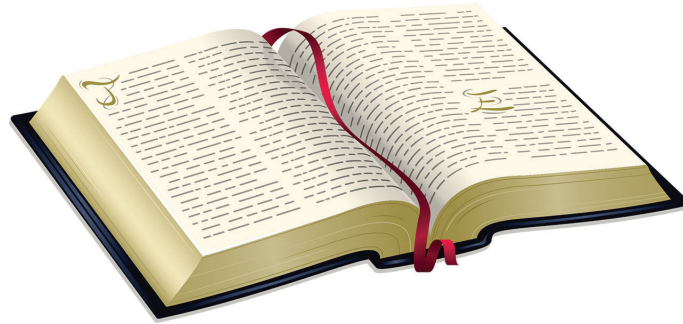


toServe Bible Study - WHS-07



Acts - Lesson 1 of 7

Answer Sheet for New International Version (NIV)

Chapters 1 - 4

The Book of Acts, which continues the narrative that Luke began in his gospel, is especially important because it was the first written history of the Christian church. Acts concerns the very vital period in Christian history between the resurrection of Jesus and the death of the apostle Paul, the time when Christian ideas and beliefs were being formulated and when the organization of the church into a worldwide movement was being developed. Only with knowledge of this background can we understand the writing of the Gospels, as well as the other New Testament literature that followed.

The book has been called "*The Acts of the Apostles*", really a misnomer because Acts has very little to say concerning most of the original Twelve Apostles. Peter's activities are described at some length, and John and Philip are mentioned, but more than half of the book is about Paul and his connection with the Christian movement.

The Book of Acts contains 28 chapters. Of these the first 12 report events between the time of Jesus' last meeting with his disciples and the beginning of Paul's work as a Christian missionary. The remaining 16 chapters describe Paul's activities, beginning with his mission to the church at Antioch and ending with an account of his residence in Rome as a prisoner of the Roman government.



Peter's sermon in the Temple - Acts 2:14-36, Acts 3:11-26

Chapter 1

Please read all of Acts Chapter 1 ☐ Check

Who was Theophilus?

It is interesting to note that around 26% of the New Testament was written to Theophilus in Luke's writings. Luke's desire was to prove to Theophilus the truth of Jesus the Messiah's life, death and resurrection.

The name Theophilus appears in only two places in the Bible, Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3. Luke wrote these two books around 61-63 AD which is during the time that the Apostle Paul was a prisoner in Rome and Luke was with him. (See 2 Timothy 4:11).

The name Theophilus is from the Greek word "theophilos" and means "friend of God" or "loved by God." The most common theory is that Theophilus was of high social standing and was a friend of Luke. In his Gospel Luke addressed Theophilus as "most excellent", which is a Roman title of respect and possibly of official importance.

1. (v. 1:3) Here we get an insight in what Jesus may have been teaching about during his last 40 days on earth, what was it?
and spoke about the kingdom of God.
2. (v. 1:4) What was the last commandment Christ gave His disciples?
Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised,
3. (vs. 1:4-5) Jesus commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the gift his Father promised, what was this gift? you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
4. (v. 1:6) During the last times Jesus gathered together with His apostles, what was the big question the apostles had for Jesus?
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"
5. (v. 1:7) How does Jesus tell the apostles when the Father will restore the kingdom of Israel? It is not for you to know the times
or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

6. (v. 1:11) According to this verse how will Jesus return to earth from heaven?
will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

7. (vs. 1:12-13) After Jesus ascended into heaven where did the apostles return to?
returned to Jerusalem
they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.

8. (vs. 1:15-16) Who first spoke/predicted of the deed that Judas did?
the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas,

Note: Verse 1:16 starts the first major sermon from the apostle Peter where he quotes from Psalms 69:25, and Psalms 109:8. The sermon lasts through verse 1:22. The sermon showed amazing leadership that was surely recognized by all that heard it. We will learn in chapter 4 all the heavy weights that were in his audience.

9. (vs. 1:16-20) It first appears that Judas Iscariot's purpose was to try and spoil God's plan for His Son Jesus, but in these verses, it clearly shows it wasn't to spoil the plan, but to fulfill prophecy. What are the three points of the Prophecy that David wrote in Psalms?

- 1) May his place be deserted
- 2) let there be no one to dwell in it
- 3) May another take his place of leadership

10. (vs. 1:21-22) After the betrayal and death of Judas Iscariot the apostles had to pick a replacement apostle. What was the main qualification listed in verse 22?
men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us,
beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us.

11. (v. 1:24) After deciding on Barsabbas and Matthias as candidates for apostleship what was the very first thing the apostles did before starting the process of election?
they prayed

Casting/Drew Lots Acts 1:26

The practice of casting lots is mentioned seventy times in the Old Testament and seven times in the New Testament. In spite of the many references to casting lots in the Old Testament, nothing is known about the actual lots themselves. They could have been sticks of various lengths, flat stones like coins, or some kind of dice; but their exact nature is unknown. The closest modern practice to casting lots is likely flipping a coin.

The New Testament nowhere instructs Christians to use a method similar to casting lots to help with decision-making. Now that we have the complete Word of God, as well as the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us, there is no reason to be using games of chance to make decisions. The Word, the Spirit, and prayer are sufficient for discerning God's will today—not casting lots, rolling dice or flipping a coin.

Chapter 2

Please read all of Acts Chapter 2 ☐ Check

Acts 2 is one of the most important chapters of Scripture. If you could only know one chapter of Scripture, Acts 2 may be the best one. It tells of the first preaching of the completed gospel of Christ. The gospel of Christ was not complete until the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven. And in Acts 2 we have the first preaching of an apostle after Jesus took His throne in heaven. It's a chapter full of evidence to substantiate who Jesus is and where He is. It's a chapter that tells how 3,000 souls were saved and how every lost soul from that time to now, and until Christ returns, can also be saved.

1. (v. 2:2) Where were the apostles when they first noticed that the Holy Spirit was coming? a house

2. (vs. 2:2-4) How did the Holy Spirit show Himself to those assembled on the day of Pentecost?

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire

that separated and came to rest on each of them.

11. (v. 2:42) What did the new believers devote themselves to?

the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

12. What was everyone in Jerusalem, who had received the Holy Spirit, doing as reported in verse 2:47?

praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

The Origins Of Pentecost

The historical and Biblical origins of what we know as Pentecost today can be found in Exodus 23:14-19, Leviticus 23:15-16 and Deuteronomy 16:10. One of 3 significant Jewish festivals, Pentecost is the Greek name for the Festival of Weeks, a prominent feast in the Jewish calendar that celebrated God giving them the 10 Commandments 50 days after the Exodus from Egypt. God instructed his people to celebrate the Festival of Weeks, which was to be held 7 full weeks (49 days) plus one day after Passover, equaling 50 days.

Also called the Feast of Harvest, this was when the Jews would present offerings of the first fruits of their spring crops. Jewish law required all adult Jewish men to come to Jerusalem from wherever they were living to personally be in attendance for the celebration.

The Holy Spirit Today

Because of Pentecost, Jesus can now be personally present with every believer around the globe, through his Holy Spirit. In fact, because the Holy Spirit dwells inside us (1 Cor. 3:16), it is something that can never be taken away. Jesus promised in John 14:26 that *the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

.

Chapter 3

Please read all of Acts Chapter 3 ☐ Check

1. (v. 3:6) When Peter and John went up to the temple they saw a lame man who was carried daily to the temple gate. When he saw Peter and John he expected to receive money. What did Peter say in response to him?

"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

Jewish Law on Prayer Times

Jewish law requires Jews to pray three times a day; the morning prayer is known as Shacharit, the afternoon prayer is known as Mincha, and the evening prayer is known as Maariv.

According to Jewish tradition, the prophet Abraham introduced Shacharit, the prophet Isaac introduced Mincha, and the prophet Jacob introduced Maariv.

2. (v. 3:6) Peter said to the beggar *"I do not have silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk"*.

What was the purpose of using; *In the name of Jesus Christ*? (see John 14:13)

And I will do whatever you ask in my name,

so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Peter's Second Sermon

Starting in the middle of Acts 3:11 Peter starts his second sermon with "Men of Israel".

Here, Peter is a bit more pointed than in his Pentecost sermon. He says that the people who are hearing the sermon are guilty of killing the Messiah. There are men in the audience who were for Barabbas rather than Jesus! Peter accuses the crowd and the Temple aristocracy of killing an innocent man who was vindicated by God by the resurrection and ascension.

It is also more pointed in its description of what will happen when they repent.

3. (vs. 3:11-12) After the lame man was healed why was Peter so quick to tell the crowd, *"Why are you staring at us"?*
Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

4. (v. 3:19) What is the first thing that Peter tells the crowd they must do to wipe away their sins?
Repent

5. (vs. 3:22-23) Here Peter is quoting Moses from Deuteronomy and Leviticus, that *"God will raise up a prophet like me from your countrymen"*.
What does God say will happen to the ones that will not listen to this Prophet?
(also see Leviticus 23:29)
Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.

6. (v. 3:25) How does Peter refer to the crowd?
you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers.

7. (v. 3:26) Quoting from the Old Testament in verse 3:25, it says "and in your seed ALL the families of the earth shall be blessed,
but in Acts 3:26 who does it say will be blessed first.
the Jewish people

Praying in Jesus' Name

In chapter 3 Prayer in Jesus' name is taught in John 14:13-14, *"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."* Some misapply this verse, thinking that saying "in Jesus' name" at the end of a prayer results in God always granting what is asked for. This is essentially treating the words "in Jesus' name" as a magic formula. This is absolutely unbiblical.

Praying in Jesus' name means praying with His authority and asking God the Father to act upon our prayers because we come in the name of His Son, Jesus. Praying in Jesus' name means the same thing as praying according to the will of God, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15). Praying in Jesus' name is praying for things that will honor and glorify Jesus.

Chapter 4

Please read all of Acts Chapter 4 ☐ Check

1. (v. 4:1) While Peter and John were speaking to the people, who were the three groups that confronted them?
 1. the priests
 2. the captain of the temple guard
 3. the Sadducees

2. (v. 4:4) What did it take for the 5,000 to become Christians?
many who heard the message believed;

3. (v. 4:7) After the high priest had Peter and John thrown in jail the high priest wanted to know two things about their sermon, what were they?
 1. By what power have you done this?
 2. By what name have you done this?

3. (vs. 4:8-10) Not that Peter believed this but what reason did Peter give the Jewish rulers and elders why he thought they were on trial?
If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man
who was lame and are being asked how he was healed

4. (v. 4:10) What reason did Peter give to the rulers and elders why the lame man was healed?
It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom
God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

5. (v. 4:11) Peter quotes Psalm 118:22, the prophesy that predicted what Jesus would become. (Make sure and read Psalm 118:22)
The prediction was that He was? the stone you builders rejected,
then became? the cornerstone.

6. (v. 4:13) What two things about Peter and John amazed/astonished/marveled the people, the priests, and the captain of the Temple as they were speaking?

1. unschooled, 2. ordinary men,

7. (vs. 4:15-17) In your own words, why do you think the religious leaders did not want to admit that they had just witnessed a miracle?

8. (v. 4:18-20) What response did Peter and John have for the religious leaders when they told them not to speak of this or teach in the name of Jesus?

"Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!"

9. (v. 4:21) As badly as the religious leaders wanted to punish John and Peter, why did they end up letting them go?

They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people

were praising God for what had happened.

10. (vs. 4:26-27) After the council, chief priest, and elders freed Peter and John they returned to the believers, they raised their voices together in prayer. Who all did they mention was against his Christ/Messiah/anointed one?

1. Herod 2. Pontius Pilate

3. the Gentiles 4. people of Israel

- 11.** The Book of Acts is known as the History Book of how Christianity spread throughout the region, country, and world. Verses 32 thru the end of Acts, Chapter 4 describes how this band of believers, new Christ followers, first prepared themselves for this task. Name the two main key factors in verse 4:32 that had to take place to get all this started.
1. one heart 2. one mind

As a modern day Christian, what does this mean to you?

It is good to know and understand that scripture does cover the issue of abuse when it comes to support and help to others.

But... A double portion of prayer should always be used when dealing with these issues.

Verse 4:35b They distributed to each as anyone had need:

Unfortunately, this generosity of the early Christians soon began to be abused.

Later the Apostle Paul taught regarding who should be helped and how they should be helped.

Paul's directions were that:

- The church must discern who the truly needy are (1 Timothy 5:3).
- If one can work to support himself, he is not truly needy and must provide for his own needs (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, 1 Timothy 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:11).
- If family can support a needy person, the church should not support them (1 Timothy 5:3-4).
- Those who are supported by the church must make some return to the church body (1 Timothy 5:5, 10).
- It is right for the church to examine moral conduct before giving support (1 Timothy 5:9-13).
- The support of the church should be for the most basic necessities of living (1 Timothy 6:8).

What Bible Version/Translation did you use for this Lesson?

ESV ☐, KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: _____

This way we know what Version/Translation to use when grading.

Use the space below for any questions or comments:

RETURN COMPLETED LESSON TO:

toServe Ministry

PO Box 2945

Weatherford, TX 76086

Date Completed: _____ / _____ / _____

Your Name: _____ ID #: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____