

# Session 15

Acts

# What is the book of Acts?

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (1vs1-2)

# What is the book of Acts?

- A sequel
- The Acts of the Apostles?
- The Acts and Words of the Lord Jesus Christ through his Apostles?
  - Peter's sermon at Pentecost and in the temple courts
  - Stephen's defence before his martyrdom
  - James "summing up" in Acts 15
  - Paul's Sermons:
    - In the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch
    - On Mars Hill in Athens
    - To the Ephesian Elders
  - Paul's defences:
    - Before the crowd in Jerusalem
    - Before Roman Governor Felix
    - Before Roman Governor Festus and King Agrippa
- The Acts and Words of the Lord Jesus Christ, by his Holy Spirit, through his Apostles?

# What's in the book of Acts?

“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (1vs8)

Spirit-powered witness:

- In Jerusalem (chapters 1-7)
- In all Judea and Samaria (chapters 8-12)
- To the ends of the earth (chapters 13-28)

# Luke's summary statements

“So the word of God *spread*. The number of disciples in Jerusalem *increased* rapidly...” 6v7

“Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was **strengthened**; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it *grew in numbers*, living in the fear of the Lord.” 9v31

“But the word of God continued to *increase* and *spread*.” 12v24

“So the churches were **strengthened** in the faith and *grew* daily in **numbers**.” 16v5

“In this way the word of the Lord *spread* widely and *grew* in power.” 19v20

# 1. The Jerusalem Church: 1vs1 – 6vs7

- ch.1: Jesus' departure, the disciples waiting
- ch.2: **Pentecost!**
- chs.3+4<sub>v31</sub>: healing of a lame man and what happened...
- chs.4<sub>v32</sub>-6<sub>v7</sub>: **3 key challenges:** *hypocrisy, hostility* and *disunity* (still challenges to the church today!)

“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” - **6v7**

## 2. Three Key Men: 6vs8 – 9vs31

- Who will spearhead the great mission ‘to the ends of the earth’?
  - **Stephen...?** Martyred
  - **Philip...?** Into Samaria
  - **Saul!** Persecutor... Chosen!

“Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.” - **9v31**

### 3. Springboard for Mission: 9vs32 – 12vs24

- **Gentile Cornelius Converted**
- **Antioch Church Planted**
- **Peter and Herod**

“But the word of God continued to increase & spread.” - **12v24**

# 4. Mission in Asia Minor



“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.” - 16v5

# 5. Mission around the Aegean Sea: 16vs6 – 19vs20



“In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.” - 19v20

“After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.”” - 19v21

## 6. To Jerusalem to Testify: 19vs21 – 23vs11



“The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”” - **23v11**

# 7. To Rome to Testify: 23vs12 – 28vs31



# The Book of Acts

1. The Jerusalem Church
2. Three Key Men
3. Springboard for Mission
4. Mission in Asia Minor
5. Mission Around the Aegean
6. To Jerusalem to testify
7. To Rome to testify

“The Acts and Words of the Lord Jesus Christ, by his Holy Spirit, through his Apostles, for the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome.”

# Application of Acts

- What is descriptive and what is prescriptive?

⇒ **Be Global Christians! Care ♦ Pray ♦ Give ♦ Send ♦ Go**