

**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Introductory Materials to The Book of Acts

A. Name

1. Not given by inspiration.
2. Early church fathers called it "Acts of the Apostles." Some of them were Clement (150-217), Origen (185-254) and Dionysius the Great (190-265), all of Alexandria, Cyril (315-386) of Jerusalem and Chrysostom (347-407) of Constantinople.
3. In early manuscripts, it is called "Acts" (Sinaiticus, 350) and "The Acts of the Apostles" (Vaticanus, 350; Beza, 550).
4. The names can be misleading as the book does not record the acts of all the apostles.
5. Some other names suggested are "Acts of Peter and Paul," "Acts of the Holy Spirit" and "The Gospel of the Holy Spirit."

B. Author

1. Author's name is not affixed to the book as is Paul's in his thirteen epistles.
2. Apparently, the one who wrote Acts also wrote the Gospel of Luke.
 - a. Both books are addressed to Theophilus (1:1, Luke 1:3), which means "loved of God."
 - b. The author of Acts referred to a former treatise or book he had written (1:1).
 - c. The style of the books is comparable. In his New Commentary on Acts of the Apostles, J. W. McGarvey quoted Plumptre as having written, "Not fewer than fifty words are common to the two books that are not found elsewhere in the New Testament" (Vol. I, p. viii).
3. "We" sections in Acts indicates it was written by a companion of Paul.
 - a. The author joined Paul's group at Troas and was left in Philippi (16:10-17).
 - b. The author joined Paul's company in Macedonia (Philippi was in Macedonia) and went with them to Jerusalem (20:5-21:18).
 - c. The author was with Paul in the journey from Caesarea to Rome (27:1-28:16).
 - d. Paul's companions who are excluded from the possibility of authorship.
 1. Timothy, Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus and Trophimus are excluded by 20:4-5 which gives their names and says they went to Troas before the author and some others.
 2. Mark is excluded by 13:4-13; 15:36-41 (he is mentioned in the third person).
 3. Silas is excluded by 16:16-40 (he is also spoken of in third person).
 4. Demas is excluded as he departed from the faith (Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:10).
 5. There is no internal or external evidence for the book having been written by Titus, Jesus Justus, Epaphras or Epahroditus (2 Corinthians 8:16, Colossians 4:10-13, Philippians 2:25).

- e. By the process of elimination, it appears that Luke, a traveling companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:11), wrote the book.
4. Early tradition ascribes the book to Luke
 - a. Irenaeus (125-192), of Gaul (modern France) and Asia Minor, wrote, "Simon the Samaritan was that magician of whom Luke, the disciple and follower of the apostles said..." (Against Heresies).
 - b. The Muratorian Canon (found by Cardinal Muratori, librarian of the Ambrosian library in Milan, Italy and published in 1740), which contains a partial list of New Testament books, is a Latin translation of a Greek document dated ca. 170-190. In it, the following statement appears, "The acts of all the apostles were written in one book. Luke relates the events of which he was an eyewitness to Theophilus."
 - c. Clement of Alexandria (150-217) wrote, "As Luke in the Acts of the Apostles relates that Paul said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that ye are too superstitious..." (Stromata)
 - d. Tertullian of Carthage (150-220) wrote, "In the self-same commentary of Luke, the third hour is demonstrated as an hour of prayer, about which hour it was that they who received the initiatory gift of the holy spirit were held drunkards (On Fasting).
 5. Frequent use of medical terms characterizes the books of Luke and Acts.
 - a. This view was advocated by W.K. Hobart in The Medical Language of St. Luke. It was opposed by H.J. Cadbury in The book of acts in history.
 - b. Luke was a physician (Colossians 4:14). Likely, God provided him for Paul because of his medical needs.
 6. Additional information concerning Luke.
 - a. Since Paul distinguished him from those of the circumcision, he was a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-11, 14).
 - b. His home city. Some have thought it was Cyrene, but there is almost nothing to support this view. Others have suggested Syrian Antioch because 11:28 in Codex Beza, a Greek manuscript of the sixth century, says, "And there was great rejoicing, and when we gathered together, one of their number, named Agabus, spoke, indicating that a great famine was about to take place over the whole world." W. M. Ramsey took the position that he was from Philippi (St. Paul, the Traveler and the Roman Citizen, pp. 213-214). He did work there for several years (16:10-17, 20:5-6).
 - c. It has been speculated that Luke was the brother of Titus (2 Corinthians 8:16-18).

C. Date.

1. References to the temple indicate the book was written before it was destroyed in 70 A.D.
2. Since there are no allusions to Emperor Nero's persecution of the church in Rome c. 65-67 A.D., it appears it was written before that time.
3. The abrupt close of the book probably holds the key to its date. Apparently, the writer brought Theophilus up to the date and had nothing more to relate. Paul arrived in Rome ca. 60 A.D. he spent two years there in his own hired house (28:30-31). Hence, the date for this book is ca. 62 A.D.

D. Purpose.

1. Historical. It tells of the establishment and growth of the church. The key verses in this connection are 1:8 and 8:1.
2. Apologetical (from the Greek "apologia" which means defense). It was written to defend Christianity against the accusation that it was an unlawful religion. This was needed

because its founder had been condemned and put to death by a Roman governor on a charge of sedition. Luke made clear that the Christian movement received a favorable reception from Roman officials.

- a. Sergius Paulus, pro-consul of Cyprus, "believed" (13:7, 12).
- b. Gallio, pro-consul of Achaia, refused to give heed to Jewish charges against Paul (18:12-17).
- c. The asiarchs at Ephesus were friendly to Paul (19:31).
- d. Felix, Festus and Agrippa heard Paul sympathetically and found nothing in him deserving death (chapters 24, 25, 26).
- e. Paul was allowed to stay in his own house at Rome and preach the message unhindered for two years (28:30-31). Had Christianity been unlawful at the time, such would not have been permitted.
- f. An exception to the general rule occurred when Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned by the magistrates at Philippi. However, upon learning they were Roman citizens, the magistrates apologized for their actions and released them (16:38-39).

3. Doctrinal.

- a. The plan of salvation.

1. The Gospels were written to lead men to believe (John 20:30-31). The latter parts of the gospels give a record of the Great Commission.

Mt. 28:18-20	Go	Teach	All nations			Baptize	
Mk. 16:15-16	Go	Preach	Every creature	Believe		Baptize	Saved
Lk. 24:46-47		Teach	All nations		Repent		Remit. Of sins

2. How the Great Commission was fulfilled in Acts.

Scripture	Belief	Repentance	Baptism	Salvation
Pentecost (2:36-38)		X	X	X
Samaria (8:12)	X		X	
Simon (8:13)	X		X	
Ethiopian (8:35-40)			X	
Saul (9:18; 22:16)			X	X
Cornelius (10:43, 48, 11:18)	X	X	X	X
Lydia (16:13-15)			X	
Jailer (16:31-34)	X		X	
Corinthians (18:8)	X		X	
Crispus (18:8, 1 Cor. 1:14)	X		X	

- b. The person and work of the Holy Spirit.
 1. The coming of the Spirit of Pentecost (2:1-4).
 2. Gift of the Spirit (2:38, 5:32).
 3. Apostles filled with the Spirit following prayer (4:23-31).
 4. Words of David were the words of the Spirit (4:25-31).
 5. Lying to and tempting the Holy Spirit (5:1-11).
 6. Reception of the spirit by the Samaritans (8:14-17).
 7. Philip guided by the Spirit (8:29).
 8. Peter guided by the Spirit (10:19-20).
 9. Baptism in the Spirit at the house of Cornelius (10:44-48).
 10. Barnabas and Saul called by the Spirit (13:1-3).
 11. Guidance of the Spirit by the Jerusalem conference (15:28).
 12. Paul guided by the Spirit (16:6-7).
 13. Reception of the Spirit by the Ephesians (19:1-7).
 14. Paul's hardships predicted by the Spirit (20:22-23, 21:11).
 15. Overseers chosen by the spirit (20:28).
 16. The words of Isaiah were the words of the Spirit (28:25-28).

4. Biographical. The book relates the work of Peter and Paul.

E. Outlines

1. Biographical.
 - a. Life of Peter (1-12)
 - b. Life of Paul (13-28)
2. Historical (1:8).
 - a. Gospel in Jerusalem (1-7)
 - b. Gospel in Judea and Samaria (8-12)
 - c. gospel in the uttermost parts of the earth (13-28)
3. Chapter Outline
 - a. Preparation (1)
 - b. Pentecost (2)
 - c. First persecution and church growth (3-4)
 - d. Second persecution and church growth (5)
 - e. Selection of the seven (6A)
 - f. Stephen's debate and death (6B-7)
 - g. Third persecution and dispersion of the Jerusalem church (8)
 - h. Conversion of Saul (9)
 - i. Conversion of Cornelius (10-11A)
 - j. Work in Syrian Antioch (11B)
 - k. Fourth persecution (12)
 - l. First missionary journey (13-14)
 - m. Jerusalem conference on circumcision (15)
 - n. Second missionary journey (16-18)
 - o. Third missionary journey (19-21)
 - p. Paul's defense before the mob (22)
 - q. Paul's defense before the Sanhedrin (23)
 - r. Paul's defense before Felix (24)
 - s. Paul's defense before Festus (25)
 - t. Paul's defense before Agrippa (26)
 - u. Paul's voyage to Rome (27-28)

F. Why is Acts so Important?

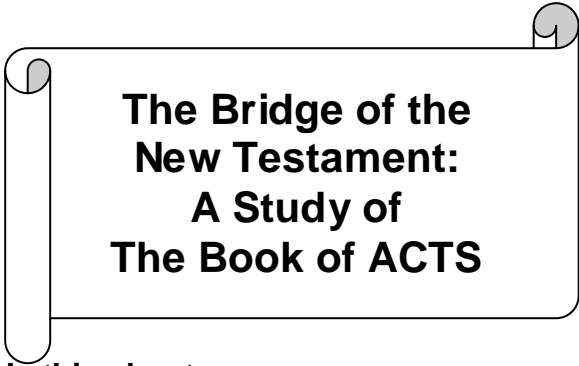
1. It forms a connection between the gospels and the epistles.
2. It shows by example what one must do to be saved. The conversions recorded in Acts passed under the Spirit's supervision twice—the first time when the Spirit-guided men led others to Christ and the second time when Luke was inspired by the Spirit to record the accounts.
3. It furnishes the background for ten of Paul's epistles
 - a. 1 and 2 Thessalonians were written from Corinth on the second missionary journey (18).
 - b. 1 Corinthians was written from Ephesus on the third journey (19).
 - c. 2 Corinthians was written from Macedonia on the third journey.
 - d. Romans was written from Corinth on the third missionary journey (20).
 - e. Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon were written from Rome during his first imprisonment (28).
 - f. Galatians fits during the time of the events recorded in Acts. The problem is in dating the book. Galatians was written sometime in the late forties to the early fifties.

G. Miscellaneous.

1. Acts records five visits of Paul to Jerusalem (9:26-30, 11:28-30, 15:1-20, 18:21-22 in KJV, 21:15-23:30).
2. There are twenty five speeches or excerpts from speeches in Acts. There are nine by Peter, nine by Paul and one by Gamaliel (5:35-39), Stephen (7:2-52), James (15:15-21), Demetrius (19:25-27), the town clerk (19:35-40), Tertullus (24:1-8) and Festus (25:24-27).

Class Schedule:

Lesson One:	Introduction and Acts 1
Lesson Two:	Acts 2 & 3
Lesson Three:	Acts 4 & 5
Lesson Four:	Acts 6 & 7
Lesson Five:	Acts 8 & 9
Lesson Six:	Acts 10 & 11
Lesson Seven:	Acts 12 & 13
Lesson Eight:	Acts 14 & 15
Lesson Nine:	Acts 16 & 18
Lesson Ten:	Acts 19 & 21
Lesson: Eleven:	Acts 22 & 23
Lesson Twelve:	Acts 24 & 26
Lesson Thirteen:	Acts 27 & 28



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

The Commandment and Ascension of Jesus

Acts I

In this chapter:

The introduction: 1:1-5

The ascension of Christ 1:6-11

The disciples in the upper room 1:12-26

1. The Introduction: (1:1-5)

- A. Former treatise addressed to Theophilus (see Luke 1:1-4).
- B. Design of former treatise: All that Jesus began to do and teach.
- C. The Commandment given.
 - a. The Great Commission (Luke 24:46-47)
 - b. The Key to the Book of Acts: *Carrying Out of the Great Commission.*
- D. The Lord's appearances after his resurrection from the dead.
 - a. Early Sunday morning to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9, John 20:11)
 - b. Sunday morning to two women returning from the tomb (Matthew 28:9-10).
 - c. Sunday to Peter (Luke 24:34).
 - d. Sunday afternoon to two disciples going to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31).
 - e. Sunday evening to the apostles (except Thomas) (John 20:9-25).
 - f. Sunday evening of following week to apostles (John 20:26-29).
 - g. Appeared to disciples at Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-13).
 - h. Appeared to eleven disciples on Mount in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20).
 - i. Appeared to more than 500 brethren (1 Corinthians 15:6).
 - j. Appeared to James (1 Corinthians 15:7).
 - k. Appeared to all the Apostles (Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:6-12)
- E. The Apostles "clothed with power," i.e. baptized in the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).

2. Ascension of Christ from Mount of Olives (1:6-11)

- A. Two important facts in verse six:
 - 1. The Apostles' misconception of the Kingdom at this time.
 - 2. The Kingdom had not been established up to this time.
- B. The word Kingdom denotes rule and reign of the Lord in the hearts and lives of men. (Luke refers to the Kingdom 33 times in Luke and 6 times in Acts and to the Church 0 times in Luke and 22 times in Acts).
- C. The ascension described
- D. Heavenly events following the ascension (Heb. 1:13, Hebrews 12:2, Daniel 7:13-14, Acts 2:32-36).

3. The Disciples in the Upper Room (1:12-26)

- A. The disciples spent some time in the Temple (Luke 24:52-53)
- B. Five things are stated relative to Judas
- C. This section contains the last mention of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the New Testament.
- D. Peter gave qualifications for an Apostle's successor:
 - 1. Companioned with them
 - 2. Witness to the Lord's resurrection
- E. Matthias selected to fill the place of Judas.

The Bridge of the New Testament: A Study of The Book of ACTS

The Commandment Obeyed and the First Results

Acts 2

In this chapter:

- The coming of the Holy Spirit (vs. 1-13)
- Peter's sermon (vs. 14-39)
- The results of gospel preaching (vs. 40-47)

The Coming of the Holy Spirit (vs. 1-13)

- A. The promise: Luke 24:49, Acts 1:5-8
- B. The antecedent of the pronoun "they" is found by referring back to the nearest noun with which it agrees in number and case, viz. the apostles.
- C. Coming of the Spirit described:
 - a. "Filled with the Holy Spirit" i.e., brought under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Joel's prophecy demonstrated that the effects of the coming of the Holy Spirit would be mental and not moral.
 - c. The multitude reacted in either amazement or mockery
 - d. Coming of the Holy Spirit=out pouring; baptism = effect; You shall be baptized=effect.

Peter's Sermon (vs. 14-39)

- A. Jesus was approved of God among you by miracles, wonders and signs—*and you know it!*
- B. He was delivered according to the foreknowledge of God—*and the Jewish Scriptures prove it!*
 - a. Scriptures foretold the resurrection of Christ (vs. 25-28)
 - b. Scriptures declared the ascension of Christ (vs. 33-35)
 - c. Scriptures told of the coming of the Holy Spirit (vs. 17)
- C. God raised up Jesus whom you crucified by wicked hands – *and we are witnesses of it!*
 - a. Three proofs of the resurrection of Christ:
 - 1. David's prophecy that God would do it.
 - 2. The witness of the apostles that God did it.
 - 3. The coming of the Holy Spirit from the Lord
 - b. "Therefore...God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ."

The Results

- A. Those who gladly received the word (vs. 40-41)
 - a. They obeyed the commands (repent and be baptized for the remission of sins).
 - b. The Lord added them to the church (the called out), vs. 47
- B. They continued steadfastly in:
 - a. Apostles' teaching (Inspired teaching of John 16:13)
 - b. Fellowship (Joint participation)
 - c. Breaking of bread (Lord's Supper)
 - d. Prayers
 - e. Caring for one another's needs
- C. The attitude of the disciples (vs. 46)
 - a. Joy
 - b. A single heart
- D. Daily additions to the Lord's Church (vs. 47)

When Was The Church Established?

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

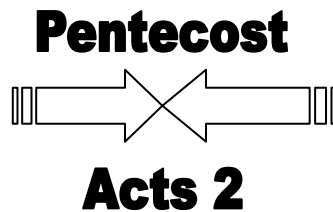
Promises made (Gen. 3:15, 12:3)

Promises Fulfilled (Galatians 3:16)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Kingdom to be established (Daniel 2:44).....</p> <p>2. Lord's house to be built (Isaiah 2:2-3).....
 Will be in "last days"
 Will begin in Jerusalem
 All nations admitted</p> <p>3. Christ will be king (Jeremiah 23:5-6).....</p> <p>4. New Covenant binding (Jeremiah 31:31).....</p> <p>5. Holy Spirit given (Joel 2:28).....</p> | <p>Matt. 3:1-2, 10:7, 16:18-19, Mark 9:1
 Acts 1:8-2:47, Colossians 1:3</p> <p>Hebrews 3:6, 1 Timothy 3:15
 Acts 2:16-17, Hebrews 1:1-2
 Luke 24:46-47, Acts 1:4-8
 Acts 2:39, Romans 1:16</p> <p>Matthew 28:18, Acts 2:29-33</p> <p>Matthew 16:18-19, Acts 2:36-38,
 Hebrews 9:15-17, Hebrews 8:8</p> <p>Acts 2:16-21</p> |
|---|--|

ALL PROMISES MADE ARE FULFILLED IN ACTS 2 *(ACTS 2 GIVES THE ACCOUNT OF EVENTS OF THE DAY OF PENTECOST)*

Every Scripture speaking of the Kingdom BEFORE Acts 2 speaks Of it as being in the future!!!
 Isaiah 2:2-4, Micah 4:1-2, Daniel 2:44
 Matthew 3:1-2, Matthew 16:18
 Mark 9:1, Matthew 6:9-10



Every Scripture speaking of the Kingdom AFTER Acts 2 speaks Of it as being in EXISTANCE!!!
 Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:13-14
 Revelation 1:4

Then Peter said, "Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

The purpose of Peter's response

"What shall we do" for our sins?

Repent (singular) and let everyone of you be baptized (plural)

"The singular is used with pronouns or verbs in the plural... 'homon hekasto," Arndt and Gingrich, p. 236. Used 11 times in N.T. Other examples: Lk. 2:3, Acts 2:8

In the name of Jesus Christ

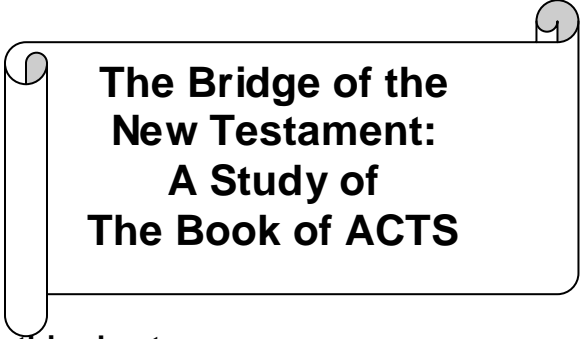
Our obedience rests on the authority of Christ

For the remission of sins

"dia" because of, but "epi" to receive. Mt. 26:28

You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

A child of God has the "Spirit" 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Rom. 8:9, Gal. 4:6



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Preaching From the Porch
Acts 3

In this chapter:

Healing of the lame man
Peter's sermon from Solomon's porch of the temple

Healing of the Lame Man vs. 1-11

- A. The apostles, who had performed miracles prior to Pentecost by the Lord's special commission (Matthew 10:1-8), had been endowed with miraculous power by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, Hebrews 2:3-4).
- B. All could see the lame man at the gate and could therefore know that he actually was a cripple.
- C. Peter and John, by the power of Christ, gave this man something that money could not buy.
- D. The man was healed immediately. This was not a psychological healing; viz. the man wasn't talked into believing that he was healed.
- E. Evidently, faith was not a prerequisite to healing in the case of this man (vs. 5)

Peter's Sermon (vs. 12-26)

- A. Theme: God glorifies his son, Jesus (vs. 13)
- B. Jesus identified:
 - a. The Holy One
 - b. The Just
 - c. The Prince of Life
- C. The Jews ignorantly crucified the Son of God (vs. 14-18)
- D. Conditions of pardon given again by Peter
 - a. Repent and turn (vs. 3-19)
 - b. The final act in the "turning" from sin to Christ is baptism (compare this verse with Acts 2:38)
 - c. The blessings of obedience
 - 1. Sins blotted out, i.e. remitted or forgiven
 - 2. Seasons of refreshing...happiness and gladness of being saved (compare 2:46-47)
 - 3. God will send Jesus to bless

-
- I. The times of verse 18 and the times of verse 21 refer to events of the gospel dispensation.
 - a. Note "hath fulfilled," past tense. Not, "will fulfill."
 - b. His incarnation, resurrection and exaltation in heaven
 - II. Moses referred to these "times." (v. 22)
 - III. All prophets told of these days, i.e. the gospel dispensation (v. 24)
 - IV. These days and "things" are same as included in the promise to Abraham (vs. 8-9, 25).
 - V. This passage does not say that heaven will retain Christ until restitution begins; it says that he will stay in heaven until all things are restored.

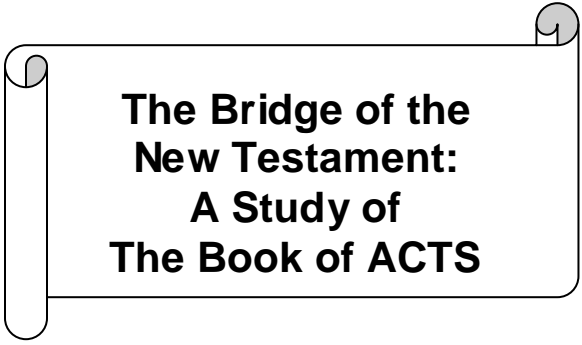
-
- E. Testimony from the Old Testament scriptures that Jesus is the Son of God
 - a. Moses' testimony
 - 1. Moses and the Christ are deliverers.
 - 2. Moses and the Christ are both lawgivers.
 - b. Prophets from Samuel on (vs. 24-25).

**An Outline of Peter's
Sermon on Solomon's Porch**
"Jesus, God's Servant"
"His Servant Jesus" (3:13, 26)

- I. *Jesus "Glorified"* (3:11-13). Those who witnessed the healing of a man born lame were filled with "amazement" [ekstasis, "ecstasy"]. Peter, therefore, used this miracle to prove that Jesus was the one God raised from the dead to—**as a Servant—bless mankind.** (3:11-13)
- II. *Jesus "Denied"* (3:13-17). Despite Pilate's efforts to release Jesus (Jn. 18:38, 19:4, 6, 12), the Jews disowned him and called for the release of "a notorious prisoner" (Mt. 27:15-22). The "Prince of Life" was sentenced to death to—**as a Servant—redeem mankind** (3:13-17).
- III. *Jesus "Prophesied"* (3:18-26). Peter turned the attention of his Bible believing listeners to the Old Testament and proved that Jesus was the fulfillment of the predictions God made through Moses (3:22-23; Deut. 18:15, 18-19), Samuel and the prophets (3:24; cf. Lk. 24:27, 44). In doing so, he established the fact that Jesus was the promised "seed" of Abraham (Gen. 22:18), the one God sent—**as a Servant—to be a spiritual blessing to mankind** (3:25-26).

Preaching to "save those who believe"
(1 Corinthians 1:21)

ACTS 2:38	ACTS 3:19
Repent	Repent
Be Baptized	Be Converted
Remission of Sins	Sins Blotted Out
Gift of the Holy Spirit	Times of Refreshing



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Opposition to the Church
From Without**

Acts 4

In this chapter:

- Apostles are arrested, 4:1-12
- Apostles' loyalty to God, 4:13-22
- Prayer of the Church, 4:23-31
- Faithful stewards of material possessions, 4:32-37

Apostles Arrested, 4:1-12

- A. Claims of a miracle cause the arrest.
- B. Preaching of the Apostles aroused opposition from the religious leaders, 4:1
- C. Power of the word to produce faith, 4:4
- D. The apostles interrogated, 4:5-7
- E. The inspired reply of Peter, 4:8-12
 - a. Examined for doing good, 4:9
 - b. The man was healed "in the name of," i.e. "by the power" of Christ (compare v. 7 to v. 10).
 - c. Psalm 118:22 quoted by Peter
 - d. Jesus Christ has the authority to save all (v. 12 compared to Matthew 28:18-20).

The Apostles' Loyalty to God, 4:13-22

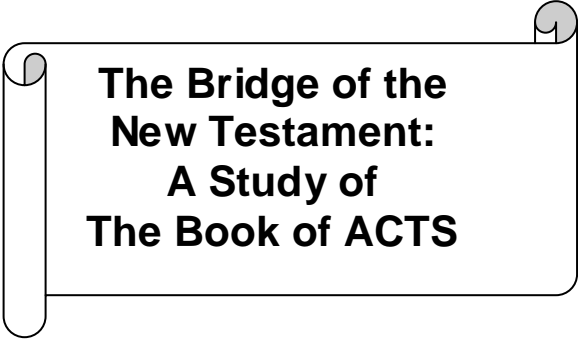
- A. The attack by the Sanhedrin:
 - a. Attack by contempt, v. 13
 - b. Attack by threat, v. 17
- B. Defense of the Apostles:
 - a. An unanswerable fact: the cured man, v. 14
 - b. Importance of loyalty to God stated, v. 19
 - c. Peter and John were bearing testimony to what they had seen and heard, v. 20

Prayer of the Church, 4:23-31

- A. The church believed in:
 - a. The power of God, v. 24
 - b. Weakness of men when they attempt to thwart God, v. 25-28
 - c. God would help his people, v. 29-30
- B. The church was a praying church (compare to Acts 2:42)

Faithful Stewards of God's Possessions, 4:32-37

- A. They recognized all things belong to God, v. 32
- B. Their brotherly love compelled them to share
- C. Living "in the shadow of the cross," they had a sacrificial spirit, v. 34
- D. Distribution was made according to the needs of the people, v. 35
- E. The fine example of the "Son of Exhortation", v. 36-37
 - a. His liberality
 - b. A Levite who did not "pass by on the other side of the road" (Luke 10:32)
 - c. A man of Cyprus who was not succumbing to the sensuality typical of the people of the island.



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Opposition to the Church From Within and Without

Acts 5

In this chapter:

- The work of Satan within the Church, 5:1-4
- Discipline in the Church, 5:5-11
- The growth of the Church, 5:12-16
- The second imprisonment of the Apostles, 5:17-42

The Work of Satan Within the Church, 5:1-4

- A. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
 1. It was not in owning property (5:4), not in selling the property for a profit (5:4) and not in keeping a part of the purchase price for themselves (5:4).
 2. It was in allowing Satan to take control of their lives (5:3), in coveting money (1 Timothy 6:10), desiring the praise of others, engaging in hypocrisy, lying to men (5:4), lying to God (5:4), tempting the Spirit of the Lord (5:9)

Discipline in the Church, 5:5-11

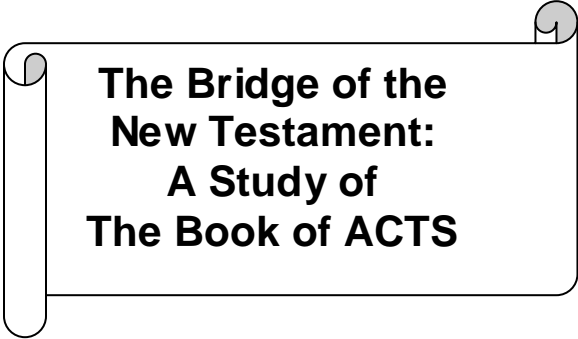
- A. Peter brings together the freedom of men and the power of the devil, v. 4
- B. God struck Ananias dead, v. 5
 1. Their death was a divine judgment, it does not appear to be from just 'shock'
 2. This is similar to Gen. 19:26, Num. 16:31-35, 1 Sam. 6:19-20, 2 Kgs. 19:32-36
- C. Suppose Ananias had succeeded:
 1. When his fraud was discovered the power of the apostles would have been discredited.
 2. Ungodly influence would be rampant within the church.
 3. If the Holy Spirit could be deceived then the whole fabric of apostolic authority would have been undermined.

The Growth of the Church, 5:12-16

- A. Sin in the Church will not hinder its growth if the sin is dealt with properly, 6:14
- B. Signs were performed by the apostles (5:12) to confirm the word (Mk. 16:20, Heb. 2:1-4) and create belief in the Lord (John 20:30-31).
- C. The apostles were actively teaching in Solomon's Portico (3:11, 5:12) although the Jews had forbidden them to teach the name of Jesus (4:18).
- D. To the five thousand men (not counting women, 4:4) multitudes were added (5:14), these results came because of teachings, example and church discipline.

The Second Imprisonment of the Apostles, 5:17-42

- A. Imprisoned and released, v. 17-21
- B. The apostles brought into the court, v. 21-27
- C. The accusation and defense, v. 27-32
- D. They are saved by the death of Gamaliel, v. 33-42



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Siwell Road Church of Christ
www.siwellroad.org (resources)
Mark Ray, 2009-2010

Order and Organization

Acts 6

Acts 6 contains:

Selection of seven to serve (vs. 1-9)
Stephen disputes with the Libertines (vs. 9-15)

Selection of Seven to Serve, Acts 6:1-9

- A. The Jerusalem church had a daily ministrations; i.e. providing physical needs of members in need, vs. 1 (See 2:45, 4:32-33). (Group of widows, 1 Timothy 5:9-16, Acts 9:36-39)
- B. The church was in the business of (v3):
 - a. Preaching the Word of God
 - b. Praying
 - c. Helping those in need
- C. Physical needs of men did not cause the apostles to forsake the proclamation of the word in order to “serve tables.” (vs. 2-4)
- D. Qualifications of those who would serve:
 - a. Good report. When a man’s conduct is such that no evil can be proved against him.
 - b. Full of the spirit. Producing the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - c. Full of wisdom. Ability to apply facts and knowledge.
- E. The identity of these men:

Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, his debate and death are recorded in 6:8-7:60.

Philip, worked in Samaria (8:5-13), had a part in converting the Ethiopian nobleman (8:26-40) and served as an evangelist in Caesarea (8:40, 21:8-9).

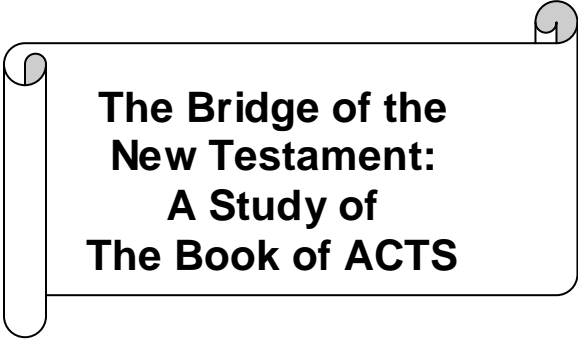
Prochorus, according to later tradition, this man was the stenographer of John the Evangelists, an elder of Nicomedia in Bithynia and was martyred in Antioch.

Nicanor, Timon and Pramenas we know nothing about.

Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, is the first specific reference to a proselyte being in the church.
- F. The second problem within the church (Compare 5:1-4)
 - a. In the first case church discipline solved the problem and the church grew.
 - b. In this case good judgment, a gracious spirit, the “golden rule” applied, solved the problem.
 - c. Note that in each case the church grew after the problem was quickly solved (vs. 7; compare 5:14)
- G. When religious leaders begin to obey the truth one sees the great power in the gospel (vs. 7)

Stephen Disputes with the Libertines, Acts 6:9-15

- A. The “Libertines” were Jews who had been freed from Roman slavery.
- B. They could not answer the arguments of Stephen (v. 10).
- C. They were too stubborn to accept the truth. Hence they “stubborned:” men to testify against Stephen, (vs. 11)
 - a. Stubborned: to get people to testify falsely by bribery.
 - b. The same charge is brought against Stephen which had been brought against Christ (Matthew 26:65, Mark 14:58).
- D. The general charge of blasphemy is made specifically, 6:13-14
- E. Stephen is not afraid of the council, 6:15



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

The Price of Christian Loyalty
Acts 7

This chapter contains:

Stephen's defense, 7:1-50

Stephen's accusation, 7:51-53

The death of the first Christian martyr, 7:54-60

The Charge, 6:13-15

Stephen has blasphemed the Holy Place (Temple) and the Law.

Stephen's Defense, 7:1-50

A. Israel has Rejected God's Law

1. Patriarchal Age, v. 2-9

Abraham received his call in Mesopotamia

Yet Abraham was given a "law" (circumcision) by God

2. In Egypt, v. 9-19

Joseph (God's deliverer) was rejected by his brothers

Yet God used Joseph in Egypt

3. Moses' Early Days, v. 20-29

Moses was spared and trained by God but was rejected

Moses fled to the wilderness (Gershon)

4. The Call of Moses, v. 30-34

God spoke to Moses in Midian because God was faithful

Even Israel could not oppose God's plan

5. Wilderness Wanderings

Moses was accepted by miracles and signs

Yet Israel ultimately followed every god but God until the exile

B. Where is God's Holy Place?

1. God spoke to these men in Mesopotamia, Egypt and Midian

2. Contrast of the Temple and Tabernacle

Tabernacle was exact plan of God

Solomon built a house, Jesus built the Temple, Mark 14:58

Stephen's Accusation, 7:51-53

A. Stephen's charge, 7:51

B. The Jews had been slow to believe; were often rebellious and persecuted God's servants, 7:52

C. They had failed to keep the law, yet they claimed they were zealous for it, 7:53

Death of the First Christian Martyr, 7:54-60

A. They were cut to the heart, 7:54 (Compare to Acts 2:37)

B. Stephen's revelation, 7:55-56

C. The mob killed Stephen, 7:57-58

D. Stephen's plea

a. "Receive my spirit."

b. "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

E. His death: "He fell asleep." 7:60

**The Bridge of the
 New Testament:
 A Study of
 The Book of ACTS**

The Gospel Spreads
Acts 8

This Chapter Contains:

- The dispersion, 8:1-4
- Philip preaching Christ in Samaria, 8:5-25
- Philip preaching Jesus to the Ethiopian, 8:26-40

The Dispersion, 8:1-4

- A. The great persecution against the Church, 8:2
- B. Saul plays an active role in war against the Church, 8:3
- C. The faith and zeal of the persecuted saints, 8:4

Philip Preaching Christ in Samaria, 8:5-25

- A. His message, 8:5, 12
 - a. Kingdom of God
 - b. Name, or authority, of Christ
 - c. Baptism
- B. Miracles he performed, 8:6-8
- C. Simon's conversion, 8:9-11, 13
- D. Apostles come to bestow miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, 8:14-17
- E. Simon's apostasy and restoration, 8:18-25

Philip Preaching Jesus to the Ethiopian, 8:26-40

- A. The attitude and attention the eunuch gave to the Scriptures, 8:26-28
- B. The eunuch desires to be taught, 8:29-34
- C. Philip preaches Jesus (compare to verse 12) 8:35
- D. The Eunuch desires to obey the gospel, 8:36-40

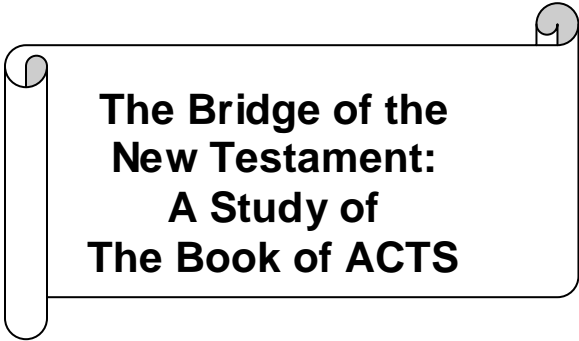
Three Measures of the Spirit

<u>Baptismal</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>	<u>Common</u>
Promised to Apostles Mt 3:11, Jn 14:16-17, 26 Jn 15:26-27, Jn 16:7-13	By Apostle's Hands Acts 6:6-8, Acts 8:14-19	Promised to the Obedient Acts 2:38, Acts 5:32
Qualified the Apostles Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8 1 Cor 2:10, 2 Cor 5:20	Paul Imparted Gifts Acts 19:6, 2 Cor 12:11	For the Child of God Gal 4:6, Rom 8:9, 15 Gal 3:26-27
Given to the Apostles Acts 2:4, 2:33, Eph 3:5	Spiritual Gifts 1 Cor 12:8-12	An Earnest of the Spirit 2 Cor 1:22, Eph 4:30 Eph 1:11, 12-14, 2 Cor 5:5
Spirit Brought Word 1 Cor. 2:10-12, 1 Pet 1:10	Tongues for a Sign 1 Cor 14:22	Indwelling of the Spirit 1 Cor 3:16, 19, 2 Cor 6:19
Holy Spirit Given Cornelius Acts 10:44-48, 11-17	To Confirm God's Word Mk 16:20, Heb 2:2-3	The Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22-23, Rom 8:14

Is the Doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved" Biblical? Acts 8:13-24

If a saved person cannot be lost...

*Then Jesus was wrong, Acts 8:13 (Mark 16:16)
 Or Peter was wrong, acts 8:20-22
 Or this doctrine is wrong!!! Acts 8:12-17*



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Saul Obeys the Commandment
Acts 9

This chapter contains:

- What Jesus did and why, 9:1-9
- What Ananias did, 9:10-17
- What Saul the sinner did, 9:18-31
- Peter raises a disciple from the dead, 9:32-34

What Jesus Did and Why, 9:1-9

- A. The great persecutor of the Lord's Disciples, 9:1-3
- B. The Lord appeared to Saul on the Damascus road, 9:4-7
- C. Saul enters Damascus, 9:8-9

What Ananias Did, 9:10-17

- A. Received a message from the Lord, 9:10-12
- B. Ananias' reply, 9:13-14
- C. The Lord's answer, 9:15-16
- D. Ananias found Saul, 9:17

What Saul the Sinner Did, 9:18-31

- A. Was baptized, 9:18 (Compare with Acts 22:16)
- B. Proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God, 9:20
- C. Confounded the Damascus Jews, 9:21-22
- D. The plot to kill Saul: his escape, 9:23-25
- E. Saul came to Jerusalem, 9:26-30
- F. The Church grows, 9:31

Peter Raises a Disciple From the Dead, 9:32-34

- A. Peter healed Aeneas, 9:32-35
- B. He raised Dorcas from the dead, 9:36-42
- C. Peter stayed in the home of Simon in Joppa for many days, 9:43

Salvation in Acts 8 Through 10

An Angel spoke to Philip to send him to the Ethiopian

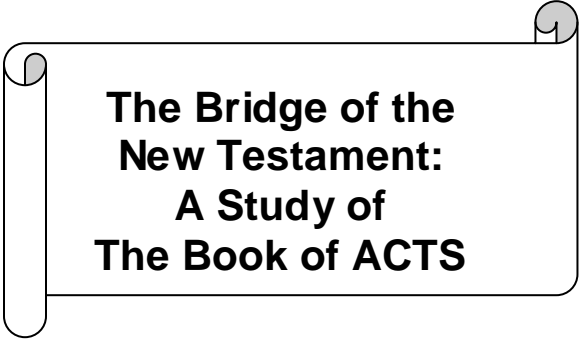
Jesus spoke to Ananias to send him to Saul

An Angel spoke to Peter to send him to Cornelius

The Lord's plan is for the Gospel is to be communicated to people by people

Earthen vessels, 2 Corinthians 4:7

The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**The Commandment Obeyed by
the Gentiles, *Acts 10***

This chapter contains:

Preparation for Preaching, vs. 1-33

Peter's Message, v. 34-43

Holy Spirit Comes Upon the Gentiles, vs. 44-46

The Gentiles Were Baptized, vs. 47-48

Preparation for Preaching, 10:1-33

A. Who was Cornelius? 10:1-3

- a. Centurion
- b. Devout
- c. God-fearing
- d. Liberal
- e. Prayerful
- f. Good report

B. Angel appeared to him, 10:3-6

C. Cornelius was instructed to send for Peter who would tell him how to be saved, 10:7-8

D. God proved to Peter that he should go to the Gentiles, 10:9-23

E. The attitude of Cornelius, 10:24-33

- a. Called in others who needed the message of salvation
- b. All "here to hear." 10:33

Peter's Message 10:34-43

A. Salvation is for all, 10:34-35

B. Jesus Christ is Lord of all, 10:36

C. Proof of Jesus' Deity, 10:37-41

- a. Signs of Jesus, 10:38 (Compare with John 20:30-31)
- b. Peter and the other apostles were witnesses , 10:39-41
 1. Of Jesus' works, v. 39
 2. Of Jesus' death, v. 39
 3. Of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, v. 40-41

D. Jesus Christ is judge of all, 10:42

E. Jesus Christ is Savior of all who believe, 10:43

- a. This belief includes obedience (compare with v. 35)
- b. See also John 3:36 (ASV)

The Holy Spirit Came Upon the Gentiles, 10:44-46

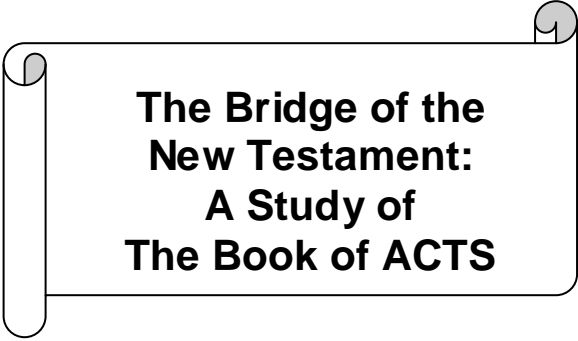
A. As Peter began to speak (See Acts 11:15)

B. The Gentiles could speak in tongues, 10:46 (Compare with tongues in Acts 2:4-6)

The Gentiles Were Baptized, 10:47-48

A. The Gentiles were baptized in water, 10:47 (Compare with Eunuch in Acts 8:36)

B. Why did Peter tell them to be baptized? (Compare with Acts 2:38)



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**The Commandment Obeyed by
the Gentiles, *Acts 11***

This chapter contains:

Peter questioned in Jerusalem concerning his preaching to Gentiles, vs. 1-18
The gospel power felt in Antioch, vs. 19-26
Benevolent spirit of the disciples, vs. 27-30

Peter Questioned in Jerusalem Over His the Converting Gentiles, Acts 11:1-18

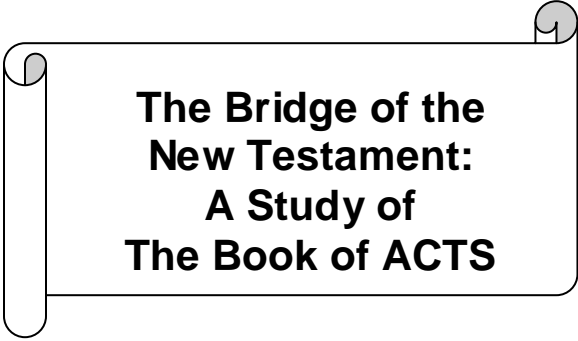
- A. Peter explained “by order” the events connected with Cornelius’ conversion, vs. 1-4
- B. How the Lord convinced Peter that he should preach to the Gentiles, vs. 5-12
 - a. The vision, vs. 5-12
 - b. The plain command to go, vs. 12
- C. Six Brethren as Witnesses, vs. 12
- D. Preached Words to Save Gentiles, vs. 14
- E. Holy Spirit Given in Same Way as to the Apostles, vs. 15-17
- F. Proof to the Jews, v. 18

The Gospel Power Felt in Antioch, Acts 11:19-26

- A. Disciples went everywhere preaching the word, v 19
 - a. They preached Jesus (Compare 8:4, 5)
 - 1. Proclaimed the Kingdom of God
 - 2. The authority of Christ
 - 3. Baptism for remission of sins
 - b. Jesus was preached to Jews and Gentiles, vs. 19-20
 - c. “Hand,” i.e. the power of the Lord was with them, v 21
 - 1. Miracles designed to produce faith (Compare 8:5-12)
 - 2. The source of faith: God’s Word, vs. 20-21
- B. Barnabas came to Antioch, vs. 22-24
 - a. His exhortation to the Christians, v. 23
 - b. His character, v. 24
 - 1. Good man
 - 2. Full of Holy Spirit
 - 3. Full of faith
 - 4. Liberal (compare Acts 4:36-37)
- C. Disciples called Christians, v. 26

Benevolent Spirit of the Disciples, Acts 11:27-30

- A. There were inspired prophets in the early Church, vs. 27-28
 - a. Peter said some would prophesy (Acts 2:17)
 - b. A prophet is not just a fore-teller, but a forth-teller.
- B. The disciples individually purposed to send; contribution was sent collectively, vs. 29-30
- C. Relief sent by the hands of Barnabas and Saul, v. 30



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**More Opposition to the Church
From Without, *Acts 12***

This chapter contains:

Herod the King killing James, v. 1-2

Peter escaped death, vs. 3-19

The enemy is destroyed and the church grows, vs. 20-25

Herod the King Killed James, Acts 12:1-2

A. This Herod was the grandson of Herod the Great of Jesus' birth.

a. Herod Agrippa I – Grandson of Herod the Great was made king by Claudius

b. He died in 44 AD at Caesarea during the games honoring Claudius

B. James was the brother of John; he was the first Apostle to die for the cause of Christ

Peter Escaped Death, Acts 12:3-19

A. Herod intended after Passover to kill Peter, vs. 3-4

B. The Church prayed for Peter, v. 5

C. The angel of the Lord delivered Peter, vs. 6-11

D. Peter came to the house of Mary where people were praying, vs. 12-17

E. The guards condemned to death, vs. 18-19

The Enemy is Destroyed; the Church Grows, Acts 12:20-25

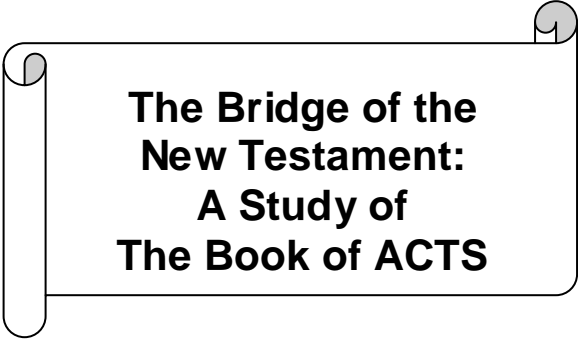
A. Herod's visit to Tyre and Sidon, v. 20

B. His oration and dress, v. 21

C. Herod was eaten of worms, v. 23

D. The word of God grew and multiplied, v. 24

E. Barnabas and Saul return to Antioch from Jerusalem, v. 25



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul's First Missionary Journey,
Acts 13

This chapter contains:

- Paul and Barnabas called by the Holy Spirit, vs. 1-3
- Preaching on the Island of Cyprus, vs. 4-12
- The sermon at Antioch of Pisidia, vs. 13-52

Paul and Barnabas Called by the Holy Spirit, Acts 13:1-3

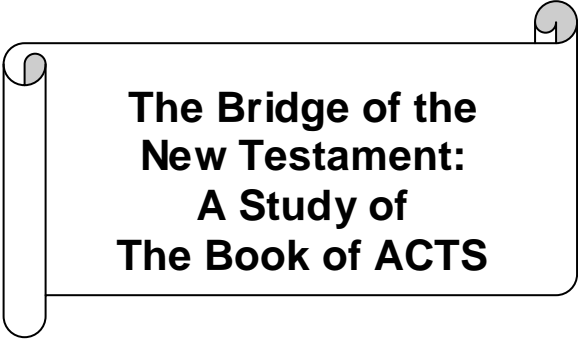
- A. Antioch supplants Jerusalem as the center of Christianity, at least for a time.
- B. Prophets and teachers in the church
 - a. All prophets were teachers, but not all teachers were prophets who were for-speakers of God, sometimes fore-speakers like Agabus in 11:28
 - b. They "ministered" and "fasted."
 - c. Hands were laid on Barnabas and Saul, not to impart a miraculous gift of the Spirit, but to consecrate them to the great missionary task which the Holy Spirit called them.

Preaching on the Island of Cyprus, Acts 13:4-12

- A. Proclaimed the word in Jewish synagogues, v. 5
- B. Reactions to the Word preached: v. 6-12
 - a. Sergius Paulus "sought to hear the word of God." V. 7 (Compare to John 7:17, Matthew 6)
 - b. Elymas sought to turn Sergius Paulus from the faith, vs. 8-11
 - c. Barnabas and Saul preach the word, v. 12

The Sermon at Antioch of Pisidia, vs. 13-52

- A. John Mark became a deserter, v. 13
- B. Paul and Barnabas travel from Perga up to Antioch, v. 14
- C. Paul's five point sermon at Antioch, vs. 15-41
 - a. The coming of Christ is the consummation of history
 - b. Men did not recognize this fact
 - c. Though rejected by men, the resurrection proves that God's purpose cannot be defeated by man.
 - d. The resurrection is the fulfillment of prophecy
 - e. The good news of the coming of Christ
- D. Reactions to this sermon
 - a. Three characteristics of those who rejected the gospel
 - 1. Filled with jealousy
 - 2. Contradicted and blasphemed the word
 - 3. Judged themselves unworthy of eternal life
 - b. Three characteristics of believers
 - 1. Glad when they heard the word
 - 2. Glorified the word of God
 - 3. Ordained, i.e., disposed to eternal life



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's First Missionary Journey
Continues, *Acts 14***

This chapter contains:

- Preaching at Iconium, vs. 1-7
- Worshipped, then stoned at Lystra, vs. 8-20
- The return from Derbe to Antioch, vs. 21-28

The Preaching at Iconium, Acts 14:1-7

- A. They "so spake" that a great multitude believed, v. 1
- B. They bore witness of the word, v. 3 (Compare with Mark 16:20, Hebrews 2:1-4)
- C. Unbelievers cause trouble, vs. 2, 4-7

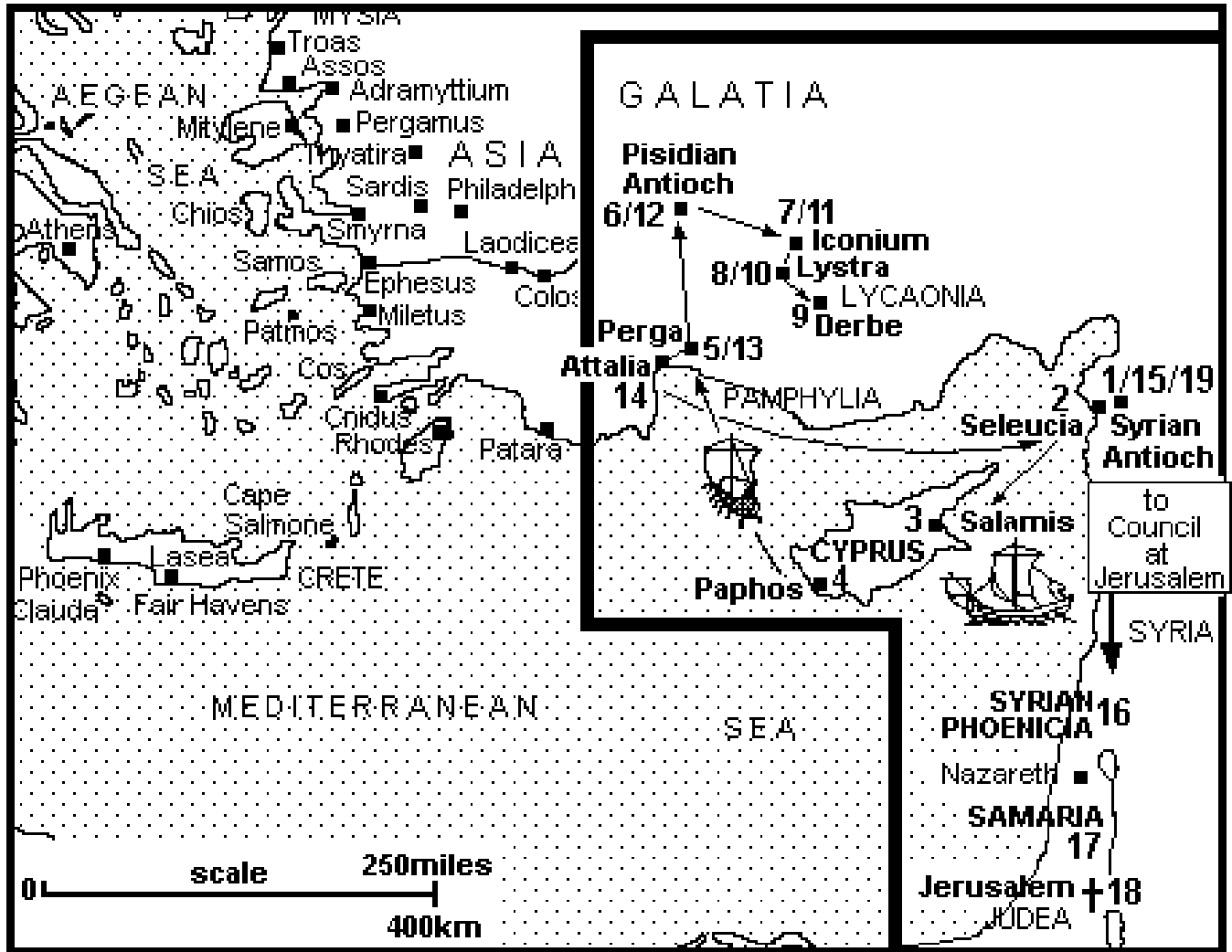
Worshipped, Then Stoned at Lystra, Acts 14:8-20

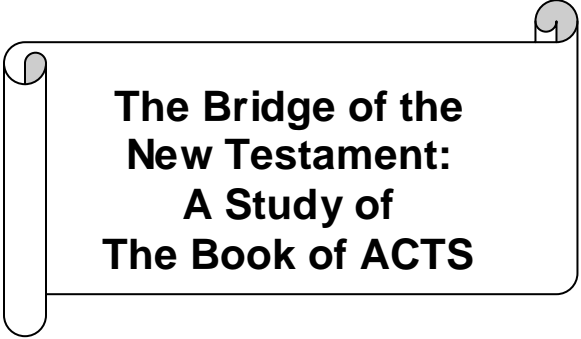
- A. Paul healed an important man, vs. 8-20
- B. People think Paul and Barnabas are gods in the form of men, v. 11-13
 - a. Barnabas is called "Jupiter." Greek god who was "king of the gods."
 - b. Paul called "Mercury." Greek god who was the "messenger of the gods."
 - c. Priest of Jupiter's temple would have worshipped Paul and Barnabas, v. 13
- C. Paul argues from nature that men should serve the true God, vs. 14-17
- D. People very fickle; turn from desire to worship to determination to destroy, vs. 19-20

The Return from Derbe to Antioch, Acts 14:21-28

- A. Action of Paul and Barnabas on the return visit to the churches planted, vs. 21-25
 - a. Strengthened and encouraged the souls of the disciples
 - b. Exhorted them to continue in the faith (compare 1 Timothy 1:19-20, 4:1-4)
 - c. Be ready to suffer for the kingdom's sake
 - d. Elders were appointed in every church
 - e. Preached the word in Perga
- B. Reported to church in Antioch, vs. 26-28
 - a. Church at Antioch was interested in the gospel being preached in other communities and nations.
 - b. Paul and Barnabas were mere instruments through which (whom) God had worked, v. 27
 - c. "Door of faith" opened, i.e. opportunities made through preaching to preach.

Paul's First Missionary Journey, 48-49 AD





**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**More Opposition to the Church
from Within, *Acts 15***

This chapter contains:

- The problem stated, vs. 1-6
- Three Apostles speak, v. 7-35
- Preparations for the second missionary journey, v. 36-41

The Problem Stated, Acts 15:1-6

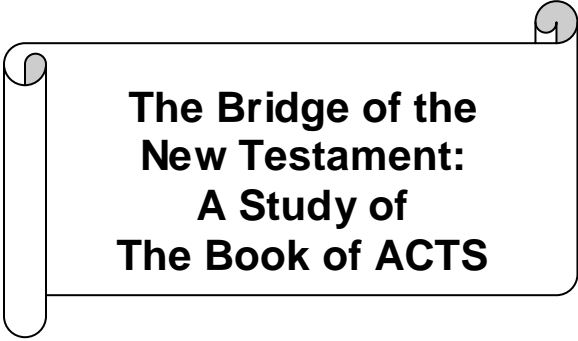
- A. Men from Judea teaching the necessity of obedience to Moses' Law, vs. 1, 5
- B. Problem centered in the word "salvation." They did not mean by it (salvation) merely an improved social condition, but a state of the soul and a relation to God. It meant deliverance from guilt, power and presence of sin and a life of holiness and service.

Three Apostles Speak, Acts 15:7-35

- A. Peter First, v. 7-11
 - a. Peter preached to the Gentiles that they might believe
 - b. God bore witness that they could be saved, v. 8
 - c. Their hearts were cleansed by faith, not by the Law of Moses
 - d. All will be saved by the grace of the Lord, not the Law of Moses (Compare John 1:17)
- B. Paul speaks second, v 12
- C. James the third speaker, v. 13-21
 - a. Peter's declaration agreed with the Scriptures
 - 1. Peter obviously referred to the gospel dispensation
 - 2. David's throne restored in Christ (compare Acts 2:30-36)
 - b. James' decision included three points: v. 19-21
 - 1. Liberty from the Law, v. 19
 - 2. Liberty in Christian life in purity, v. 20
 - 3. Understanding in matters of indifference, v. 21
- D. Decision guided by the holy spirit, v. 28
- E. The churches informed relative to the decision, v. 22-35

Preparations for the Second Missionary Journey, Acts 15:36-41

- A. Decision to return, v. 36
- B. Dispute over taking John Mark, v. 37-39
- C. Paul and Barnabas part: v. 40-41
 - a. Barnabas and Mark return to Cyprus
 - b. Paul and Silas travel north through Syria and Cilicia



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's Second Missionary
Journey, Acts 16**

This chapter contains:

- Derbe and Lystra Visited, v. 1-5
- To Troas, v. 6-10
- The Gospel to Europe, v. 11-40

Derbe and Lystra Visited, Acts 16:1-5

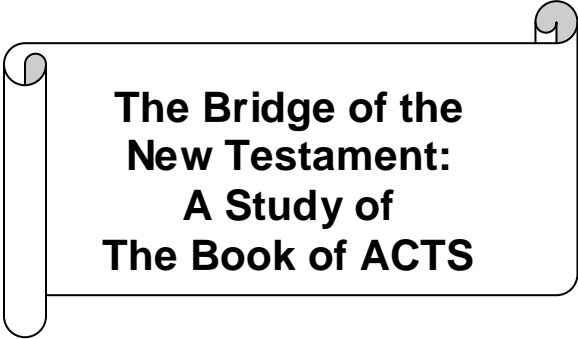
- A. Timothy becomes a companion, v. 1-3
- B. Decrees 'ordained' of apostles and elders were delivered, v. 4
- C. Churches increased in number when they grew in faith, v. 5

To Troas, Acts 16:6-10

- A. Traveled through region of Phrygia and Galatia, v. 6
- B. Traveled to Troas
 - a. Paul saw in a vision a man from Macedonia calling for help, v. 9
 - b. God had called Paul to preach, v. 10

The Gospel to Europe, Acts 16:11-40

- A. Lydia converted, v. 13-15
 - a. Paul preached, v. 14
 - b. Lydia heard, v. 14
 - c. Gave heed to the things that were spoken, v. 14
 - d. Therefore, God "opened" her heart through Paul's preaching
- B. Jailer converted, v. 16-34
 - a. Paul heals a girl who is afflicted with a spirit of divination, v. 16-18
 - b. Charges were brought against Paul, v. 19-22
 - 1. Troubling the city
 - 2. Rebelling against Roman law
- C. Conduct of Paul and Silas while in prison, v. 23-29
 - 1. Question analyzed:
 - a. "What?" Of all the things God could have commanded.
 - b. "Must?" Imperative, not optional
 - c. "I?" Personal
 - d. "Do?" Not 'get,' 'feel,' and/or 'experience'
 - e. "To be saved." God's part in man's salvation
 - 2. Believe-saved
 - a. Believe is here used in a comprehensive sense. i.e., to include all the Lord requires of one, including repentance, confession and baptism (Compare with John 3:36)
 - b. The context will show, v. 32-34
- C. Paul and Silas leave Philippi, v. 35-40



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Continues, *Acts 17*

This chapter contains:

- Paul preaches at Thessalonica, v. 1-10
- Paul preaches at Berea, v. 10-14
- Paul in Athens, v. 15-34

Paul Preaches at Thessalonica, Acts 17:1-10

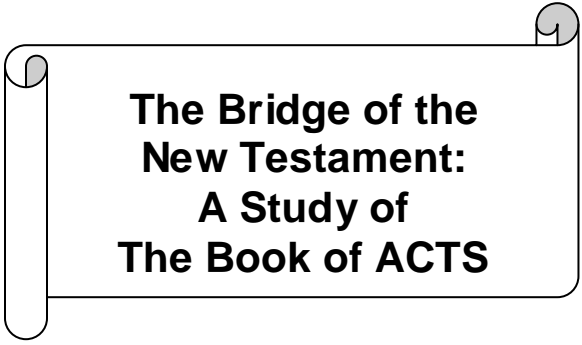
- A. Paul preached in the Jewish Synagogue
- B. His message, v. 3
 - a. It behooved the Christ (messiah) to suffer (compare with Luke 24:25-27, Acts 3:18)
 - b. He arose from the dead (compare with Acts 2:32-36, 3:15)
 - c. Jesus is the Christ (anointed of God: the Messiah foretold in the Scriptures, Isaiah 53)
- C. Reactions to the word in Thessalonica, v. 4-9
 - a. Some were persuaded
 - b. Others caused an uproar; false charges made:
 - 1. Turned the world upside down
 - 2. Disobeyed Caesar
 - 3. Disowned Caesar; declared Jesus to be king

Paul Preaches in Berea, Acts 17:10-14

- A. These Jews were honest
- B. They had to confirm the word by the Scriptures
- C. Silas and Timothy remain in Berea while Paul departed for Athens

Paul in Athens, Acts 17:15-34

- A. Discussions with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers, v. 18
 - a. Epicureans believed:
 - 1. Everything happens by chance
 - 2. Death was the end of all things
 - 3. The gods were remote from the world
 - 4. Pleasure was the chief aim of man
 - b. Stoics believed:
 - 1. Literally everything was god
 - 2. Everything that happened was god's will and must be accepted
 - 3. Every once in a while the universe collapsed and then restarted
- B. Paul's sermon on Mar's Hill, v. 22-31
 - a. God is the creator of all
 - b. God is the sustainer of all
 - c. God, through his son, will judge all
- C. Reactions to the preached word, v. 32-34
 - a. Some mocked, v. 32
 - b. Some said, "We will listen to you again." V. 32
 - c. Some believed, v. 34



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Continues, *Acts 18*

This chapter contains:

- Paul in Corinth, v. 1-17
- Paul in Ephesus, v. 18-21
- The return to Antioch, v. 22-23
- The case of Apollos at Ephesus, v. 24-28

Paul in Corinth, Acts 18:1-17

- A. Athens was the literary center of Greece, Corinth was the commercial center.
- B. Association with Aquila and Priscilla, v. 1-4
- C. Preaching in Corinth for a year and six months, v. 5-11
- D. Factors which would discourage any effort to preach in Corinth:
 - a. The immorality of the city (compare 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
 - b. Existing religious prejudice (Acts 18:6)
 - c. Poverty of truth in Corinth
 - d. Previous persecutions which Paul had faced (Acts 16:23, 29, 17:5, 12-13)
- E. Reactions to the word, v. 5-11
 - a. Jews blasphemed, opposed themselves, v. 5-6
 - b. Many heard and believed, v. 11
 - c. Many would hear and believe, v. 10
- F. Paul brought before Gallio's judgment seat
 - a. Junius Gallio was a brother of the famous philosopher and statesman Seneca.
 - b. The charge against Paul: "He persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." v. 13

Paul in Ephesus, Acts 18:18-21

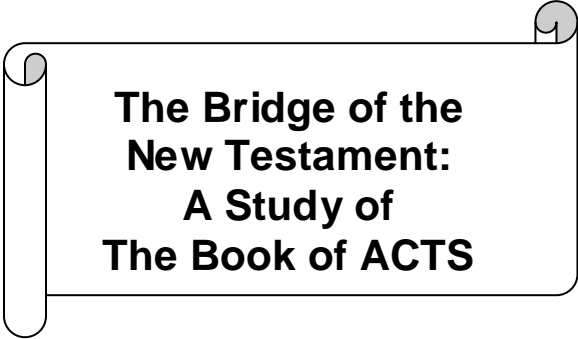
- A. Made a vow in Cenchreae, v. 18
- B. Preached to Jews in Ephesus, v. 19

The Return to Antioch, Acts 18:22-23

- A. From Caesarea to Antioch via Jerusalem? v. 22
- B. Paul begins the third Missionary journey, v. 23

The Case of Apollos, Acts 18:24-28

- A. Characteristics of Apollos, v. 24-26
 - a. Eloquent and educated
 - b. Mighty in the Scriptures
 - c. Had been taught the way of the Lord
 - d. Zealous for God
 - e. Courage to speak boldly
- B. Lacking in knowledge concerning baptism of John and the baptism commanded by Jesus, v. 25
- C. Helped Acquilla and Priscilla, v. 26
- D. Apollos moves to Achaia, v. 27-28



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul's Third Missionary Journey
Acts 19

This chapter contains:

- Through Galatia to Ephesus, 18:23, v. 1
- The case of the twelve, v. 2-7
- Teaching in the school of Tyrannus, v. 8-20
- Demetrius caused an uproar, v. 21-41

Through Galatia to Ephesus, Acts 19:1 (Compare Acts 18:23)

- A. He "established" the disciples (compare with 15:41)
- B. Paul in Ephesus
 - a. The commercial capital of Asia Minor
 - b. Home of one of the seven wonders of the world, the Temple of Diana

The Case of the Twelve, Acts 19:2-7

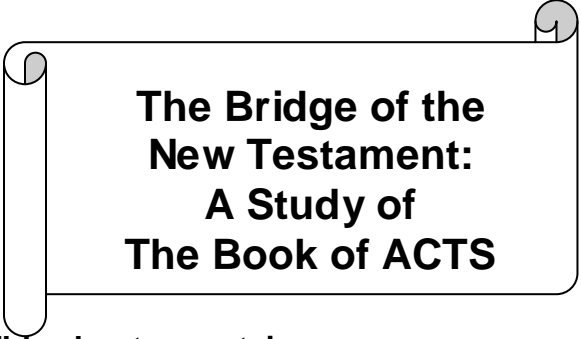
- A. Questions asked by Paul:
 - a. Have you received the holy Spirit – i.e. a miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. Into what were you baptized?
 1. To question one they replied: "*We did not so much as hear whether the Holy Ghost was given.*"
 2. Therefore, Paul knew that something was wrong relative to their baptism, because the "gift of the Holy Spirit" is promised to those who are baptized. (compare with Acts 2:38)
- B. Paul taught them the truth concerning John's baptism
 - a. It was for a limited time
 - b. The baptism of the commandment was binding
 - c. To be baptized into John's baptism therefore brought no blessing
- C. Hence, these twelve were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, v. 5
 - a. Baptism in the name of the Lord was in water (Compare with Acts 10:47-48)
 - b. Baptism in the name of the Lord was for remission of sins (Compare with Acts 2:38)

Teaching in the School of Tyrannus, Acts 19:8-20

- A. This was the center of Paul's work for two years, v. 9-10
- B. Worked miracles, v. 11-12
- C. The gospel routs superstition, v. 13-20
 - a. The sons of Sceva learn Paul's trick, v. 14-16

Demetrius Caused an uproar, Acts 19:21-41

- A. Observe the element of fear in Ephesus
 - a. Demetrius was afraid that his source of money would be cut off, v. 2-7
 - b. Demetrius was afraid that men will stop worshipping the goddess
 - c. The town clerk is fearful of the accusation of a riot, v. 40
 - d. Paul is unafraid of the mob, v. 30
- B. The mob spirit, v. 29-34
 - a. The confusion, v. 32
 - b. the prejudice, v. 34
 - c. The ignorance, v. 32-34
- C. The town clerk reasons with and dismissed the crowd, v. 25-40



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's Third Missionary Journey
Continues, *Acts 20***

This chapter contains:

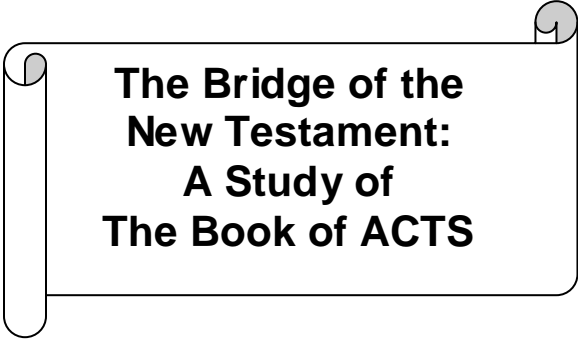
- Paul in Troas, v. 1-12
- Meeting with the elders of the Ephesian church, v. 13-38

Paul at Troas, Acts 20:1-12

- A. Preaching in Macedonia, v. 1-6
- B. Meeting with the disciples at Troas, v. 7-12
 - a. Meeting on the "first day of the week" to break bread.
 - b. Meeting to "break bread" means to celebrate the Lord's Supper
- C. Eutychus sleeps and dies, Paul restores him to life, v. 9-12

Meeting With the Elders of the Ephesian Church, Acts 20:13-38

- A. Paul reviews his work in Ephesus, v. 17-35
- B. He indicated to the elders the sources of his power as a preacher
 - a. His manhood
 - 1. His humility, v. 19
 - 2. His sacrifice, v. 19
 - 3. His courage, v. 20
 - b. His Message
 - 1. Scriptural content, v. 21-35
 - 2. Power to edify, v. 32
 - 3. Aim: communicate the whole counsel of God, v. 27
 - c. His Method
 - 1. Positive, v. 35
 - 2. Negatively, v. 29-30
 - 3. Bold, v. 20
 - 4. Personal and pulpit evangelism, v. 20
- C. The Sad Farewell, Acts 20:36-38
 - a. Paul had reminded the elders two things:
 - 1. Their duty
 - 2. The danger
 - b. Notice the demonstration of Christian love



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul's Third Missionary Journey Concludes, *Acts 21*

This chapter contains:

Paul at Tyre, v. 1-6

In Philip's home at Caesarea, v. 7-14

In Jerusalem, v. 15-40

Paul in Tyre, Acts 21:1-6

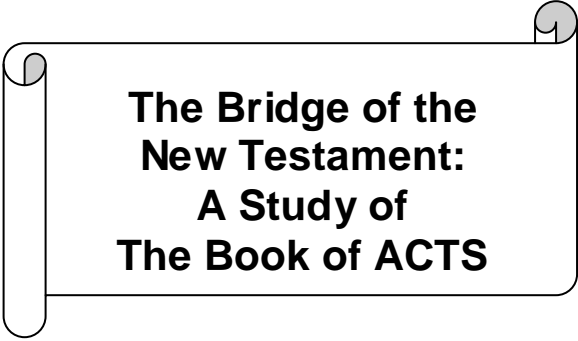
- A. Paul is assured by the Spirit of his peril at Jerusalem, v. 4
- B. His friends tried to persuade him not to go to Jerusalem (compare with v. 12)
- C. Two things now become evident
 - a. Paul is held in high esteem by friends who are devoted to him
 - b. Paul faces his trials with great courage

In Philip's Home at Caesarea, Acts 21:7-14

- A. Philip had preached in Samaria and other places, Acts 8:5, 40
- B. He had four daughters which prophesied (compare with Acts 2:18)
- C. Agabus predicts Paul's tribulations in Jerusalem, v. 10-11
- D. Paul's impressive statement: "I am ready to die...for the name of the Lord Jesus (compare with 2 Timothy 4:7-8)

In Jerusalem, Acts 21:15-40

- A. Efforts to appease the Jews, v. 17-26
 - a. Paul visited James, v. 17-20
 - b. Actions recommended by elders, v. 20-25
 - c. Paul complies with the wishes of the elders, v. 26
- B. A slanderous charge, v. 27-40
 - a. Certain Jews from Asia stirred up the multitude against Paul, v. 27
 - b. Their charges against Paul:
 - 1. Paul taught against the Law, the Jews and Jerusalem
 - 2. Defiled the temple by bringing Gentiles into it
 - c. Paul is rescued from death by the chief captain, v. 31-36
 - d. Paul secures permission to speak to the mob, v. 37-40
 - 1. The chief captain thought Paul was an insurrectionist from Egypt
 - 2. It is amazing that the crowd is silenced as they listen to Paul



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul in Jerusalem
Acts 22

This chapter contains:

Paul's recounts his conversion, v. 1-21

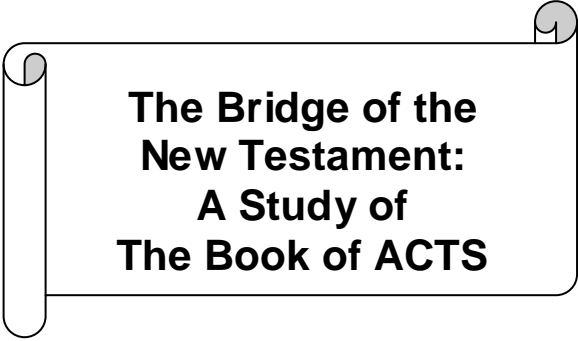
The embittered opposition, v. 22-30

Paul Recounts his Conversion, Acts 22:1-21

- A. Three points are seen:
- a. It would take supernatural influence to change Paul
 1. He was by birth, education and experience identified with his hearers
 2. He had been actively opposed to "The Way." V. 3-5
 - b. Paul asserted that he was changed by divine power
 1. The vision
 2. A miracle had been wrought upon him by a devout Jew, v. 6-13
 - c. Paul affirms that his work among the Gentiles was the result of:
 1. Divine purpose
 2. The unwillingness of the Jews to receive the gospel, v. 14-21
- B. The purpose of Saul's baptism: "Be baptized and wash away your sins..."
- C. "Calling on the name of the Lord."
- a. Peter said that all who did would be saved, Acts 2:21
 - b. Paul asked some questions relative to calling on the Lord's name:
 1. How can you call if you do not believe?
 2. How can you believe if you do not hear?
 3. How can you call if you do not obey the gospel, Romans 10:13-17
 - c. Look to the authority of Christ to forgive sins

The Embittered Opposition, Acts 22:22-30

- A. Mob reacted to the word "Gentile" v. 22
- B. Reaction of the mob: v. 22-25
- a. Stopped listening
 - b. Shouted for Paul's life to be taken, v. 22
 - c. Threw off garments and cast dust into the air, v. 23
- C. Chief captain is determined to make Paul talk, v. 24
- D. Paul reveals his citizenship, v. 25-29
- a. Chief captain had bought his Roman citizenship, v. 27
 - b. Paul was "Roman born" v. 28
- E. Chief captain wanted the Sanhedrin to examine Paul, v. 30



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul in Caesarea
Acts 23

This chapter contains:

Paul's defense before the Sanhedrin, v. 1-10
Paul's Jerusalem prison experience, v. 11-30
Paul in Caesarea, v. 31-35

Paul's Defense Before the Sanhedrin, Acts 23:1-10

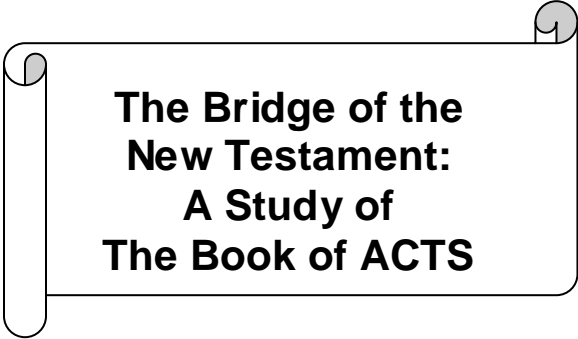
- A. Declaration of a Good Conscience, v. 1
- B. Paul's Rebuke of the high Priest, v. 2-5
- C. Paul Succeeds in Dividing the Council, v. 6-9
 - a. Paul affirmed that the whole question relative to his disagreement with the Jews centered around the resurrection.
 - b. The resurrection was a cardinal proof of his deity (compare with Acts 2:32-36, 17:3)
 - c. Hence, Paul decided before the council the essential or fundamental doctrine of the religion of Christ.
 - d. The Sadducees would tear Paul to pieces – they denied the reality of the resurrection, angels and spirits.
 - e. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection, if not in the Lord's resurrection

Paul's Jerusalem Experience, Acts 23:11-30

- A. The Lord Gave Encouragement, v. 11
- B. More Than Forty Men Determine to Kill Paul, v. 12-15
- C. Paul's Nephew Saved Paul's Life, v. 16-25
- D. The Chief Captain's Letter to Governor Felix, v. 26-30

Paul in Caesarea, Acts 22:31-35

- A. The Seat of Roman Government in the Province Was in Caesarea
- B. This is Not the First Time Paul Had Been to Caesarea (21:8)
- C. Paul was Kept by Felix in Herod's Palace, v. 35



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

Paul's Trial Before Felix
Acts 24

This chapter contains:

- The orator Tertullus prosecutes Paul before Felix, v. 1-9
- Paul's personal defense, v. 10-21
- Felix refuses to make a decision, v. 22-23
- Paul preaches to Felix and Druscilla, v. 24-27

The Orator Tertullus Prosecutes Paul Before Felix, Acts 24:1-9

- A. He seeks to flatter Felix, v. 2-3
 - a. Enjoyed peace because of Felix's able rule
 - b. Felix had corrected many evils
- B. The charges:
 - a. Excited Jews to sedition, v. 5
 - b. Ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, v. 5
 - c. Profaned the Temple, v. 6

Paul's Personal Defense, Acts 24:10-21

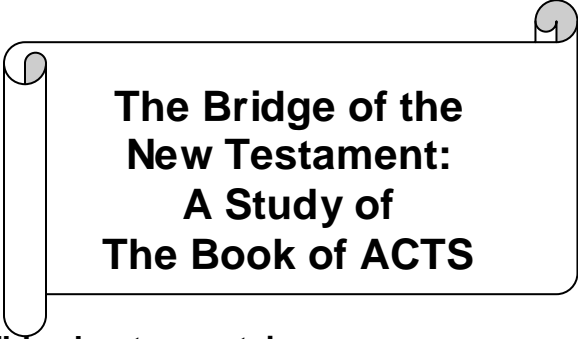
- A. Paul acknowledges the fairness of Felix; the fact that Felix had ample experience to become a competent judge, v. 10
- B. Paul answered the charges of Tertullus:
 - a. Excited Jews to edition? Impossible! Paul was in Jerusalem less than a week. Not enough time to start a sedition.
 - b. Ringleader of sect of the Nazarenes? Matter of semantics. Called by Jews a "sect;" called by Paul "The Way."
 - c. Profaned the temple? No! Paul was performing the Temple rites when Jews from Asia falsely accused him.

Felix Refused to Make a Decision, Acts 24:22-23

- A. Felix has more exact knowledge of the "The Way." v. 22
- B. Felix made a subtle political move:
 - a. Kept Paul in custody so the Jews would be appeased
 - b. Give Paul "indulgence" i.e., much liberty as a prisoner

Paul Preached to Felix and Drusilla, Acts 24:24-27

- A. Paul "reasoned" with them about:
 - a. righteousness
 - b. Self-control
 - c. Judgment to come (compare with Acts 17:30-31)
- B. Reaction to the word:
 - a. Felix trembled and waited for a "convenient season,": i.e., a time when it would be as easy to do God's will as to refrain from doing it
 - b. There is no indication that Drusilla was moved



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's Third Missionary Journey
Continues, *Acts 25***

This chapter contains:

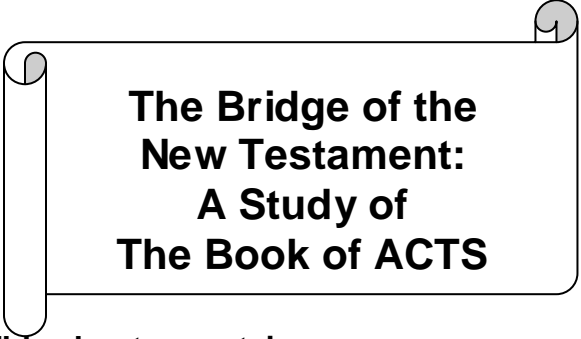
The Appeal to Caesar, v. 1-12
Agrippa visited Caesarea, v. 13-27

The Appeal to Caesar, Acts 25:1-12

- A. Festus succeeded Felix as governor
- B. When Festus visited Jerusalem the Jews sought to get Paul back to Jerusalem, v. 1-5
- C. At Festus' instruction, the Jews came down to Caesarea to accuse Paul before Festus, v. 6-7
- D. Paul's defense, v. 8:
 - a. Affirmed he had not sinned against the Law of the Jews
 - b. Had not profaned their Temple
 - c. Had not sinned against Caesar, i.e. was not an insurrectionist
- E. Because of the indecision, injustice and treachery of a Roman ruler Paul had to appeal to Caesar

Agrippa visited Caesarea, Acts 25:13-27

- A. Agrippa the King came to visit Festus
 - a. He was the son of the Herod who had beheaded James and imprisoned Peter (compare with Acts 12)
 - b. Bernice was Agrippa's sister who later became mistress to Titus the Emperor of Rome
- B. Festus related Paul's case to Agrippa, v. 14-22
- C. Agrippa agreed to hear Paul's case so he could perhaps help Festus write the reason to Caesar as to why Paul had appealed, v. 22-27



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's Third Missionary Journey
Continues, *Acts 26***

This chapter contains:

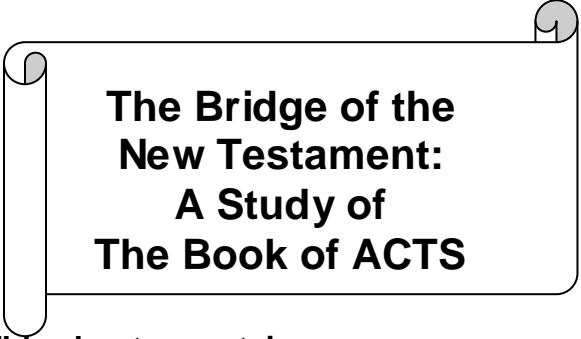
Paul related his conversion for the second time, v. 1-23
King Agrippa is "almost persuaded" v. 24-32

Paul Related His Conversion for the Second Time, Acts 26:1-23

- A. This is Paul's last recorded defense
- B. Paul enjoyed certain advantages which he had not had on previous accessions:
 - a. His judges already believed him guiltless
 - b. None of the Jewish enemies were present to present false charges
 - c. He could freely speak
- C. Three points made by Paul in his defense, v. 4-24
 - a. Faith in a risen Christ is the heart of Christianity, v. 7-8
 - b. Proof that Christ was raised from the dead: He appeared to Paul on the Damascus road, v. 9-23
 - c. The Old Testament Scriptures witness that the message of salvation through Christ is intended for the whole race of man, v. 22-23
- D. Paul stated very specifically exactly why the Lord had appeared to him on the Damascus road, v. 16-18
 - a. To make Paul a witness
 - b. To make Paul a minister
- E. Paul's mission to the Gentiles was, v. 18:
 - a. To open their eyes
 - b. Turn them from darkness to light
 - c. Turn them from power to Satan unto God
 - d. Enable them to receive remission of sins
 - e. Receive an inheritance (compare 1 Peter 1:3-4)

King Agrippa is "Almost Persuaded" Acts 26:24-32

- A. Agrippa is now the one on trial!
- B. Is Agrippa's reply one a sarcasm or sincerity? v. 28
- C. Paul wanted all men to be the kind of Christian he was (compare 1 Corinthians 11:1)



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's Voyage to the "Eternal
City", *Acts 27***

This chapter contains:

The last journey began, v. 1-8
In peril on the sea, v. 9-38
Escaped from death, v. 39-44

The Last Journey Began, Acts 27:1-8

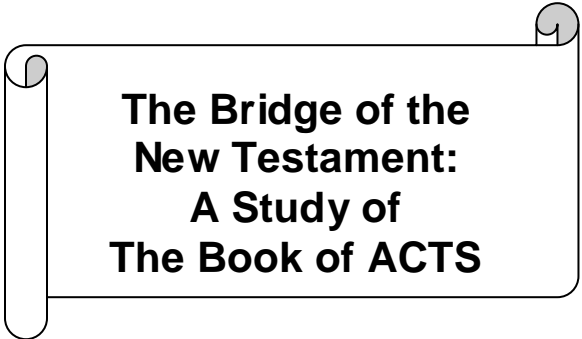
- A. Two things must have been comforting to Paul:
 - a. The kind of Centurion, Julius, to whom Paul was entrusted, v. 1-3
 - b. The companionship of Aristarchus and Luke, v. 2
- B. Sailing in ship of Adramyttium to Myra, v. 2, 5
- C. Change ships at Myra; get on ship Alexandria

In Peril on the Sea, Acts 27:9-38

- A. The "Fast" was past. The Fast is the Jewish Day of Atonement which in that year fell in the first half of October.
- B. Paul warned of the danger ahead, v. 10
- C. An effort was made to reach Crete, v. 12-13
- D. Blown adrift by Euraquilo, i.e., a northeast gale, v. 14
- E. The boat was made secure near the isle of Cauda, v. 16
- F. All hope was gone, v. 17-20
- G. The faith of Paul is a calm in the storm, v. 21-26
- H. Shipwrecked at Melita, v. 27-38

Escaped From Death, Acts 27:39-44

- A. Escaped from the angry sea, v. 39-41
- B. Escaped from the advice that the prisoners be killed, v. 42



**The Bridge of the
New Testament:
A Study of
The Book of ACTS**

**Paul's Third Missionary Journey
Continues, *Acts 28***

This chapter contains:

Paul on the Island of Melita, v. 1-10
Sailing to Puteoli, v. 11-15
Paul in Rome, v. 16-30

Paul on the Island of Melita, Acts 28:1-10

- A. The "barbarians" (foreign folk) showed kindness, v. 1-2
- B. Paul's third encounter with death, v. 3-6
- C. Paul healed the father of Publius, v. 7-8
- D. Paul healed many on the island who were diseased, v. 9-10

Sailing to Puteoli, Acts 28:11-15

- A. Puteoli was the port of Rome
- B. Ships had figureheads; this ship had the sign of the twin brother: i.e, Castor and Pollux
- C. Things which must have given Paul courage, v. 14-15:
 - a. Brethren found at Puteoli
 - b. Brethren coming from Rome to meet Paul at the Market of Appius (43 miles from Rome) and at the Three Taverns (33 miles from Rome)
- D. Paul traveled the Appian Way from Puteoli to Rome
- E. Paul thanked God, v. 15:
 - a. God had protected him on the journey to Rome
 - b. God had blessed Paul with the companionship of brethren

Paul in Rome, Acts 28:16-30

- A. Paul met with the Jewish leaders, v. 17
- B. Paul proved his innocence to the Jews, v. 17-22
- C. He later preached to the Jews, v. 23-29
 - a. Preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God, v. 23
 - b. Preached Jesus as the Son of God, v. 23
- D. Reactions to the word, v. 25-29:
 - a. Some believed, v. 25
 - b. Some disbelieved, v. 25
 - c. They fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, v. 26-27
 - 1. Applied by Jesus to unbelieving Jews in Galilee, Matthew 13:14-15
 - 2. Used by John to explain the unbelief of the Jews in Jerusalem, John 12:40
- E. Paul preached for two years in Rome
 - a. His message:
 - 1. The Kingdom of God
 - 2. The things concerning Jesus Christ
 - b. His method: With all boldness