

# The Book of Acts

Witnessing to the World



# Introduction to Acts

Acts is the second volume by Luke, continuing the Gospel story.

Key Focus:

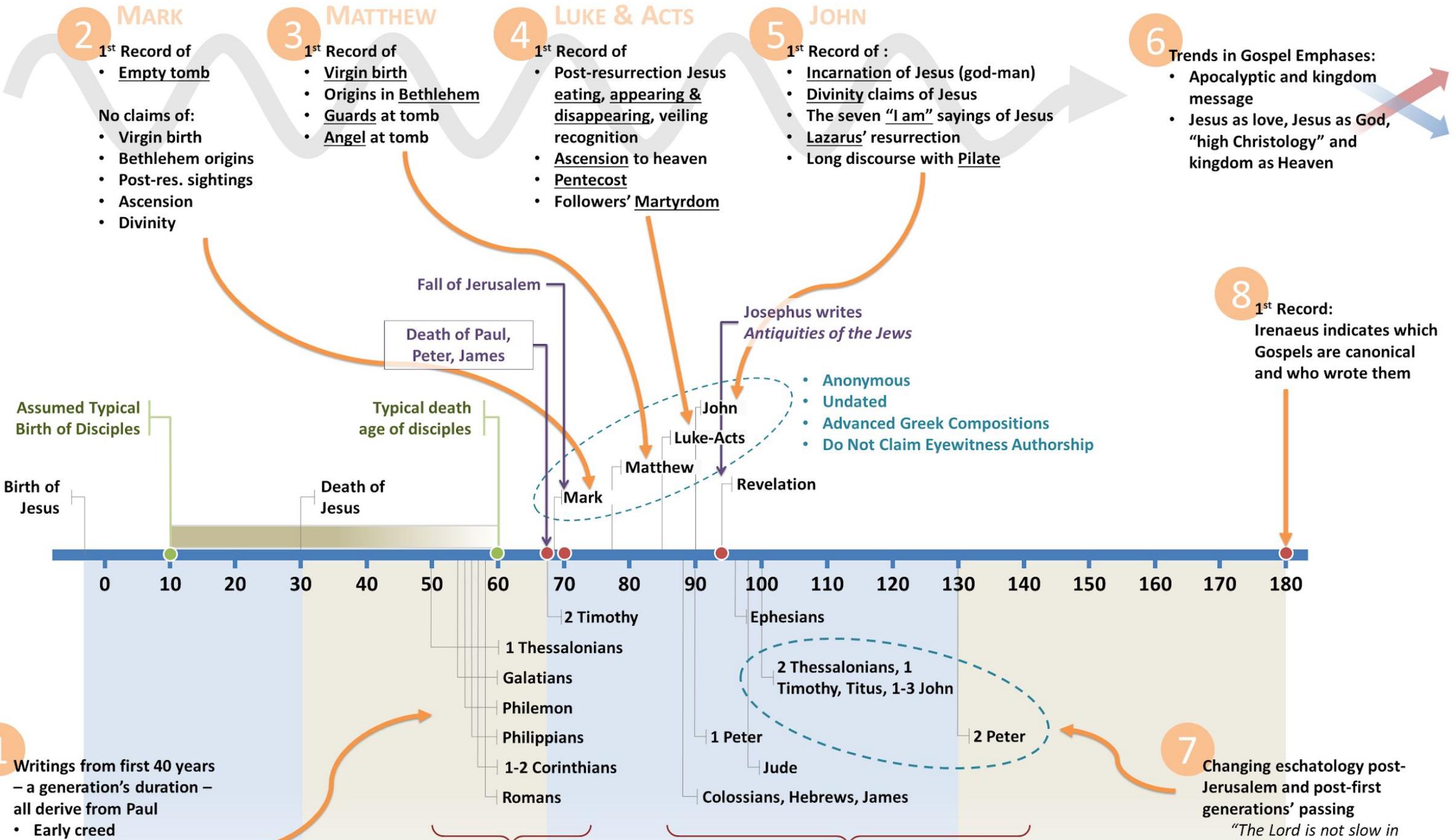
- The spread of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Written to Theophilus around AD 60–62, likely in Rome.

Key Verse:

- Acts 1:8 – 'You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.'





**2 MARK**

1<sup>st</sup> Record of

- Empty tomb

No claims of:

- Virgin birth
- Bethlehem origins
- Post-res. sightings
- Ascension
- Divinity

**3 MATTHEW**

1<sup>st</sup> Record of

- Virgin birth
- Origins in Bethlehem
- Guards at tomb
- Angel at tomb

**4 LUKE & ACTS**

1<sup>st</sup> Record of

- Post-resurrection Jesus eating, appearing & disappearing, veiling recognition
- Ascension to heaven
- Pentecost
- Followers' Martyrdom

**5 JOHN**

1<sup>st</sup> Record of :

- Incarnation of Jesus (god-man)
- Divinity claims of Jesus
- The seven "I am" sayings of Jesus
- Lazarus' resurrection
- Long discourse with Pilate

**6**

Trends in Gospel Emphases:

- Apocalyptic and kingdom message
- Jesus as love, Jesus as God, "high Christology" and kingdom as Heaven

**8**

1<sup>st</sup> Record: Irenaeus indicates which Gospels are canonical and who wrote them

Assumed Typical Birth of Disciples

Typical death age of disciples

Birth of Jesus

Death of Jesus

Josephus writes *Antiquities of the Jews*

Death of Paul, Peter, James

- Anonymous
- Undated
- Advanced Greek Compositions
- Do Not Claim Eyewitness Authorship



**1**

Writings from first 40 years – a generation's duration – all derive from Paul

- Early creed

**7**

Changing eschatology post-Jerusalem and post-first generations' passing

*"The Lord is not slow in"*

- 2 Timothy
- Ephesians
- 1 Thessalonians
- Galatians
- Philemon
- Philippians
- 1-2 Corinthians
- Romans
- 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, Titus, 1-3 John
- 1 Peter
- Jude
- Colossians, Hebrews, James
- 2 Peter

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# About the Author: Luke

Luke was a Gentile physician and traveling companion of Paul.

He is also the author of the Gospel of Luke.

Well-educated and skilled in Greek writing and research.

Eyewitness of many Acts events (see 'we' passages).





# Purpose and Genre of Acts

- Written to provide a credible historical and theological record of the early Church.
- Genre: Historical narrative with biographies and 23 speeches.
- Purpose: To confirm the truth of the gospel and encourage bold faith.

# Structure of Acts: 3 Gospel Zones

Acts follows a geographic and spiritual outline:

- 1. Jerusalem (Ch. 1–8)
- 2. Judea and Samaria (Ch. 8–12)
- 3. Ends of the Earth (Ch. 13–28)

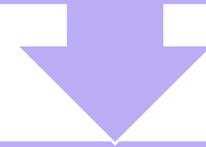
This mirrors Acts 1:8 and the intentional spread of the gospel.



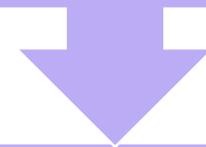


## The Birth of the Church at Pentecost

Acts 2: The Holy Spirit is poured out during the Jewish feast of Pentecost.



Peter preaches and 3,000 are saved and baptized.



Believers gather for teaching, fellowship, prayer, and communion.



# Witnessing in Jerusalem



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Chapters 1–8 detail the Church's explosive growth.

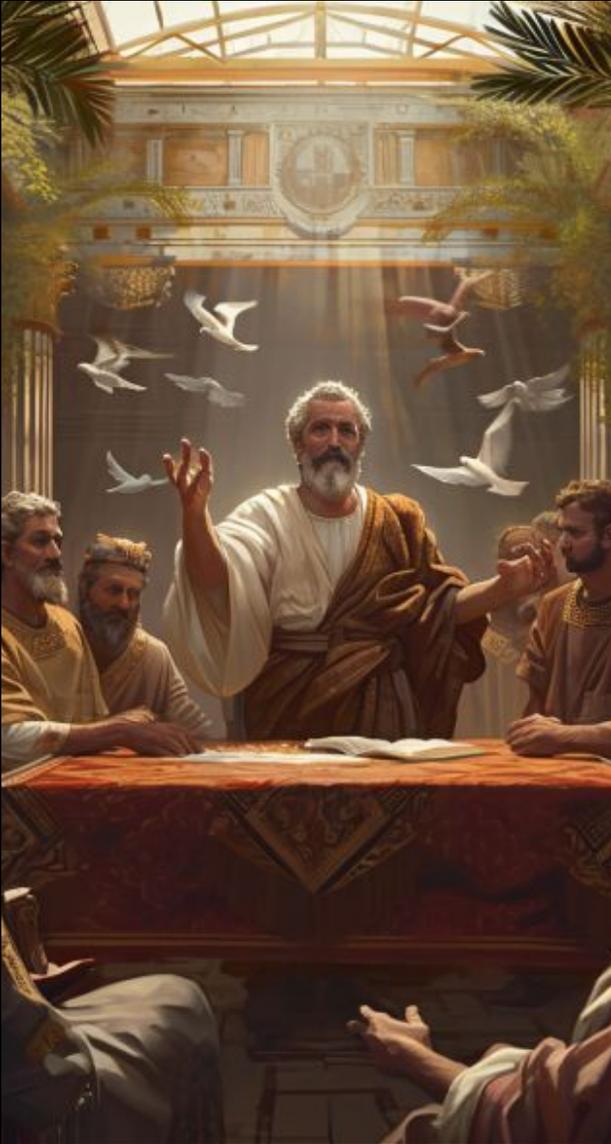
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Miracles by Peter, bold preaching, and persecution by religious leaders.

○



Stephen becomes the first Christian martyr (Acts 7).



## The Church Expands to Judea & Samaria

- Philip evangelizes Samaria
- Peter has a vision about Gentile inclusion.
  - Saul (Paul) is converted dramatically on the road to Damascus.
- First Gentiles receive the Spirit (Cornelius' household).



# Paul's Missionary Journeys

Paul takes three major missionary journeys:

1st Journey (13–14):  
Cyprus, Galatia.

2nd Journey (15–18):  
Greece and Asia Minor.

3rd Journey (18–21):  
Ephesus and Macedonia.





Paul preaches the Gospel for 2 yrs under house arrest as he awaits for his appeal to Caesar

Lydia & her household believe Paul & Silas beaten & thrown in jail Jailer and his household believe

Paul restores life to young Eutychus

Paul speaks at the Areopagus

Paul & Barnabas mistaken for gods Paul stoned

Timothy joins Paul & Silas

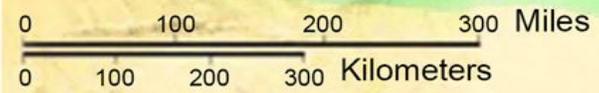
Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted

Paul sent to Rome to appeal to Caesar

Jerusalem Conference c. 49-50 AD

# MAP OF PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

- ← Paul's first journey
- ← Paul's second journey
- ← Paul's third journey
- ← Paul's voyage to Rome
- City
- One of the "Seven Churches"





# To the Ends of the Earth: Paul's Final Journey

- Paul is arrested, defends the faith before Roman leaders, and appeals to Caesar.
- He survives shipwreck and continues preaching under house arrest in Rome.
- Acts ends without conclusion—gospel work continues today.

# Themes: Spirit, Growth, Witness, Prayer

Key Words: Witness (martus), Church (ekklesia), Holy Spirit, Prayer.

Acts is filled with gospel preaching, prayer, miracles, bold evangelism.

The church met in homes, markets, synagogues—anywhere people were.

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