

ACTS

1. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH: Acts 1,2 STUDY AHEAD

Acts is the companion volume to the gospel of Luke, written by Luke to outline the history and growth of the early Christian movement in the 30-40 years after the departure of Jesus. Our first message on Acts 1,2 will be brief, since we are having our annual baptism service next weekend. Nevertheless, you can study ahead as we enter the exciting world of the first Christians.

1. Acts 1:6-8. From these verses, what *theme statement* would you give for the book of Acts? What *outline* for the book can you glean from 1:8?
2. Acts 1:12-26. Luke gave significant space to the story of how the disciples chose a replacement for Judas Iscariot. What was the qualification(s) for the replacement? Why was this important?
3. Acts 2:1-13. When the Spirit fell upon those who were waiting in prayer, what did He give them the ability to do (2:6,8,11)? Notice the geographical spread of those attending the Feast of Pentecost (2:5;9-11). Why is this significant in light of Acts 1:8?
4. Acts 2:14-36. What is the major idea(s) in Peter's first sermon?
5. Acts 2:37-42. What was the result of this first sermon?
6. Acts 2:43-47. Throughout the book of Acts, Luke provides summary statements describing the overall mood and movement of the first Christians. What key elements do you find in this first summary?
7. Acts 2:46. Here we find a key to how the first Christians were staying unified. They regularly attended two very different types of gatherings. What were they and how did they differ?