with a sequel. Luke’s Greek name was *Loukas* with the Latin equivalent of *Lucanus*. He was a Gentile physician (Col 4:11, 14). The date for the composition of Acts that best fits all the facts is A.D. 63.

**II. The Audience**—Like the Gospel of Luke, Acts was written directly to Theophilus, but a wider Gentile audience was certainly in view.

**III. The Aim**— There are undoubtedly several purposes for this book but the main purpose seems to be *“to explain with the Gospel of Luke the orderly and sovereignly directed progress of the kingdom message from Jews to Gentiles, and from Jerusalem to Rome”* (Stanley Toussaint). Another way to state the purpose is that Acts was written *“to show how the Christian missionary movement spread from Jerusalem to Rome, in a single generation, mainly through the instrumentality of two men, Peter and Paul”* (W. Graham Scroggie).

### **IV. The Arrangement**—

<b>ACTS</b>			
	<b>The Church Established at “Jerusalem”</b> The church is . . . born tested purified strengthened CHAPTERS 1–7	<b>The Church Enlarged to “Judea and Samaria”</b> The gospel is . . . spreading multiplying changing lives breaking traditions CHAPTERS 8–12	
AD 30			AD 60
<b>Leaders</b>	The apostle Peter		The apostle Paul
<b>Emphasis</b>	Jewish evangelism	Transition	Gentile evangelism
<b>Time</b>			3)
<b>Scope</b>			
<b>Theme</b>	In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’s followers carry the good news of Christ to the world.		
<b>Key Verse</b>	1:8		
<b>Christ in Acts</b>	Jesus is the glorified, enthroned Savior, who continues His ministry in the world by means of the Holy Spirit working through His disciples until He returns (1:7–9).		

## V. The Analysis

The key thought in this book can be summarized in one word: **TRANSITION**. The entire generation from A.D. 33–70 was a generation in transition. Positionally, a new dispensation began at Pentecost, but experientially, it spread over an entire generation. Experientially, the new generation, even the apostles, did not fully enter into the new order until the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. There are at least 5 important transitions in Acts.

Historical	Gospels (Christ)—Epistles (Church)
National	Jews—Gentiles
Dispensational	Law—Grace
Theological	Christ—The Holy Spirit
Religious	Judaism—Christianity

Acts 1—7

Acts 8—12

Acts 13—28

## VI. The Application