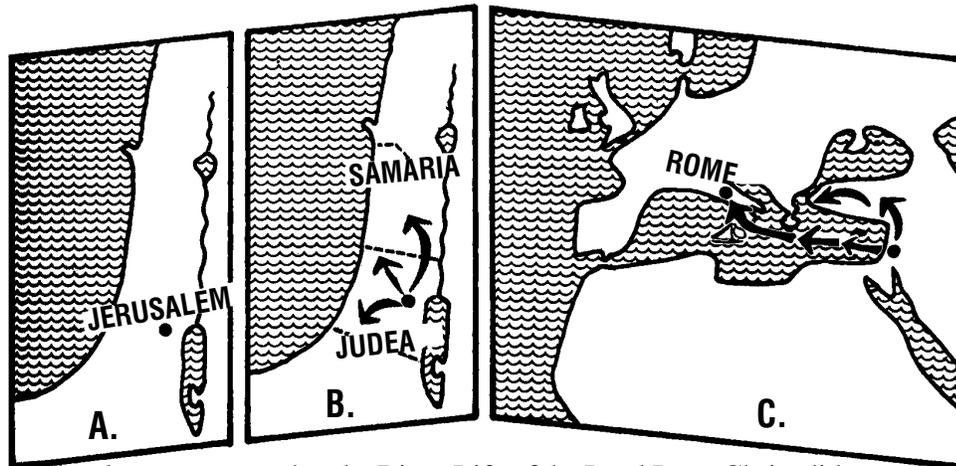


Lesson 3A

The Book of Acts (Acts 1:8)



1. In our last lesson we saw that the Risen Life of the Lord Jesus Christ did not end in Matthew 28. From the day of Pentecost until the present, the Lord has continued his ministry by means of the _____ who is at work in believers.
2. The story of the Risen Life of Jesus Christ is continued in the New Testament in the book which is called the Acts of the Apostles.
This lesson will briefly introduce you to this book.
 - a) The book begins with an account of the last of the ten appearances of the risen Christ. Which appearance is this? At the _____.
 - b) In which verse in Acts 1:6-11 does Jesus refer to his continuing ministry through the disciples, in the power of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:_____.



Acts 1:8 is the key verse in the book of Acts, for two reasons:

- A. *It gives us the main divisions of the Acts.*
- B. *It gives us two of the key words in the Acts.*

Answers

1. Holy Spirit
2. a) ascension
b) Acts 1:8

A. ACTS 1:8 -THE THREE MAIN DIVISIONS OF THE ACTS

3. We can divide the book of Acts into three main parts. These three divisions give us the three stages in the growth of the church from its beginning. All three divisions are given in the key verse of Acts.
- a) In what city did the church begin? _____
Which of the maps on the Title Page shows this? Map _____.
- b) Into which two provinces did the church later spread?
_____ and _____.
Which of the maps on the Title Page shows this? Map _____.
- c) And where did the church finally spread? _____
Which of the maps on the Title Page shows this? Map _____.
4. So then, it is easy to see the three divisions of the book of Acts in the key verse of Acts 1:8. These divisions are:
1. The church in _____.
 2. The church in the provinces of _____ and _____.
 3. The church in the ends of the _____, or as we call it, to a _____
n_____.
5. Into how many parts can the book of Acts be divided? _____
6. Let us look at the first division by noting the place where the church started. Read Acts 1.
- a) Where were the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father, according to Acts 1:4? _____
- b) According to verse 12, where did they go in obedience to this command? _____
- c) So the first division of Acts tells the story of the church in Jerusalem. It begins in chapter _____.
7. **Exercise:** Write “Jerusalem” over Acts 1:1 in your Bible.

Answers

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|--------------|
| 3. | a) Jerusalem/ A | 4. | 1. Jerusalem | 6. | a) Jerusalem |
| | b) Judea and Samaria/ B | | 2. Judea and Samaria | | b) Jerusalem |
| | c) The ends of the earth/ C | | 3. earth/ all nations | | c) 1 |
| | | 5. | 3 | | |

8. Now read Acts 8:1. This describes the way in which the believers were scattered throughout Palestine in all directions.
- The believers scattered because of p_____.
 - Into which provinces did they scatter? _____ and _____.
 - According to Acts 8:4, what did they do after they had been scattered? _____
 - This then reveals the second division in the book of Acts. It tells us about the history of the church in Judea and Samaria, which begins in chapter _____ of Acts.
9. **Exercise:** Write “Judea and Samaria” above Acts 8:1 in your Bible.
10. Acts 13:1-4 tells us about the commissioning of two missionaries to foreign ministry. These two men were used by God to extend the church of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.
- What church sent these two men out (Acts 13:1)? _____
 - What were their names? _____ and _____.
 - What was Saul’s other name (Acts 13:9)? _____
 - Did they travel by land or by sea, according to Acts 13:4? _____
11. **Exercise:** Write “Ends of the Earth” in your Bible over Acts 13:1.
12. In this chapter we come to the beginning of the third and last division of the book of Acts. It takes us to the ends of the earth.
- In what chapter of Acts does this third division begin? Acts _____.
 - In what chapter of Acts does it end? Acts _____.
 - In what city is Paul found in this final chapter? _____
13. Now let us take a closer look at our analysis of Acts. From the facts that we already know we can work out an outline of the book.
- The **first** division, which tells about the growth of the church in Jerusalem, begins in chapter _____ and ends in chapter _____.
 - The **second** division continues the story of the growth of the church in Judea and Samaria and is told in chapters _____ to _____.
 - The **third** division tells of the growth of the church to the ends of the earth, in chapters _____ to _____.

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 8. a) persecution | 10. a) Antioch | 12. a) 13 |
| b) Judea and Samaria | b) Barnabas and Saul | b) 28 |
| c) They preached the word | c) Paul | c) Rome |
| d) 8 | d) By sea | 13. a) 1/7 |
| | | b) 8/12 |
| | | c) 13/28 |

14. We have seen that the key verse in Acts gives us an outline analysis for the whole book. What is the reference of the key verse? _____
15. **Exercise:** In Acts 1:8, underline in blue “*Jerusalem*”, “*Judea and Samaria*”, and “*the ends of the earth*”. Now take the time to memorise Acts 1:8.
16. Fill in this chart to complete the analysis of Acts:

The Growth of the Church	Chapters in Acts
1. _____	_____ to _____
2. _____	_____ to _____
3. _____	_____ to _____

17. It is important to notice two facts about the book of Acts.
- a) What church was being established in the first two chapters?
The church in _____.
- b) What church is described in the last chapter of the book?
The church in _____.



Remember that we said there were two reasons why Acts 1:8 was the key verse of this book.

A. It gives the main divisions of the book.

B. It gives two of the key words in the book.

Now let’s consider these key words.

B. ACTS 1:8. THE TWO KEY WORDS OF ACTS

18. The first of the key words appears more than 50 times in the book of Acts. It has appeared four times already in Acts 1:2,5,8 and 16.
- a) Read all of these verses and then write the key words (there are two in the phrase) which appear in all of these verses. _____
- b) The second key word appears more than 20 times in Acts. Read the following verses to discover what it is: Acts 1:8, 22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32.
What is this second key word? _____

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 14. Acts 1:8 | 17. a) Jerusalem | 18. a) Holy Spirit |
| 16. 1. Jerusalem/1 to 7 | b) Rome | b) Witnesses |
| 2. Judea and Samaria/8 to 12 | | |
| 3. The ends of the earth/
13 to 28 | | |

19. **Exercise:** Draw a blue circle around the words “Holy Spirit” and “witnesses” in Acts 1:8.
20. Acts 1:8 is the key verse in Acts because it gives us:
- the three main _____ of Acts.
 - the two k_____ w_____ of Acts.
21. Identify the divisions of Acts by completing the following:
- _____ Acts _____ to _____.
 - _____ Acts _____ to _____.
 - _____ Acts _____ to _____.
22. The history of the early church in Acts begins with the story of the church in
- _____ and ends in the last chapter with the church in
 - _____.
23. a) What is the key verse in Acts? _____
- b) List the two reasons why Acts 1:8 is the key verse.
- _____
 - _____
- c) What are the key words in Acts?
- _____
 - _____
24. The two key words in Acts are the “**Holy Spirit**” and “**witnesses**”. Let us take a minute at this point to see how our risen Lord continued his ministry here on earth, through his Holy Spirit working in the lives of **witnesses**.
- According to Acts 2:38 and 41, who was the first witness to announce the gospel and open the door of the kingdom to the **Jews**? _____
 - Now read Acts 10:44-45. Who opened the door of the kingdom to the **Gentiles**? _____
 - Who was given the keys of the kingdom and had the privilege of being the first to see people enter the kingdom because of his testimony (Matthew 16:19)? _____

Answers

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 20. a) divisions | 22. a) Jerusalem | 24. a) Peter |
| b) key words | b) Rome | b) Peter |
| 21. 1. Jerusalem/ 1 to 7 | 23. a) Acts 1:8 | c) Peter |
| 2. Judea and Samaria/ 8 to 12 | b) 1. It gives the three main divisions | |
| 3. Ends of the earth/ 13 to 28 | 2. It gives the two key words | |
| | c) 1. Holy Spirit | |
| | 2. Witnesses | |

25. Acts 1 to 12 tells the story of many witnesses, like John, Stephen, Philip, and Paul. However, one witness stands out above all the rest in these **first two sections of Acts**. The first two divisions of Acts have to do mostly with the witness of the apostle _____.
26. On the other hand, the third and last part of Acts, chapters 13 to 28, tells the story of the growth of the church to the ends of the earth. The witness who stands out in this part of Acts through his missionary trips and the final journey to Rome as a prisoner is the apostle _____.
27. So the book of Acts describes the ministries of two main witnesses.
- Chapters 1 to 12 tell of the ministry of _____.
 - Chapters 13 to 28 tell of the ministry of _____.
28. If we are to complete our introduction to the book of Acts we must consider the ministry of yet another witness. This person is not mentioned in the book of Acts itself, yet he accompanied Paul on many of his missionary journeys as a true witness of Jesus. This man was the author of Acts. Let's see who he is. We will begin our investigation into the authorship of Acts by reading Acts 1:1.
- According to this verse, to whom was this book written? _____
 - Was this the only book which had been written to this person? _____
 - What was the other book about (Acts 1:1)? _____
29. The books of the New Testament that deal with the things Jesus did and taught are, of course, the four Gospels. So let's take a look at the introduction to each of these to see if one was also written to a disciple called Theophilus. Read the following verses and, if you find such a verse, check it.
- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Matthew 1:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Luke 1:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Mark 1:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> d. John 1:1 |
30. So it is pretty clear that the author of Acts is the same as for the third Gospel, that is a)_____. We know this because both Acts and this Gospel were written to a man named b)_____.

Answers

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 25. Peter | 28. a) Theophilus | 29. c. |
| 26. Paul | b) No | 30. a) Luke |
| 27. a) Peter | c) All that Jesus began to do | b) Theophilus |
| b) Paul | and to teach | |

31. So both the Gospel of Luke and Acts were written by _____.
32. What two verses show that Luke and Acts were written by the same man?
Luke 1:_____ and Acts 1:_____.
33. Historical documents which date from as far back as 100 to 200 A.D. show that Luke had always been regarded as the author of Acts.
The apostle Paul talked about him in several of his letters as a faithful companion.
- a) According to Colossians 4:14, what was Luke's profession? _____
- b) Paul also talked about Luke in his short letter to Philemon.
In verse 24 of that letter Paul called Luke a _____.
34. In Acts 16:10, Luke describes Paul's trip to Macedonia. He writes, "**WE** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia."
The use of the pronoun "**WE**" in this verse must mean that:
- a. the author was present also.
- b. there was only one person present.
- c. the author was already in Macedonia.
35. The pronoun "**WE**" is in the first person **plural**, and indicates that the writer was present. In which of the following verses does the use of "**WE**" indicate that Luke was present?
- a. Acts 16:10 d. Acts 21:17
- b. Acts 17:1 e. Acts 27:2
- c. Acts 20:6 f. Acts 28:16
36. It is easy to follow Luke's movements throughout Acts by looking for the places where the pronoun "**WE**" is used, even though he is not mentioned by name in any of these places.
- a) What pronoun is used in Acts 16:12? _____
- b) The use of "**WE**" indicates that the author of Acts, _____, was with Paul at that time.
- c) We can also learn from this verse that the author of Acts was with Paul when he arrived at the first city in Macedonia where he preached.
What is the name of this city? _____
37. As we saw, the first time that the word "**WE**" is mentioned in relation to Luke is in Acts 16:10. So we know that Luke was travelling with Paul before he went to the city of _____, in Macedonia.

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 31. Luke | 34. a. | 36. a) We |
| 32. Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1 | 35. a. c. d. e. f. | b) Luke |
| 33. a) A doctor | | c) Philippi |
| b) fellow worker | | 37. Philippi |

38. Now read Acts 17:1.
- a) There is a change in the pronoun used here. Paul left Philippi to go to Thessalonica. What is the pronoun which Luke uses in this verse?
 a. He b. They c. We
- b) Because of this change of pronouns, we know that Luke [was/was not] with Paul when he left Philippi for Thessalonica. It is clear that Paul and Silas left someone behind in Philippi to give more help to the church while Paul was away and that person must have been _____.
39. Acts 17 continues the story of Paul's journey. But it is not written in the first person plural. Instead it is written in the third person plural (they). This shows that Luke was absent because he had stayed to help in _____.
40. Later Paul returned to Philippi and rejoined Luke. At this point in Acts, the pronouns are again in the first person plural.
- a) Read Acts 20:6. Where did Paul leave from? _____
- b) What pronoun tells us that Luke was with him? _____
41. In our study of the "WE" verses in Acts we discovered that Luke stayed behind at one of the new churches during Paul's absence. What was the name of the city where this church was located? _____
42. Of all the churches that were begun by Paul, the church at Philippi showed the deepest spiritual maturity. At least some of their qualities must have been the result of the humble ministry of the beloved doctor who stayed behind while Paul travelled to Thessalonica and other places.
- a) Who was this doctor who cared for the church in Philippi during Paul's absence? _____
- b) Let's not forget that Luke performed one of the most important jobs in the book of Acts by helping the church at Philippi. But how many times is Luke mentioned by name in Acts?
 a. Many times b. Never c. Twice

Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 38. a) b. | 40. a) Philippi | 42. a) Luke |
| b) was not/Luke | b) We | b) b. |
| 39. Philippi | 41. Philippi | |

43. Eventually Paul returned to Jerusalem.
- Was Luke with Paul at this time (Acts 21:17)? _____
 - How do you know this? _____
44. Paul was taken captive in Jerusalem and held in prison in Palestine. Later, after a long journey by sea, he arrived in Rome to be judged.
- Read Acts 28:16. Was Luke still with Paul? _____
 - How do you know this? _____
45. Now let us review what we have learned about Luke.
- In what city did Luke stay behind while Paul continued his journey? _____
 - With the exception of this time of separation, we can say that Luke travelled with Paul from the time of their leaving for in the city of P_____ until they finally reached R_____.
 - What is the one thing which tells us that Luke was present during most of the travels of Paul? _____

Note: Before doing the test, be sure to review the key verse in Acts which you were instructed to memorize in frame 15.

Answers

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|--|
| 43. | a) Yes
b) The use of the word "we" | 44. | a) Yes
b) The use of the word "we" | 45. | a) Philippi
b) Philippi/Rome
c) The use of the word "we" |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|--|