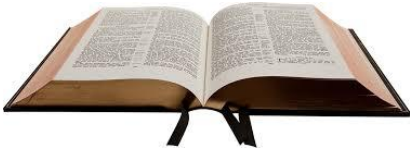


# BIBLE STUDY

## THE BOOK OF ACTS



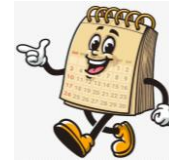
### Where in the Bible?



- Preceded by the Gospel according to St. John
- Followed by the Epistle to the Romans



The writer is St. Luke



### Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ He was a physician and a skilled painter; he painted the icon of St. Mary.
- ❖ He was St. Paul's companion in many of his missionary trips.
- ❖ He addressed his book to Theophilus, a name which means "the lover of God".
- ❖ The symbol of St. Luke is the ox.
- ❖ He also wrote the Gospel according to St. Luke.
- ❖ The Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist on 22 Babah of the Coptic calendar (November 1<sup>st</sup>).
- ❖ His name means "Bringer of Light".

### How Fast Did The Early Church Grow?



**First** – Acts 1:14-15 → 120 believers ONLY  
**Then** – Acts 2:41 → 3,000 souls added in ONE day!

**Still** – Acts 4:4 → 5,000 men plus women and children

**And** – Acts 5:14 → More added

**Finally** – Acts 6:1-7 → Multiplied greatly

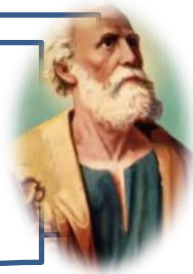
- ❖ Details the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome.
- ❖ It is the record of the birth and growth of the early church and the acts of the apostles.
- ❖ It begins with Jesus' ascension and ends with St. Paul 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment in Rome.
- ❖ It is the only unfinished book in the Bible because the church is still expanding.
- ❖ It is the book of the Holy Spirit.

# Book of Acts (Cont.)

## M A N N I S T I O N S

**PETER** One of the 12 disciples.

- 3,000 believed after his sermon on the day of the Pentecost.
- Was the disciple of the Jews.
- The first 12 chapters of the book of Acts talk about his work in the church.

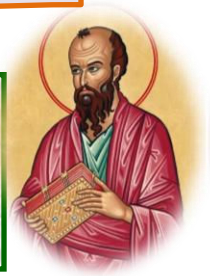


**STEPHEN**

- Was one of the 7 men whom God's people chose to become a deacon.
- He was the very first martyr.

**PAUL** Was a man who persecuted the Christians, (Saul).

- Jesus appeared to him on his way to Damascus.
- Was the disciple of the Gentiles.
- The last 12 chapters of the book of Acts talk about his missionary work.

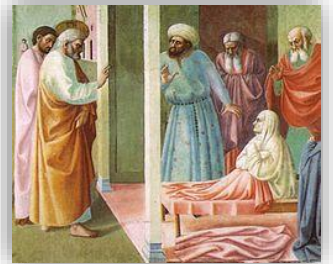


**LYDIA**

A business lady who sold purple cloth.  
The first one to believe in Europe.

**TABITHA** A disciple whose name translated into "Dorcas", a woman of good deeds who lived in Joppa.

St. Peter raised her from the dead.



## Did You Know?

The Book of Acts

- is a book of prayer, contains 18 prayers
- is a book of preaching, contains 18 sermons
- records the 1<sup>st</sup> Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

The title of the Book of Acts comes from the Greek word "**Praxis**" meaning "doing" .  
It is read during the Divine Liturgy and talks about the early Church and the apostles' actions

## Book of Acts (Cont.)

# Outlines



**Chapters 1-6:7** –Mattias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the 12 Apostles. Details the events that surround Jerusalem and the birth of the early church. St. Peter’s sermon on the Feast of the Pentecost to all the Jews and converts 3000 souls.

*Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” Acts 3:6*



**Chapters 6:8-9:31** –Philip travelled down to Samaria, “and began proclaiming Christ to them”.

He also preached about Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch who was reading the **book of Isaiah** and baptized him. Stephen is falsely accused of blasphemy and stoned to death while he preaches to the religious leaders.

Stephen’s executioners laid their robes at the feet of a young persecutor named Saul, who would soon become known as “**St. Paul the Apostle**”



*“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” Acts 9:4*

**Chapters 9:32-12:24** - King Herod began to persecute some believers in the church. He had the apostle James killed with a sword (1<sup>st</sup> Apostle to be martyred).

Peter received a revelation that the Gospel was also to be shared among the Gentiles. Cornelius, a Roman commander believed, Saul (the persecutor) has become a passionate follower of Christ and immediately begins preaching the Gospel. We also find that the term “**Christians**” is first used in Antioch.



# Outlines

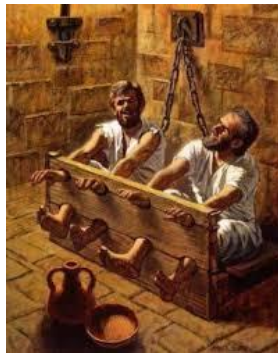


**Chapters 12:25-16:5** - The Gospel is shared with the Gentiles in a different region outside Jerusalem. Saul changes his Hebrew name to Paul, a Greek name, meaning **“Small”**. St. Paul and Barnabas begin their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journeys to the Gentile world with both success and opposition.



**Chapters 16:6-19:20** - After they are forbidden to enter Asia, St. Paul receives a vision to go to Macedonia. He and Silas went to preach the Gospel message in the Gentile European regions. They were placed in prison. They sang hymns and prayed. An earthquake occurred, shaking the prison foundations, opening all doors, and loosening everyone's chains. The jailer, intending to commit suicide assuming the prisoners had escaped, was stopped by Paul. The jailer and his family were baptized that night.

*“Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.”*  
*Acts 27:24*



**Chapters 19:21-28** - St. Paul travels to Jerusalem where he is arrested, followed by a difficult trip to Rome where he is put on trial. When he arrives, he is put on house arrest. The book of Acts abruptly ends without describing the events of his trial before Caesar.

**WHY?**

- To record early church history and show that the Gospel is based on historical facts.
- To show that the Gospel applied to all nations and classes of people.
- To show how the first Christians kept a strong faith despite all sorts of difficult circumstances.

*The word of the Lord shall grow and multiply in this church and every church. Amen*