

The Book of Acts: Bible Study 2020

Introduction and Chapter One



From Jerusalem to Rome

- The story of the church's beginnings
- The spread of the gospel
- Jewish roots
- Good News to the Gentiles
- “History”
 - gives theological insight into past events
 - God's purpose is being worked out



From Jerusalem to Rome

- Luke
 - educated
 - well travelled
 - fluent in Greek
 - fully aware of Jewish salvation history
 - present at some events but anonymous
- Theophilus
 - influential?
 - recent convert?
 - patron of the work?
 - individual or stands for all who love God?



From Jerusalem to Rome

- Date of Acts
 - unclear but after Luke's gospel
c80/90 possibly later
 - asserts the Jewish roots of the faith
 - political: Christians deserve same freedoms
 - important to retain Jewish scriptures

From Jerusalem to Rome

- Main Themes

- an *apologia*: sets out the case for Christianity to be taken seriously
- a tool for evangelistic mission
testifying to the power of the gospel
- deepens the fragile faith of new believers
- God's purpose and promise is fulfilled in the church

From Jerusalem to Rome

- Main Themes

- Jesus of Nazareth is God's messiah
 - how did a Jewish Messiah come to have a gentile church?
 - the death of the Messiah is vindicated
 - he is risen Lord, alive among his people
- All who earnestly repent will be saved
- Those who belong to the Lord receive the Holy Spirit which empowers

From Jerusalem to Rome

- Question 1

The purpose of Acts is to bid its readers to continue in their own time what Jesus began. In what ways do we continue the work of Jesus today?