



# Acts: A Time Line of the NT Church



## The Outline & Structure of Acts:

### **Acts 1:8 (ESV)**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses .... (Acts 1,2)*

*in Jerusalem (Acts 3-6)*

Summary: Acts 6:7

*and in all Judea and Samaria, (Acts 6-12)*

Summaries Acts 9:31; 12:24

*and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 13-28)*

Summaries: Acts 16:5; 19:20, 28:30-31

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*Luke gives reliable narrative history selected and arranged for theological purposes. He focuses on Peter (1-12), then on Paul (ch 13-14).*

### Themes in Acts

*The Holy Spirit at work  
God's Sovereignty*

*The Church*

*Prayer and Witness*

*Salvation*

*Persecution and Suffering  
Gospel to the Gentiles*

## **Early Church in Jerusalem**

(Acts 2-8:3)

**30 A.D.** Jesus' Ascension & Pentecost  
Beginnings of the church  
Ministry and growth  
Boldness, Arrests and deliverance

## **Persecution and Expansion**

(Acts 8:4-12:25)

Martyrdom of Stephen – Saul rages  
Philip in Samaria  
Holy Spirit falls on Samaritans 8:14ff

**ca. 33–36 A.D.** Conversion of Paul  
Paul in Cilicia & Syria

**35 A.D.** Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26–30)

Caligula Emperor of Rome **37–41 A.D.**

**39 A.D.** Herod Antipas exiled to Gaul

**40 A.D.** Conversion of Cornelius  
Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles Acts 10:44f

Church in Antioch founded – Barnabas and Paul minister there.

Claudius Emperor of Rome **41–54 A.D.**

**44 A.D.** Martyrdom of James; Death of Herod Agrippa

46 A.D. Paul's Second Jerusalem Visit

## **1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey**

**47 A.D.** (Acts 13:1–14:28)

**47–48 A.D.** Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus, John Mark's desertion (13:13)

Paul and Barnabas in Asia: Pisidia, Iconium, and Lystra

**49 A.D.** Paul writes **Galatians** (?)

Paul and Barnabas sent to Jerusalem.  
Titus, a Gentile, taken along

**Council in Jerusalem** (Acts 15:1–35)

**49 A.D.** Jews Expelled from Rome  
Aquila and Priscilla move to Corinth

### Major Speeches in Acts:

*Peter at Pentecost: 2:14-41*

*Peter at Solomon's Portico 3:11-26*

*Stephen's speech 7:2-53*

*Peter Cornelius 10:34-43; 11:4-18*

*Paul in Antioch 13:16-47*

*Paul in Athens 17:22-32*

*Paul to Ephesian elders 20:17-35*

*Paul in Jerusalem 22:1-21*

*Paul before Felix 24:10-21*

*Paul before Agrippa 26:1-31*

*Luke uses numerous summaries of speeches to tell of the story of God's expanding work of Salvation.  
Almost 1/3 of Acts are speeches.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey**

49 A.D. (Acts 15:36–18:22)

Paul and Barnabas split over Mark's desertion

**49–50 A.D.** Paul & Silas travel from Syrian Antioch through Asia Minor to Macedonia & Achaia

Paul joined by Timothy at Derbe  
The Macedonian Call, Paul joined by Luke at Troas.

Paul at Philippi (Luke remained there), then to Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus.

**50 A.D.** Paul's writes **Thessalonians**

**50–52 A.D.** Paul in Corinth

Gallo proconsul of Achaia (**51–52 A.D.**)

Felix procurator of Judea (**52–50 A.D.**)

Paul's Third Jerusalem Visit (April–Summer)

**Gospel of Mark** written **ca 50-65**  
possibly in Rome. John Mark worked with both Peter and Paul in their ministries.

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*Five summaries of the Growing Church:  
Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24, 16:5, 19:20*

### 3rd Missionary Journey

52 A.D. (Acts 18:23–21:26)

52–55 A.D. Paul Returns to Ephesus

54 A.D. Nero Emperor of Rome (54–68 AD)

Apollos's ministry in Ephesus and Corinth

55–57 A.D. Paul in Macedonia, Illyricum & Achaia

Paul's Letters to **Corinthians** (55–56 AD)

**Early 57 AD** Paul's Letter to **Romans**

Paul takes the offering for Jerusalem from Macedonia (joined by Luke at Phillipi)

**May of 57 A.D.**

Paul's Fourth & Last Jerusalem Visit

57 A.D. Festus succeeds Felix as procurator of Judea

57–59 A.D. Paul's Imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 23:11–26:32)

**Gospel of Luke** Possibly written at this time

59 A.D. **September**

Nero murders his mother Agrippina

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*The Book of Acts is a defense of Christianity. Luke uses Paul's trials – the last third of the book as an apologetic to the Gospel.*

### Paul's Voyage to Rome

60 A.D. February (Acts 27–28)

Paul shipwrecked at Malta  
Paul's arrival in Rome

Paul's Letters to **Philippians, Colossians, Ephesus, Philemon**

60–62 A.D. Paul under house arrest in Rome

62 A.D. Death of Festus; Albinus procurator of Judea

Death of James, half-brother of Jesus and head of the Jerusalem Church by the high priest Ananus II

60-62 A.D. : Luke writes **Acts**

Acts ends with Paul preaching “*without hindrance*” in Rome

### After Acts: Paul and Peter

**Gospel of Matthew** written ca. 63-66?

63–65 or 66 A.D. Paul released from prison ? Paul visits Spain ?

64 A.D. July fire of Rome Christians blamed

60-65 A.D. : John writes 1, 2, and 3 **John**.

63-66 A.D. : Paul writes 1 **Timothy** and **Titus** from Macedonia.

64 A.D. : Peter writes 1 **Peter**.

64-68 A.D. : Peter writes 2 **Peter**.

65 or 66 A.D. The apostle Paul writes 2 **Timothy** while imprisoned in Rome.

Peter and Paul are believed to have been martyred in **late 67 or early 68 A.D.**

### After Acts: John

66 A.D. Jewish War Begins

68 A.D. Death of Nero (June) Galba emperor (68-69 A.D.)

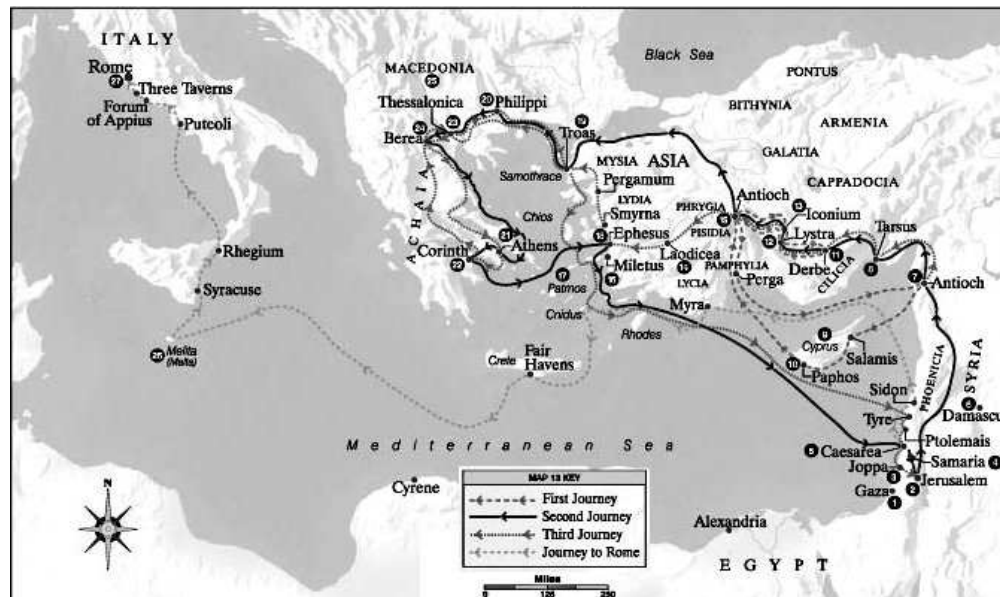
68-69 A.D. : An unknown person writes the book of **Hebrews**. (Apollos?)

70 A.D. Fall of Jerusalem

67-80 A.D. : **Jude** writes his letter.

85-95 A.D. : The **Gospel of John**

95-96 A.D. : The apostle John writes the book of **Revelation** while in exile on the island of Patmos.



### Interpreting Acts

- Look for what Luke intended to communicate to his readers
- Look for positive and negative examples in the characters of the story
- Read individual passages in the light of the overall story of Acts and the rest of the New Testament
- Look to other parts of Acts to clarify what is normative or merely descriptive
- Look for repeated patterns and themes