

The Book of Acts

1

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we begin reading the book of **Acts**. Second century tradition is unanimous that the author of **Acts** was Luke, the "beloved physician" (KJV) who Paul mentions in **Colossians 4:14**. It is clearly a continuation of his Gospel account (note **Acts 1:1**).

Luke starts off his account by stating that his first treatise was "about all that Jesus *began* to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven..." This indicates that the second treatise – the book of **Acts** – is about what Jesus *continued* to do and to teach *after* the day he was taken up to heaven. It is now through the Church that Jesus continues to act and to teach (note **Matthew 28:19-20**). For this reason, even though this book has traditionally been called "The Acts of the Apostles," it could alternatively be called "The Acts of Jesus Christ Through His Church."

Acts 1:8 effectively provides us with an outline of the book:

- How the Church received power (**1:1-2:13**)
- How the disciples were witnesses in Jerusalem (**2:14-7:60**)
- How the disciples were witnesses in Judea (**9:31-43**)
- How the disciples were witnesses in Samaria (**8:4-25**)
- How the disciples were witnesses to the ends of the earth (**13:1-28:31**)

This morning we will be reading the first half of the book of **Acts**. These first 15 chapters give us a record of the earliest years of Church growth, leading up to one of the greatest events in Church history, the Jerusalem Council, where it was decided that Gentiles were not obliged to be circumcised and abide by the Law of Moses. As we saw in **Module 113**, this event changed all of Church history to follow, for it enabled the phenomenal growth of the Church among the Gentile nations in the centuries to come.

Let's now settle into a comfortable chair and read **Acts 1-15**.

Memory Verse

Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

1 John 5:10

Your Fishing Kit

This is the thirty-sixth verse in your fishing kit. As this verse shows, belief in Jesus comes down to taking God at his word. If we refuse to believe, we are effectively saying that God is a liar, that the testimony that he has given in his Word concerning the life and ministry of his Son is false. But if we believe that God has given truthful testimony about his Son, then our response should be an active faith in Christ – embracing him as Lord and Savior.

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.