

Acts

of Apostles



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**Summarizing the Content and Focus of
the Book of Acts**

I. Overview of the Book of Acts and Its Place in the New Testament

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- A. The Book of Acts holds a strategic position as the fifth book in the New Testament.**
- B. The Book of Acts teaches strategically important truths for man to learn and to know.**
 - 1. Jesus died, was raised from the dead and sits at the right hand of God.**
 - 2. Jesus of Nazareth IS the Christ, the Son of God, and Lord of all.**
 - 3. The purpose of Judaism and the O.T. was fulfilled in Christianity.**
 - 4. Jesus' authority is essential in matters of religion & salvation.**
 - 5. The prime purpose of the church is to seek and save the lost.**
 - 6. Christianity is a universal religion for the saving of all mankind.**
 - 7. The church of Christ is "the Way" that God has to heaven.**
 - 8. When Christ started the church, there was only one!**
 - 9. One is saved & added to the church thru faith, repentance & baptism.**
 - 10. Any sufferings involved in being a Christian are worth it for Christ.**

II. Main Theme: Establishment and Spread of N.T. Christianity

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- A. The primary theme of the book is the historical record (the Divine record) of the origin, establishment and spread of New Testament Christianity in the first-century world during its first three decades of existence (33-62 A.D.).

II. Main Theme: Establishment and Spread of N.T. Christianity

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- B. The N.T. church flourished and N.T. Christianity spread in spite of (and maybe, in part, because of) tremendous opposition and persecution that arose from its enemies.**
- 1. The Jewish leaders became greatly disturbed at N.T. preaching (4:1-2).**
 - 2. Jewish leaders were again filled with indignation (5:17).**
 - 3. Stephen became the first martyr for the cause of Christ (6:9-7:60).**
 - 4. A great persecution arose against the church & scattered (8:1).**
 - 5. Saul of Tarsus made havoc of the church (8:3).**
 - 6. Jewish leaders authorized arrest & execution of Christians (9:2,14,21).**
 - 7. Upon his conversion, Jews plotted to kill Saul (Paul Acts:9:23, 24, 29).**
 - 8. Herod Agrippa I persecuted the church (Acts 12:1-2).**
 - 9. Paul encountered persecutions on his 1st Missionary Journey.**
 - 10. Paul encountered persecutions on his 2nd Missionary Journey.**
 - 11. Paul encountered persecutions on his 3rd Missionary Journey.**
 - 12. The last 25% of the book details the persecution of Paul himself.**

III. Main Purpose: Detail Accounts of Conversions to Christ

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- A. Jesus died that lost souls might be converted and saved from their sins (Rom. 5:6-10).**
- B. Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel in order that souls might be converted and saved from their sins (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-48).**
- C. Acts gives readers multiple cases of conversion from which to learn and follow.**
- D. Note the accounts of conversion in the book of Acts.**
- E. Compiling and summarizing these conversions shows God's plan of salvation.**

IV. Divine Necessity to Prompt Every Conversion: Preaching

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- A. God's desired outcome of the Great Commission is the salvation of souls.**
- B. God's prescribed action in the Great Commission is to preach, in order that it might bring about the salvation of souls.**
- C. The Lord's disciples were commanded to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15), which would include all things that He had commanded (Matt. 28:19-20).**
- D. The heart of every message they preached was Jesus.**

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E. “What” they preached is described as “the gospel” or “the word of God.” “Who” they preached was about “Jesus the Christ.” The Promise. The content of their preaching included:

1. Scripture
2. The nature of the one true God
3. Jesus Christ
4. The authority of Jesus Christ
5. The kingdom of God
6. The hope of the Christian
7. The way of salvation
8. The need for Christians to remain faithful

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- F. Of course, the ultimate goal of New Testament preaching was the salvation of souls.**
- 1. Salvation is depicted by various synonyms that all point to the same spiritual condition.**
 - 2. God's requirements of man in order to obtain salvation are easily and emphatically identified.**
 - 3. Of course, all salvation is by the grace of God.**
 - 4. There is always an urgency tied to baptism (emphasizing its essentiality for salvation).**
 - 5. All blessings of salvation are always placed AFTER baptism and NOT BEFORE it.**
- G. In order to confirm their preaching originated with God, God gave the ability to the Apostles to perform miracles, the power of which obviously originated with God.**

V. Identification of the Converted: Individually and Collectively

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A. Once a person was converted to Christ, through the preaching of Christ and the salvation plan of Christ, that person took on a new identity, as an individual. In the book of Acts, these individuals were identified as:

- 1. Those “who believed”**
- 2. Disciples**
- 3. Brethren**
- 4. Saints**
- 5. Christians**
- 6. All who call on His/this name**
- 7. A people for His name**
- 8. Servants**
- 9. Servants of the Most High God**
- 10. All those who are sanctified**
- 11. Friends**

V. Identification of the Converted: Individually and Collectively

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B. Once a person was converted to Christ, through the preaching of Christ and the salvation plan of Christ, that person took on a new identity as part of a collective body. In the book of Acts, this collective body was identified as:

- 1. The kingdom**
- 2. The church**
- 3. The church of God**
- 4. The churches**
- 5. The multitude of those who believed**
- 6. The multitude of the disciples**
- 7. The Way**
- 8. The flock**