

Overview and Application

11. What was Theophilus to understand as he read Acts?

Jesus is alive and sends his Spirit to work in his people
The gospel can save all and is for all. Jesus name is powerful
God's people are to stand out. The gospel is for the Gentile.
Presentations of the gospel by those who knew it best.

12. What relevance does Acts have for us today and why in:

a. mission

The mission has not changed.

The gospel is still relevant and is for all.

The gospel must be the offence not way it is presented.

God does it not us. God gives us his Spirit.

b. church

is e.g. in Acts 2:42-47.

It is what evangelism produces. Must not exclude anyone.

It is a diverse body united in Christ. Is not perfect.

c. church planting

It is the natural result of evangelism.

They just do it.

They are bold and they go.

	Gen 1	Gen 3	Gen 12- Mal	Gospels	Acts
God's people	Adam and Eve	No-one	Israel	Those who respond	The Church
God's place	Eden	Lost	Canaan	In Christ	The Church
God's rule	By his word bringing blessing	Experiencing curse but is promise	By his word to his redeemed people	New covenant, by grace	New Covenant, Holy Spirit

What does Acts show as our goal, gifting and mission?

Unit 1.8 The Acts of the Apostles

1. Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles and why did he write it?
Luke, so Theophilus knows Jesus is still alive, he has not left his people, so he understands why the church exists, sees the importance of the gospel. He see what Jesus continues to do by his spirit.

2. 1:8 is a vital verse in the book - what task and promise is given and how is it fulfilled?

Promise - is of Holy Spirit

Task - witnesses in Jer, Judea and Samaria, and ends of earth

This sets the programme for Acts, it charts that witness.

The Gospel in Jerusalem

3. Pentecost

a. Why is the day of Pentecost significant? What does the Spirit come to do?

Festival of 1st fruits. Fulfils promise of 1:8

Holy Spirit is poured out on believers who speak in languages

Gathers a crowd to hear what Peter will witness to.

Fire and wind are signs of the presence of God

The Spirit fills the disciples - in contrast to OT.

b. What does Peter have to say about:

i. The fulfilment of the Old Testament?

What they see fulfils Joel 2

Jesus is who David speaks of.

ii. the life of Jesus Christ?

He is accredited by God through signs and wonders

He is David's LORD, God raised him from dead

He pours out Holy Spirit(33), is Lord and Messiah (36)

iii. human sin and guilt?

(23) They handed Jesus over - they are accountable
They must repent and be baptised (38)

5. In Chapters 4-6 the church undergoes three attacks, for each explain what the danger is and how they were overcome:

a. External persecution

Danger is they stop being witnesses, they pray for boldness
Keep proclaiming

b. Internal corruption (5:1-11)

Danger is wrong view of God - parallel Josh 7 Achan
They were free to keep it (4), broke unity. Context 4:32-37
They present counterfeit work of Spirit. Judgement is needed

c. Growth (6:1-7)

Danger is distraction from witnessing
Re-organisation is the answer - it is very practical

The Gospel in Judea and Samaria (Ch 8-12)

6. How do these events show us the sovereignty of God?

Persecution sends witness from Jer to Judea & Samaria
God confronts, humbles and saves Saul for his purposes
God saves Peter and removes Herod's opposition

7. How does God prepare his people to take the gospel to the ends of the earth?

God deals with Peter's prejudice so the gospel goes to Cornelius
It prepares the church for ch 13 onwards

The Gospel to the ends of the Earth (Ch 13-28)

8. Acts 15 - What is the issue, how is it resolved and why does it matter?

(1-5) some have taught Jewish law applies to Gentile converts
Adding to the gospel is the pressure.

Peter, Paul & B and James each conclude gospel is for all.

Therefore (11) grace saves, but Gentile Christians are asked to live in a way that means it is not hard for Jews in cities to listen to the gospel (19-21).

The whole gospel is at stake: gospel + anything = No gospel

9. Acts 16 - What does Acts 16 show us about the gospel and the church in Philippi?

The gospel works

These three are all of soc: Rich, slave, middle classes,
God fearer, demon possessed, polytheist,

Yet all three are saved and become part of the church!

10. Acts 28 - Does Acts seem unfinished or is it the perfect place for Luke to stop his writing?

The gospel has reached the ends of the earth in Rome

Acts recounts its spread over 30 years, from parochial relig of a handful of men in Jer to empire wide faith.

But it also leaves the task unfinished - why? Because as epistles show the job is not finished - it is still going to the ends of the earth even today.

It ends as it began with the unstoppable gospel!