



The book of the Acts of the Apostles

DESCRIPTIVE SHEET

Author

The book of Acts of the Apostles makes the connection between the Gospels and the Epistles. This is written by Luke. One simply needs to read the introduction to see its immediate connection with the Gospel of Luke (Acts 1:1-2). Another proof that Luke is the author is provided by Irenaeus, one of the Church Fathers, who pointed out that at a certain point in the story, Luke changed the use of personal pronouns from “he”, “they” to “we”, which is itself inclusive, since Luke was part of the group that was traveling with Paul. (Acts 16 :10-17; 20 :5-18; 27 :1-29; 28 :1-16)

Date

It is obvious that Luke wrote the book of Acts as a second volume of his story, in which he continued with the narrative, starting from the mission that Jesus entrusted to His disciples. In fact, it must be said that before the formal constitution of the biblical canon, the book of Acts was linked with the Gospel of Luke and both were grouped together with the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. It is probable that the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles were separated in the year 200, which means that Luke was writing the Acts of the Apostles in the period 60 – 62. As internal evidences, we can say that the text does not mention the destruction of Jerusalem and it ends with Paul in prison.

Core theme and target audience

Regarding the audience, it is obvious that it was not Jewish. The purpose of this volume must be understood in the perspective of the historical evidence that Luke offered to Theophilus. In the writing of his Gospel the emphasis was on the ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind and the responsibility of the disciples to spread this message to all nations for repentance, forgiveness and salvation of the nations (Lk. 24:44 – 47). But in the book of Acts, Luke emphasizes the work of the apostles after the coming of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus to fulfill this mission. Thus, we find in this book how the Holy Spirit used the apostles to find and develop the Church of Jesus Christ. The book of Acts of the Apostles, which some think should be titled “Acts of the Holy Spirit,” shows how the Holy Spirit chose men and filled them with His power to spread the message of Christ. The message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of men is the core message of the book. Throughout the book, Luke shows how this message was spread and transformed lives from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

Outline of the book

1. Prologue. (Acts 1:1 – 8)
2. Be witnesses in Jerusalem. (Acts 1:9 – 8:3)
3. Be witnesses in Judea and Samaria. (Acts 8:4 – 12:25)
4. Be witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Acts 13:1 – 28:31)