

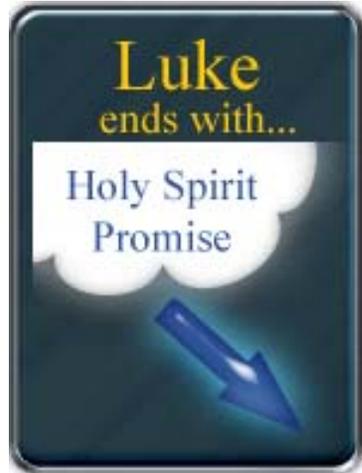
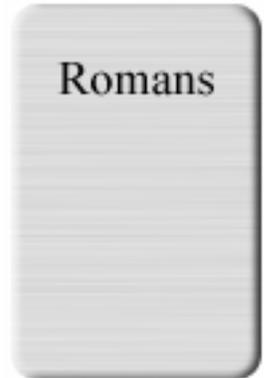
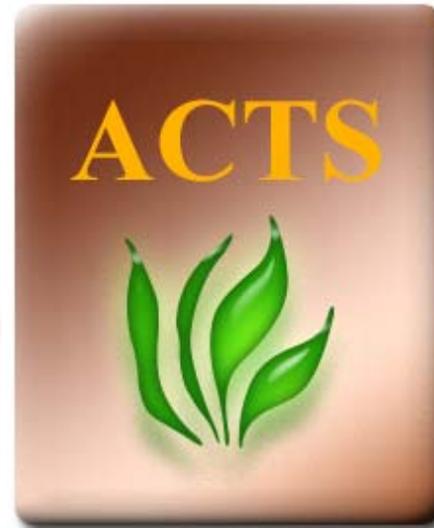
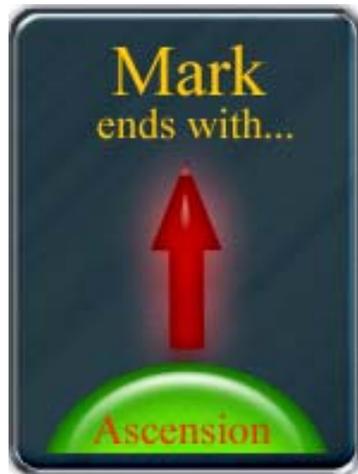
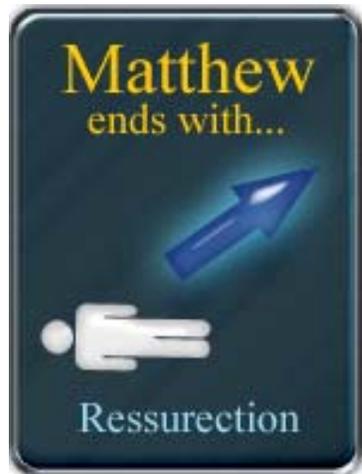
# Acts 14:1-28

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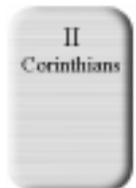
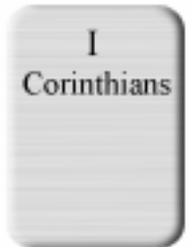
January 08, 2006

# Introduction To Acts

## *Bridge From The Gospels To The Epistles*



Acts Picks Up Where The Gospels Leave Off  
*Resurrection: Acts 1:3*  
*Ascension: Acts 1:9*  
*Holy Spirit: Acts 1:4-5*  
*Second Coming: Acts 1:11*



# Overview of Acts

## Key Verse

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

| <b>Chapters</b> | <b>Holy Spirit At Work In</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Acts 1-7        | Jerusalem                     |
| Acts 8-12       | Judea and Samaria             |
| Acts 13-28      | The Ends of the Earth         |

# The Geography



# In Iconium (1-7)

- *1 At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. 2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. 4 The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. 5 There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. 6 But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, 7 where they continued to preach the good news.*
- Paul & Barnabas went to the synagogue (Ro 1:16)
- They spoke effectively, probably from the OT (Ro 10:17; 1Th 1:5)
- They spent considerable time there
- The Lord confirmed their message by signs and wonders
- The people were divided (Lk 12:51-53; Jn 7:43)
- How was Barnabas an apostle (v.4)?
  - He was not like Paul or one of Christ's twelve apostles
  - He was therefore an apostle only in the general sense of the word [5:47]
  - The verb *apostello*, from which *apostolos* derives, means "to send" [5:47]
- Paul & Barnabas fled to the surrounding country\* (Mt 10:23)
- Paul & Barnabas "continued to preach," demonstrating the sort of perseverance under trials about which James wrote (James 1:2-4)

# The Religio-Political Divide

The more frequently Americans attend religious services, the more conservative they are likely to be, an examination of USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Polls found. Frequency of church attendance and how respondents viewed themselves politically.

| <b>Church Attendance</b> | <b>Conservative</b> | <b>Moderate</b> | <b>Liberal</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Once a week</b>       | <b>54%</b>          | <b>33%</b>      | <b>13%</b>     |
| <b>Almost every week</b> | <b>47%</b>          | <b>39%</b>      | <b>14%</b>     |
| <b>Once a month</b>      | <b>38%</b>          | <b>42%</b>      | <b>19%</b>     |
| <b>Seldom</b>            | <b>31%</b>          | <b>45%</b>      | <b>24%</b>     |
| <b>Never</b>             | <b>26%</b>          | <b>40%</b>      | <b>34%</b>     |

Source: USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Polls taken from February 2003 to May 2004. More than 7,000 respondents combined from seven surveys; margin of error: +/- less than 2 percentage points.

# A Crippled Man Healed (8-10)

- *<sup>8</sup> In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*
- Note the threefold emphasis: “crippled...lame...never walked” (cf. 1Ki 18:29; also Gen 11:30)
- “Faith to be healed”
  - God does things according to our faith (Mt 9:29-30a)
  - Though He also does things purely for His purposes (Acts 3:1-10)
  - The Greek word for “healed” relates to the word for salvation, suggesting this man had faith to be saved as well as healed
- “The man jumped up”
  - Like his counterpart in Acts 3:8
  - Suggestive of a complete and powerful healing

# Worshipped As Gods (11-13)

- *11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"*  
*12 Barnabas they called Zeus [Jupiter], and Paul they called Hermes [Mercurius] because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.*
- This situation may have been rooted in a tradition in Lystra pertaining to Zeus and Hermes
  - Jupiter was thought to be tall and dignified.
  - Mercurius was thought to be quick and active.
- The use of the Lycaonian language suggests that Paul and Barnabas didn't immediately grasp what was happening

# Reproving The Crowd (14-18)

- *14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." 18 Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.*
- Once Paul and Barnabas understand what's going on they do everything in their power to persuade the crowd to stop.
- In humility, they admit they too are mere men.
- Then they turn the crowd's attention toward God as Creator.
  - They do not appeal to the OT scriptures as they likely would have with a Jewish audience
  - Rather, they appeal to what is obvious from general revelation (Rom 1:18-20ff.) because God has not left Himself without a testimony (Ps 19)
  - They are saying, by implication, that their false gods were not the Creator!

# Paul Stoned (19-20)

- *19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.*
- This crowd was fickle, not unlike the one that demanded Christ be crucified only days after worshipping Him as He entered Jerusalem.
- Though Paul's companions thought he was dead, the text does not tell us for certain.
- This incident is referred to in 2Co 11:25 and may also be connected with Paul's heavenly vision as recounted in 2Co 12.
- Note also that Paul here reaps the harvest he had sown at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 8:1)
- Paul and Barnabas leave the next day for Derbe, a forty mile trip.

# Encouraging The Disciples (21-25)

- *21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. 23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. 24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, 25 and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.*
- Paul & Barnabas win a large number of converts, and are diligent to provide for their continued spiritual care
- They encourage the disciples to manifest the sort of perseverance they have shown in their ministry
- They affirm that hardships are a normal part of life in God's kingdom!
- They appoint elders to provide continued oversight, leadership and care for the disciples

# Return To Antioch (26-28)

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- *26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.*
- They reported all that God had done
  - They shared a testimony with those who sent them
  - They were accountable to those who sent them

# Summary

## *A Pattern For Ministry*

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- They preached to Jews and Gentiles
  - Pointing Jews toward the God of the OT
  - Pointing Gentiles toward God as Creator
- They overcame opposition
- They strengthened and encouraged the new converts
- They appointed leaders to provide continued oversight and care for the new churches
- They were accountable to those who sent them

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