

## An Introduction to Acts

### Facts on Acts:

**Author:** Doctor Luke, who is a frequent traveling companion of Paul's  
**Date:** Early 60's before Neronian persecution  
**Period:** Span of some 30 years—early 30s to early 60s  
**Recipients:** Theophilus (*beloved of God*)  
**Genre:** Historical narrative that focuses on action not doctrine  
**Key verse:** 1:8, *You shall be my witnesses . . .*

### Purpose of Acts:

- \*Serves as a sequel to Luke (vol. 2), showing how Jesus' mission continued.
- \*Explains origins / roots of the church and why we look the way we do: elders, deacons, missions, Sundays, Christians, Gentiles, etc.
- \*Describes the transitional period between gospels and epistles, showing how the gospel breaks through geographical, social, and racial barriers
- \*Offers an apologetic for the church, which is repeatedly attacked but is consistently exonerated by Roman officials and courts
- \*Gives us encouragement, knowing the church will progress no matter what.

### Structure of Acts:

