## E BOTT Dect to Inc

## BOOK of ACTS



#### **MENU**

#### INTRODUCTION

Overview, Author, Date, Audience, Time Line, Outline

#### **THEMES**

Gospel, Mission God, Jesus, Church

#### **LEADERS IN ACTS**

Peter and Paul

#### MISSION IN JERUSALEM

#### Chapters 1-7

From the ascension of Jesus to the martyrdom of Stephen

#### MISSION IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

Chapters 8-10

From Philip's ministry in Samaria to Saul's conversion

#### MISSION TO THE GENTILES

#### Chapters 11-28

From Peter's outreach to Cornelius to Paul's missionary journeys in the Gentile world

### Introduction to Acts

Overview

Author

Date

Audience

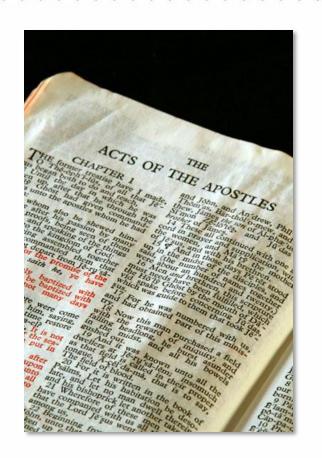
Timeline



#### **Overview**

- By studying the way God acted in history, we become attuned to the ways God is active among us today.
- We must be sensitive to the way the Spirit moves in our midst and in the world to join in the mission.

The book of Acts shows that God is active in our world!





#### **Overview**

- The mission is not easy. Being Jesus' disciples implies danger and opposition.
- But the stories in Acts show that Jesus is faithful to his promise to be with us always.



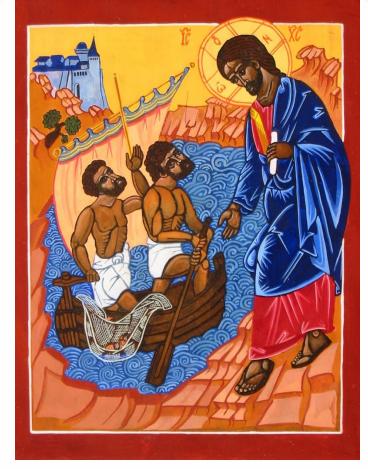
#### **Overview**

- When Adam and Eve rebelled in the garden of Eden, God began a rescue mission.
- God wanted to restore his world and creatures so they would fulfill his original intentions for them:

to enjoy him and praise him forever!

#### **Overview**

- God has chosen humans to work alongside him in this mission.
- At the end of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus commissions his disciples to be a part of this plan:
  - "You are witnesses of these things." —Luke 24:48



Jesus calling Peter and Andrew to follow him



#### **Overview**

- At the beginning of Acts, Jesus commissions his followers to reach the whole world as witnesses of him.
  - "... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." —Acts 1:8



Jesus calling Peter and Andrew to follow him

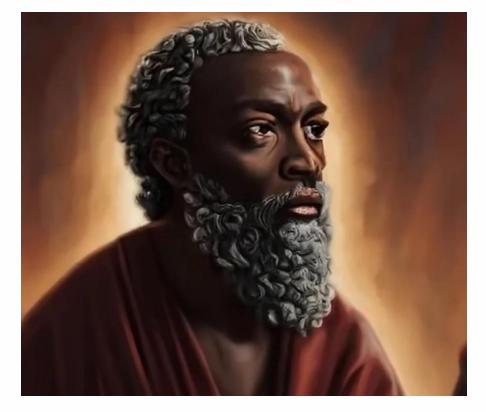


The story of the church becomes the story of the fulfillment of God's mission to make all things new.



#### **Author**

- An early and reliable church tradition names Luke as the author of *Acts* and the *Gospel of Luke*.
- Luke was one of the apostle Paul's companions during his last three journeys.

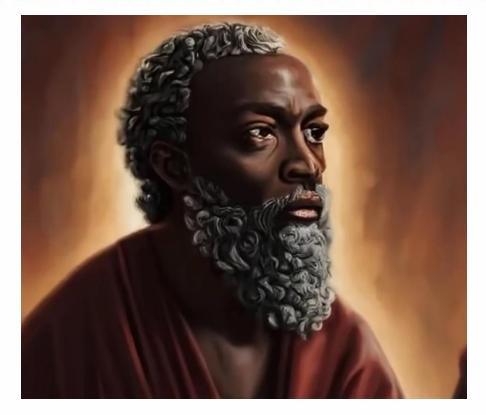


Luke



#### **Author**

- Luke may have been the physician mentioned in Paul's letter to the Colossians.
  - "Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings." Colossians 4:14



Luke



#### Date

• Because of the historical sequence found in the Gospel of Luke and Acts, it is likely that Acts was written shortly after the Gospel.

#### **GOSPEL OF LUKE**

# "I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." —Luke 1:3–4

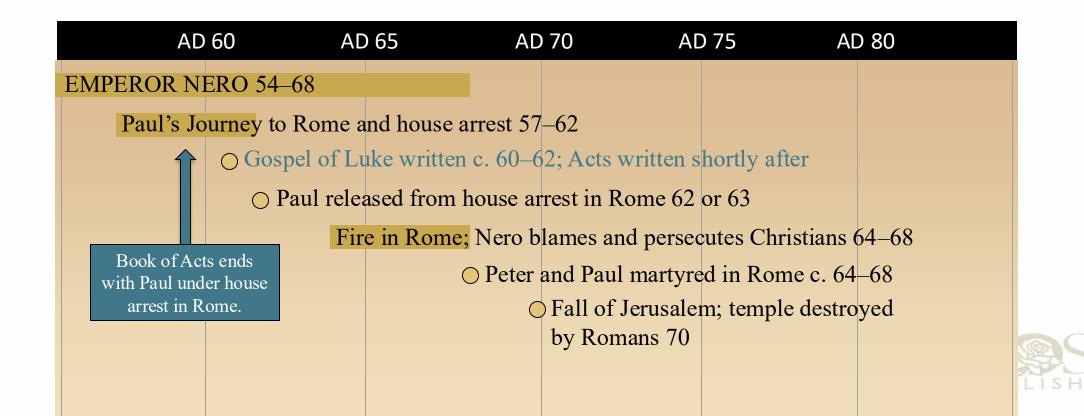
#### **BOOK OF ACTS**

"In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven." —Acts 1:1



#### **Date**

• Luke's Gospel was written around the years AD 60–62 with Acts written soon after.



#### **Audience**

- Luke and Acts are addressed to a man named Theophilus.
- He is called "most excellent," a common way of addressing socially important people (Luke 1:3).





#### **Audience**

- Since books were very expensive, it was common to write for a wealthy patron who would keep the writings and grant access to others to read.
- Theophilus may have financed Luke's writing, paid for copies, and granted churches access to them.



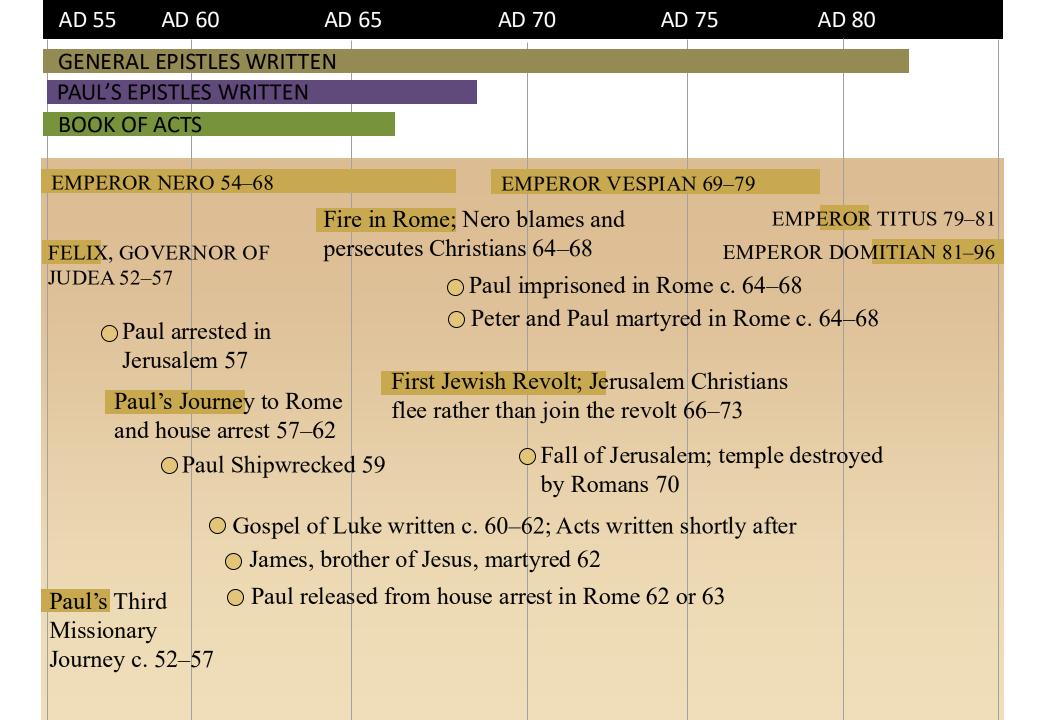


#### **Audience**

- Acts was meant for several audiences:
  - An individual: Theophilus
  - People like Theophilus, perhaps Romans who were intrigued by Christianity
  - All Christian believers: Jews and Gentiles alike



AD	30 AD	35 AD	40 AE	) 45 AD	50
BOOKS OF THE E	BIBLE			GENERAL EP	ISTLES WRITTEN
THE GOSPELS					
	BOOK OF ACTS				
EARLY CHURCH	HISTORY				
HEROD ANTIP	AS RULES GALII	LEE 4 BC-AD 39	HEROD AGRI	PPA I, KING OF J	UDEA 41–44
<ul><li>Jesus baptiz</li></ul>	zed; ministry beg	ins c. 26	FEL	IX, GOVERNOR	OF JUDEA 52–57
	Crucifixion, dea	ath, and resurrection	on of Jesus c. 30	Paul's Fin	rst Missionary
	Ascension of Je	sus and commission	on to disciples c.	30 Journey of	2. 47–49
	Pentecost; disci	ples receive Holy	Spirit c. 30	<b>○</b> J	ews expelled
	○Stenhen n	nartyred c. 32			rom Rome 49
	O Stephen in		anai an 27		erusalem
		O Paul's conv			Council 49
			Gospel preache	1 α	ul's Second
			Gentiles 40		issionary
				Jon	urney c. 49–51
					Paul's Third
			ma	artyred c. 44	Missionary
				Jo	ourney c. 52–57



- 1. The Work of Jesus Continues with the Apostles (1:1–11)
- 2. The Mission in Jerusalem (1:12–8:3)
  - a. Ministry of Peter (1:12–5:42)
  - b. Ministry of Stephen (6:1–8:3)
- 3. The Mission in Samaria and Judea (8:4–11:18)
  - a. Ministry of Philip (8:4–40)
  - b. Conversion of Saul (Paul) (9:1–31)
  - c. Ministry of Peter Continues (9:32–11:18)



- 4. The Mission to the Ends of the Earth (11:19–28:31)
  - a. Ministry of Barnabas (11:19–30)
  - b. Conclusion of Peter's Ministry (12:1–19a)
  - c. Death of Herod Agrippa I (12:19b–25)
  - d. Ministry of Paul and Barnabas: First Missionary Journey (13:1–14:28)
  - e. Jerusalem Council (15:1–35)



- f. The Ministry of Paul and Silas: Second Missionary Journey (15:36–18:22)
- g. The ministry of Paul: Third Missionary Journey (18:23–21:14)
- h. Paul in Jerusalem (21:15–23:10)
- i. Paul in Caesarea (23:11–26:32)
- j. Paul taken to Rome (27:1–28:29)
- k. Conclusion: The Gospel Preached throughout the World (28:30–31)



### THEMES IN ACTS

Gospel

Mission

God

Jesus

Church



#### Gospel

• The following outline of the Gospel message (the "good news") was helpful for Christians in the first century and it is helpful for Christians today.

"All the prophets testify about him [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

—Acts 10:43



- 1. God's promises to Israel are now fulfilled with the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.
  - Acts 2:30; 3:19, 24; 10:43; 26:6–7, 22
- 2. God anointed Jesus as the Messiah during his baptism.
  - Acts 10:38



Baptism of Christ



- 3. Jesus began his ministry in Galilee after his baptism. His ministry showed God's power with words and actions.
  - Acts 10:37
- **4.** Jesus, the Messiah, suffered and died on the cross according to God's own plan.
  - Acts 2:23; 3:13–15, 18; 4:11; 10:39; 26:23



Christ Healing a Man at the Pool of Bethesda



- **5.** God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus appeared to his disciples.
  - Acts 2:24, 31–32; 3:15, 26; 10:40–41; 17:31; 26:23
- **6.** God exalted Jesus and gave him the name of "Lord."
  - Acts 2:25–29, 33–36; 3:13; 10:36



The Risen Christ Appears to Mary Magdalene



- 7. God sent the Holy Spirit to create a new community, the church.
  - Acts 1:8; 2:14–18, 38–39; 10:44–47
- 8. Jesus will come back one day to judge all people and to make all things new.
  - Acts 3:20–21; 10:42; 17:31





- 9. The good news of Jesus is for all people. The gospel urges all people to hear the message, repent, and be baptized.
  - Acts 2:21, 38; 3:19; 10:43, 47–48; 17:30; 26:20





- We learn about the good news from the apostles' speeches.
  - There are 24 speeches in the book of Acts.
  - Eight are about the gospel.



- 1. Peter's speech at Pentecost (Acts 2:14–39)
- 2. Peter's speech at Solomon's Colonnade (Acts 3:12–26)
- 3. Peter's speech before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8–12)
- **4.** The apostles' speech at the temple courts (Acts 5:29–32)
- **5.** Peter's speech at Cornelius's house (Acts 10:34–43)
- 6. Paul's speech in the Antioch synagogue (Acts 13:16–41)
- 7. Paul and Barnabas's speech at Lystra (Acts 14:15–17)
- 8. Paul's speech in Athens (Acts 17:22–34)



#### **EXAMPLES:**

#### Themes

SPEECH	AUDIENCE	FOCUS OF THE CONTENT
Peter's speech to the other disciples in the upper room ACTS 1:16–26	Christians	<ul> <li>Fulfillment of God's purpose in Scripture (1:16, 20)</li> <li>Activity of the Holy Spirit (1:16)</li> <li>Decision to replace Judas (1:24)</li> </ul>
Peter's speech to the crowd in Jerusalem on Pentecost ACTS 2:14–39	Jewish not-yet believers	<ul> <li>God's actions as fulfilling his promises in Joel (2:16–21)</li> <li>God's actions and acceptance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (2:22–24)</li> <li>Conclusion: God made Jesus Lord and Messiah (2:36)</li> </ul>

#### EXAMPLES

#### Themes

SPEECH .	AUDIENCE	FOCUS OF THE CONTENT
Peter's speech to Cornelius's household in Caesarea ACTS 10:34–43	Gentile not-yet believers	<ul> <li>God shows no partiality (10:34)</li> <li>Jesus' preaching came from God (10:35)</li> <li>God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit (10:38)</li> <li>God raised Jesus from the dead (10:40)</li> <li>The apostles as witnesses to these events (10:41)</li> <li>God appointed Jesus as judge (10:42)</li> </ul>
Paul's speech at the Areopagus in Athens (Mars Hill) ACTS 17:22–34	Pagans	<ul> <li>God has revealed himself (17:23)</li> <li>God is creator/sustainer of the world (17:24–25)</li> <li>God is the Lord of all nations (17:26)</li> <li>God wants people to seek and find him (17:27–28)</li> <li>Idolatry misses the mark (17:29)</li> <li>God calls all to repentance (17:30)</li> <li>God appointed Jesus as judge by raising him from the dead (17:31–32)</li> </ul>

#### **Mission**

- The starting point of the mission was Jerusalem.
- Slowly, the Holy Spirit pushed the apostles away from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and to all the nations.





## This emphasis on the mission can be best seen in the movement of God in Luke and Acts.

God invades planet earth from the outside in as a baby. Luke 1:5–4:13

Jesus invades Galilee of the Gentiles first. Luke 4:14–9:50

Jesus invades Samaria and Judea. Luke 9:51–19:27

Jesus invades Jerusalem at Passover. Luke 19:28–22:46

CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION - Luke 22:47–Acts 1:11

The Holy Spirit takes Jerusalem at Pentecost. Acts 1:12–7:60

The Holy Spirit takes Judea and Samaria. Acts 8:1–40

The Holy Spirit takes the world from the inside out through the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit takes the nations. ACTS 9:1–28:31



#### Who is the Holy Spirit?

#### THE SPIRIT IS INVOLVED IN THE WORKS OF GOD.

Creation - Psalm 104:30

Incarnation - Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35

Resurrection - Romans 1:4; 8:11

Salvation - John 15:26; 16:8; Romans 8:14-17

Christian Life - John 16:13; Romans 8:26-27; 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 2:10; Galatians 5:22-23

#### THE SPIRIT IS A PERSON.

He can be lied to. - Acts 5:3-4

He can be grieved. - Ephesians 4:30

He has a name. - Matthew 28:19

#### THE SPIRIT IS GOD.

Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-6; 2 Peter 1:21

#### **Mission**

- The stories in Acts show:
  - The faithfulness and determination of the apostles.
  - God's guiding and protecting hand.
- It is God's mission:
  - "And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." —Acts 2:47





#### God

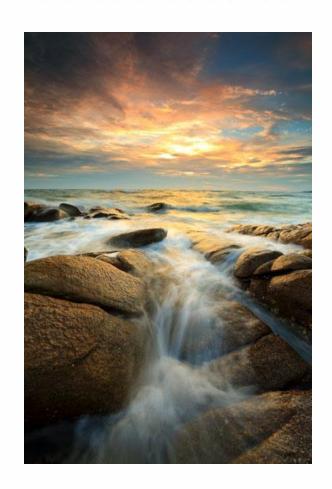
• The book of Acts tells us the story of God in relation to the community of followers of Christ, the early church.

God is the center of the story!



#### We learn that God:

- Is Creator and greater than the temple.
  - Acts 7:48–50
- Enables people to be his followers.
  - Acts 2; 4:24–29





#### We learn that God:

- Is the God of Israel's ancestors.
  - Acts 3:13; 22:14; 24:14
- Is the God of the Gentiles.
  - Acts 10:45; 11:18; 15:7–9, 14; 21:19–20
- Is the God of history and will accomplish his purposes.





#### God

- In Acts, we encounter the same God of grace and mercy that we find in the Old Testament.
- He has taken the initiative to rescue his people and extends the invitation to all the nations.



#### Jesus

- We learn about God by knowing Jesus Christ.
  - "... in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ... "—Hebrews 1:2
- If the Old Testament reveals God, the New Testament perfects that revelation in the person of Jesus.



#### We learn that Jesus is:

- The Promised Messiah
  - Acts 2:36; 3:20; 5:42; 8:5; 17:3; 18:5
- The Son of David
  - Acts 2:30; 13:23
- Lord
  - Acts 2:36; 10:36
- Son of God
  - Acts 9:20; 13:33





#### We learn that Jesus is:

- A prophet like Moses
  - Acts 3:22–23; 7:37
- A servant of the Lord
  - Acts 3:13, 26; 4:30; 8:32–33
- The Son of Man
  - Acts 7:56
- The righteous one
  - Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14
- The author of life
  - Acts 3:15





#### We learn that Jesus is:

- Leader and Savior
  - Acts 5:31
- One destined to suffer
  - Acts 3:18; 17:3; 26:23
- Rejected
  - Acts 2:23–24; 3:13–15; 8:32–33; 13:28





#### Jesus

- Jesus is God's ultimate solution for all humanity, Jews and Gentiles alike.
- He represents God and carrying on God's plans for humanity.

• He makes it possible for God's mission to save his creation to be fulfilled.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

—Acts 16:31



#### Jesus

• As Lord, he sent his followers as ambassadors to carry on his will, to spread the good news that the kingdom of God had arrived.



Jesus and His Disciples



#### Church

- As the number of believers grew, Acts summarizes the life of this new community:
  - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles." —Acts 2:42–43



#### The Church is characterized by:



#### **Baptism**

- The powerful symbolism of baptism shapes the character and identity of the church.
- People in this new community are those who die and are born again, empowered and sealed by the Spirit.





#### **Baptism**

• This is a new identity; there is no longer Gentile or Jew, or any other social or biological characteristic that separates them. They are all united as one body.



"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."—Acts 2:38



#### Worship

- Worship is a visual declaration of our deepest beliefs.
- In worship, we express with our whole beings what is most important to us.





#### Worship

• Worship is also a humbling experience where we recognize our ultimate dependence on God.





#### **Fellowship**

- Fellowship with other believers flows from our fellowship with God.
- In the breaking of bread (likely including the Lord's Supper), fellowship became a central part of that community (Acts 2:42).





#### Instruction

- The church is *apostolic* because it is founded on the teachings of the apostles (Acts 2:42).
- They taught all that Jesus had taught them and what the Spirit revealed to them.



#### Mission

- The main reason for the existence of the church is God's mission.
- Through the church, God spreads his kingdom—already active but not yet completely here.

The church is God's active representative on earth.



# LEADERS IN ACTS

Peter Paul



- Leadership in the church was vital during the early formative years of the church.
- Although there were many leaders, Acts focuses on two main leaders:
  - Peter
  - Paul

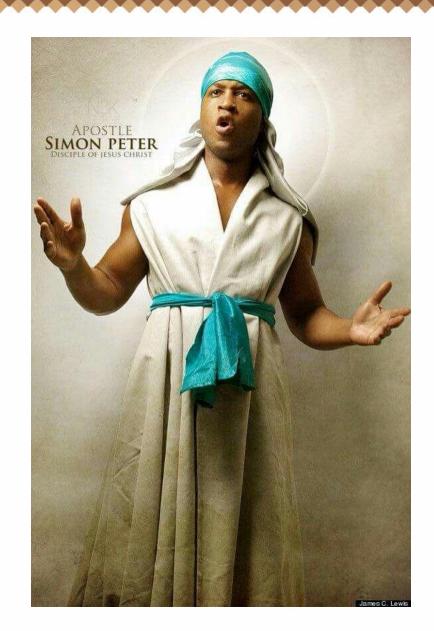


**Apostle Peter** 

**Apostle Paul** 



- Peter enters the scene first and dominates the book early on.
- The focus then shifts to Paul, and his story goes on much longer.



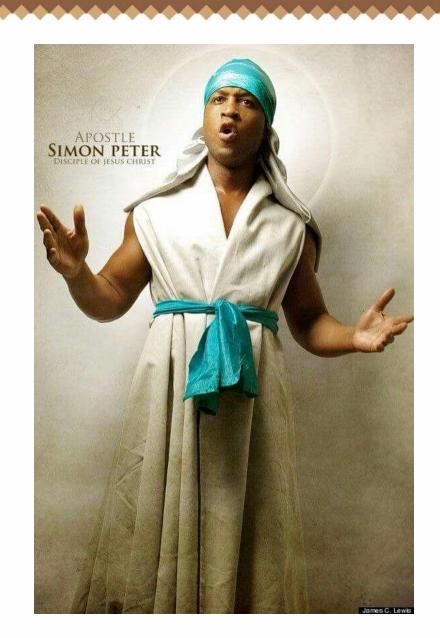
- Acts displays parallels between Peter and Paul which show that:
  - Peter and Paul are on equal footing.
  - Paul, although not an apostle when Jesus was on earth, became an apostle just like Peter.



ACTION	PETER	PAUL
Healed a lame man	3:2-8	14:8–10
Performed a miracle at a distance	5:15	19:12
Exorcised evil spirits	5:16	19:12
Defeated sorcerers	8:18–24	13:6–11
Raised the dead	9:36–43	20:9–12
Defended themselves against Jewish authorities	4:8–12; 5:27–32	23:3–21; 23:1– 6; 28:25–28
Received heavenly visions	10:9–16	16:9
Present when the Spirit came upon new believers	8:14–17	19:1–7
Miraculously released from prison	5:19; 12:7–11	16:25–27
Proclaimed the same message	2:27	13:35 BLISHING

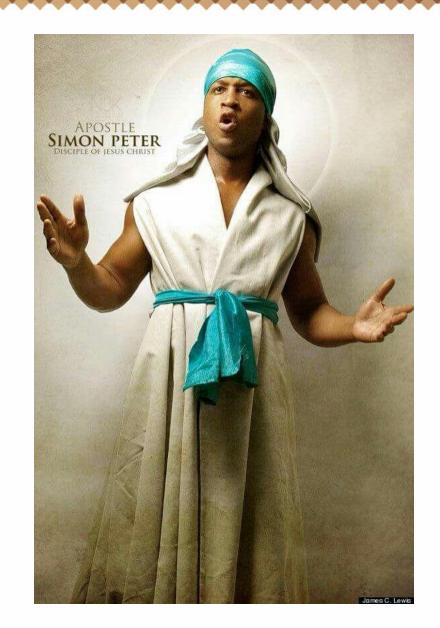
#### Who Was Peter?

- A fisherman and one of the first disciples Jesus called (Matthew 4:18).
- Left everything to follow Jesus (Luke 5:11).
- Also called Cephas meaning "rock" or "stone."



#### Who Was Peter?

• Jesus told him, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18).



#### Who Was Peter?

- Denied Jesus three times after Jesus was arrested (Luke 22:31–34).
- After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus restored Peter and commanded him to shepherd other believers (John 21:15–19).
- After Pentecost, Peter was the first to bring testimony of the resurrected Jesus (Acts 2:14–41).



#### Who Was Peter?

• According to tradition, Peter was crucified in Rome during Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians around AD 64–68.

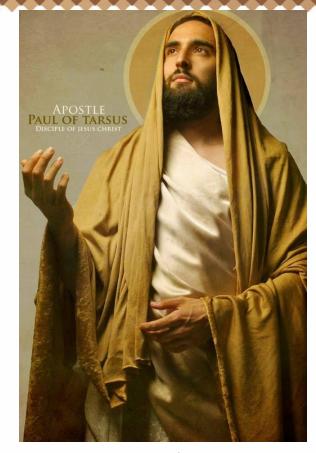


Crucifixion of Peter



#### Who Was Paul?

- From a well-respected family in Asia Minor (Turkey today) where his father was an official.
- His Jewish name was Saul.
- A deadly enemy of Christianity who was present at—and approved of—the first execution of a Christian leader: Stephen (Acts 7:58; 8:1).

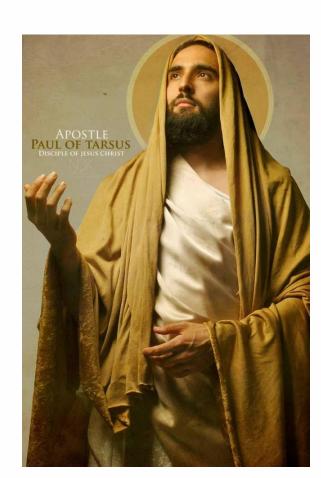


Paul



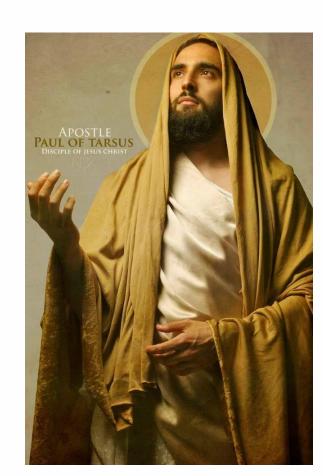
#### Who Was Paul?

- Had an encounter with the risen Jesus on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians (Acts 9:1–19).
- Became one of the greatest Christian missionaries of all time.



#### Who Was Paul?

- Authored more books of the Bible than anyone else.
- Was God's special representative to the Gentiles (Romans 11:3; Galatians 2:8).



#### Paul's Ministry

- In four recorded trips, Paul preached the gospel from Jerusalem to Philippi, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Rome, and back to Jerusalem.
- He planted new churches and trained new leaders.





#### Paul's Ministry

• His letters to churches continue to shape, inform, and nurture the faith of millions of believers today all over the world.

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

**Galatians** 

**Ephesians** 

**Philippians** 

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

**Titus** 

Philemon





#### Paul's Ministry

- Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome.
- According to tradition, Paul was martyred a few years after Acts was written, during Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome.



## Mission in Jerusalem

Chapters 1–7

**NEXT WEEK** 



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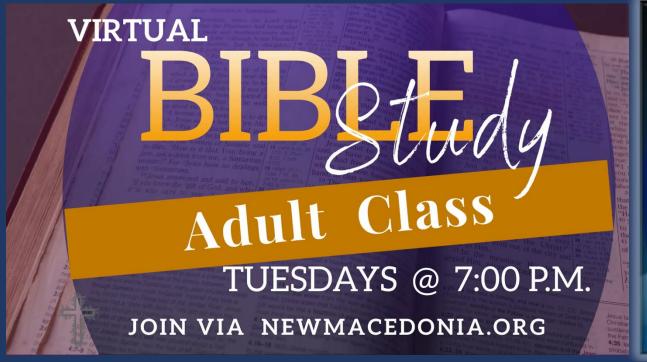


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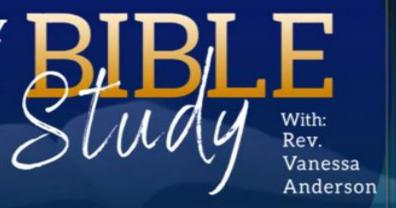




JOIN US FOR A "WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE"

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY 12:00 - 1:00 PM

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LOCATION: NEW MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, 7725 HIGHWAY 85, RIVERDALE, GA

# Pastor GERRY ANDERSON

**JUNE 2025 SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS** 

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church 2989 Double Church Road - Tyler, AL 36785 Sunday, June 15th @ 3:00PM

Travelers Rest Missionary Baptist Church 2112 Rex Road, Morrow, GA 30260

Wednesday, June 18th @ 7:00PM





# BABADEDICATION Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 22 @ 10AM Service



### 2026 Budget Deadline

All ministry budgets are due by June 30, 2025

Please E-mail: stewfin@newmacedonia.org

# JOIN THE NMBC UNITED BROTHERHOOD



PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE SECURITY DESK

# 2025 Mortgage Burning Pledge



The Goal = \$76,756.50 to pay off our mortgage by December 15, 2025

The Ask = \$512 pledge per household

For questions or info, contact the church @ 678-479-8190 or @ nmbapt@bellsouth.net

