

Acts of the Apostles

- **Author**
 - Luke
 - Continuity between his Gospel and the Acts is very apparent in style, vocabulary and doctrinal themes, as well as the explicit connection in 1:1.
- **Date**
 - Written between 62 and 64 in Rome before execution of Paul and after writing of his Gospel.
- **Structure**
 - ¼ is made up of speeches
 - Roughly first half focuses on Peter and second half on Paul
 - Fast paced theological history of the first four decades of the Church
 - Bearing out of our Lord's words, "*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth*" (1:8).
- **Themes**
 - The Gospel of the Holy Spirit
 - Referred to 57 times
 - No distinction or partiality between Jew and Gentile
 - Acts 11:12; 15:9; Romans 10:12
 - This would have been an especially important theme for Luke to develop having been Paul's disciple, and having been a Gentile himself.
 - See also: Exodus 8:23; Leviticus 11:47; 20:26
 - Sacraments:
 - Baptism (Pentecost 2:38; Ethiopian Eunuch (8:26ff); Cornelius (chap. 10); etc.
 - Eucharist (2:42,46; 20:7-11)
 - Confirmation (8:15-17)
 - Life of the early Church
 - "*They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*" (2:42) (also see Luke 24:35)
 - Unity (4:31)

- Constant prayer (9:40; 12:5; 16:25; 28:8)
 - Sharing of property (2:44-45)
- Hierarchical structure of the Church
 - Bishops ('episcopoi' 1:20)
 - Elders (referred to 10 times)
 - Deacons (6:1ff)
- Peter's role
 - Main actor in the first half
 - Initiates replacement of Judas by Matthias (1:15ff)
 - Preaching the Gospel
 - Pentecost (2:14ff)
 - Solomon's Portico (3:11ff)
 - Defending the Church
 - Before the Council of Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (4:8ff)
 - Against the abuses of Ananias and Sapphira (5:1ff)
 - Before the Council of Jewish leaders a second time (5:27ff)
 - Against the wiles of Simon the Magician (8:18ff)
 - Healing and raising the dead
 - Lame man in the Temple (3:1ff)
 - Many others seeking even the shadow of Peter (5:15)
 - Aeneas the paralytic (9:32-35)
 - Raising of Tabitha from the dead (9:36ff)
 - Baptism of Cornelius (10:1ff)
 - Main spokesman of the Apostles (e.g. Council of Jerusalem (chap. 15).
- Paul's role
 - Three missionary journey's
 - Instigating of the Council of Jerusalem (15)
- Connection between Joshua and Acts
 - Joshua = Jesus
 - Joshua comes right after the 5 books of Moses (Pentateuch)
 - Acts come right after the 4 Gospels
 - Political VS Spiritual conquest
 - One based on the Law of Moses and the other based on Christ
 - 12 Tribes VS 12 Apostles
 - The horns around Jericho like the proclamation of the Gospel