

# Structure of the Book of Acts

Galen Currah, 19 November 2021

## I. Jesus promises power for witness to the nations 1:1-11

A. The Holy Spirit will come with power for witness. 1:1-8

B. Jesus is exalted into heaven. 1:9-11

*Summary:* “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (1:11).

## II. The apostles witness in Jerusalem and Judea 1:12–6:7

A. The church in Jerusalem is planted 1:12–2:47

1. The Lord chooses a twelfth apostle 1:12-30
2. Jews are baptized in the Holy Spirit 2:1-13
3. Peter preaches the gospel to Israelites 2:14-36
4. The apostles plant churches in Jerusalem 2:37-47

*Summary:* “The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (2:47).

B. The church in Jerusalem expands 3:1–6:7

1. Peter preaches the gospel in the temple 3:1-26
2. Jewish authorities oppose the apostles 4:1-31
3. The Jerusalem church fears the Lord 4:32–5:11
4. Jewish authorities are jealous of the apostles 5:12-42
5. The Jerusalem church chooses spiritual leaders 6:1-7

*Summary:* “So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith” (6:7).

## III. Believers witness in Judea and Samaria 6:8–9:31

A. Jewish authorities murder Stephen and launch a pogrom 6:8–8:1a

1. Stephen is arrested 6:8-7:15
2. Stephen addresses Jewish leaders 7:1-53
3. Saul and other Jews martyr Stephen 7:54–8:1a

*Summary:* “There arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles” (8:1b).

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### B. Philip preaches the gospel beyond Jerusalem 8:1b-40

1. Jewish authorities launch a pogrom 8:1b-3
2. Philip preaches the gospel in Samaria 8:4-13
3. Samaritans are baptized in the Holy Spirit 8:14-25
4. Philip preaches the gospel to an Ethiopian 8:26-40

*Summary:* "Philip preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea" (8:40).

### C. Jesus appoints Saul (=Paul) an apostle to the Gentiles 9:1-31

1. Saul is conversion and commissioned 9:1-19a
2. Saul preaches the gospel 9:19b-30
3. The church enjoys a season of peace 9:31

*Summary:* "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord" (9:31).

## IV. The apostles witness to Gentiles 9:32–14:28

### A. Gentiles believe the gospel and are saved 9:32–11:18

1. Peter ministers in Lydda and Joppa 9:32-43
2. Peter preaches the gospel to a Gentile household 10:1-43
3. The Gentiles are baptized in the Holy Spirit 10:44-48
4. The Jewish church acknowledges that Gentiles are converted. 11:1-18

*Summary:* "To the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life" (11:18)

### B. The Syrian Antioch church is planted, and the Jerusalem church is persecuted 11:19–12:24

1. Believers preach the gospel, and Saul teaches, at Antioch 11:19-30
2. The political authority persecutes the Jerusalem church, and is judged 12:1-24

*Summary:* "The word of God continued to increase and spread" (12:24).

### C. Barnabas and Saul plant churches in Cyprus and in Asia Minor 12:25–16:5

1. The Antioch church commissions Barnabas and Saul 12:25–13:3
2. Saul and Barnabas preach the gospel in Cyprus 13:4-12
3. Saul and Barnabas preach the gospel in Asia Minor 13:13–14:20
4. Paul and Barnabas' report to the Syrian Antioch church 14:21-28

*Summary:* "God ... had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" (14:28).

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### V. The Jerusalem church affirms the conversion of Gentiles 15:1-16:5

#### A. The apostles and the elders convene a council in Jerusalem 15:1-35

1. Must Gentiles first become Jewish to be saved? 15:1-5
2. The apostles and elder affirm Gentile salvation 15:6-21
3. The apostles and the elders send a message to Gentile churches 15:22-35

*Summary:* "Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord" (15:35).

#### B. Paul forms another missionary team 15:36–16:5

1. Paul parts with Barnabas and partners with Silas 15:36-41
2. Paul recruits Timothy 16:1-5

*Summary:* "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (16:5).

### VI. Paul preaches the gospel to the Greeks 16:6–19:20

#### A. Paul preaches the gospel in Macedonia 16:6–17:15

1. Paul is called to Macedonia 16:6-10
2. A Greek woman's household believes 16:11-15
3. A Greek official's household believes 16:16-40
4. Paul preaches the gospel in Greek cities 17:1-13

*Summary:* "The word of God had been proclaimed by Paul" (7:13).

#### B. Paul preaches the gospel in Achaia 17:14–18:17

1. Paul preaches the gospel in Athens 17:14-34
2. Paul preaches the gospel in Corinth 18:1-17

*Summary:* "Gallio was not concerned about any of these things" (18:17).

#### C. Paul preaches the gospel in Asia 18:18-20:20

1. Paul departs for Antioch 18:18-23
2. Apollos comes to Ephesus 18:24-28
3. The disciples of John are baptized in the Holy Spirit 19:1-10
4. The Name of Jesus proves stronger than evil spirits. 19:11-20

*Summary:* "In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (19:20).

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### D. Opposition grows against Paul 9:21–20:38

1. Ephesian pagans riot and bring charges against Paul. 19:21-41
2. Jews plot against Paul 20:1-6
3. Paul leaves for Jerusalem, raises Eutychus from death, along the way 20:7-16
4. Paul exhorts the Ephesian elders, along the way 20:17-38

*Summary:* “They would not see his face again” (20:38).

## VII. Paul preaches the gospel to the Romans 21:15–28:31

### A. Romans arrest Paul in Jerusalem 21:15–23:11

1. Paul confers with church elders 21:15-26
2. Romans arrest Paul near the temple 21:27-36
3. Paul preaches to Jews 21:37–22:22
4. Romans detain Paul. 22:23-29
5. Paul appears before a Jewish council 22:30–23:11

*Summary:* “As you have testified to the truth about Me in Jerusalem, so you must testify in Rome also” (23:11).

### B. Paul preaches the gospel to Roman authorities in Caesarea 23:12–26:32

1. Romans send Paul to Caesarea 23:12-35
2. Paul makes his defense before Felix who leaves him in prison 24:1:27
3. Paul, before Festus, appeals to Caesar 25.1–26:32

*Summary:* “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar” (26:32).

### C. Paul preaches the gospel on his way to Rome 27:1–28:10

1. Paul preaches to ship’s officers and crew 27:1-44
2. Paul preaches to officials and residents of Malta 28:1-10

*Summary:* “They supplied us with everything we needed” (28:10).

### D. Paul preaches the gospel in Rome 28:11-31

1. Paul preaches to Roman Jews 28:11-28
2. Paul preaches to all who come to him 28:30-31

*Summary:* “Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance” (28:31).