



THE BOOK OF ACTS
by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

A. Title

1. Greek Title
2. Traditional Title
3. Other Titles

B. Author

C. Date

D. Importance

E. Purposes

1. Historical Purpose
2. Theological Purpose
3. Apologetic Purpose
4. Biographical Purpose
5. Eschatological Purpose

F. Features

G. The Theology of the Book of Acts

1. Bibliology
2. Theology Proper

3. Christology
4. Pneumatology
5. Angelology Proper
6. Satanology
7. Demonology
8. Anthropology
9. Hamartiology
10. Soteriology
11. Israelology
12. Ecclesiology
13. Eschatology

H. The Transitional Nature of the Book of Acts

1. The Transitions
2. The Need
3. Time Span

I. Background

1. Roman Background
2. The Jewish and Gospel Background

J. Chronology

1. Chronological Events
2. Chronological Divisions

K. Outline

L. Theme

I. INTRODUCTION - 1:1-26

- A. Prologue - 1:1-5
- B. The Ascension - 1:6-11
 - 1. The Final Commission - 1:6-8
 - 2. The Departure of Jesus - 1:9-11
- C. The Return to Jerusalem - 1:12-14
- D. The Choosing of the Twelfth Apostle - 1:15-26
 - 1. Peter's Proposition - 1:15-22
 - 2. The Selection - 1:23-26

II. THE WITNESS IN JERUSALEM - 2:1 - 8:4

- A. The Witness of the Feast of Pentecost - 2:1-47
 - 1. The Coming of the Holy Spirit - 2:1-4
 - 2. The Effects of the Spirit's Coming - 2:5-13
 - 3. The First Sermon of Peter - 2:14-36
 - a. The Explanation - 2:14-21
 - b. The Messiahship of Jesus - 2:22-36
 - 4. The Results - 2:37-47
 - a. Salvation - 2:37-42
 - b. The Local Church - 2:43-47
- B. The Witness of Peter and John - 3:1 - 4:31
 - 1. The Miracle of Healing - 3:1-11

2. The Second Sermon of Peter - 3:12-26
 - a. Israel's Rejection of the Messiahship of Jesus - 3:12-18
 - b. Israel's Responsibility - 3:19-26
3. The Arrest - 4:1-4
4. The Examination - 4:5-12
5. The Decision of the Sanhedrin - 4:13-22
6. The Prayer of the Apostles - 4:23-31

C. The State of the Church - 4:32 - 5:11

1. The Community of the Saints - 4:32-35
2. The Good Example of Barnabas - 4:36-37
3. The Bad Example of Ananias and Sapphira - 5:1-11
 - a. Ananias - 5:1-6
 - b. Sapphira - 5:7-10
 - c. The Result - 5:11

D. The Witness of the Apostles - 5:12-42

1. The Power of the Apostles - 5:12-16
2. The Persecution of the Apostles - 5:17-42
 - a. The Arrest - 5:17-26
 - b. The Examination - 5:27-33
 - c. The Advice of Gamaliel - 5:34-39
 - d. The Results - 5:40-42

E. The Appointment of Deacons - 6:1-7

1. The Selection - 6:1-6

2. The Results - 6:7

F. The Witness of Stephen - 6:8 - 8:4

1. The Arrest of Stephen - 6:8 - 7:1

2. The Defense of Stephen - 7:2-53

a. The Patriarchs - 7:2-16

(1) Abraham - 7:2-8

(2) Joseph - 7:9-16

b. Moses - 7:17-43

c. The Tabernacle - 7:44-50

d. The Accusation - 7:51-53

3. The Stoning of Stephen - 7:54-60

4. The Persecution of the Church - 8:1-4

III. THE WITNESS IN SAMARIA - 8:5-25

A. The Evangelization of Samaria - 8:5-8

B. Simon the Sorcerer - 8:9-13

C. The Authentication by the Apostles - 8:14-25

1. Peter and the Keys of the Kingdom - 8:14-17

2. Simon the Sorcerer - 8:18-24

3. The Evangelism of Samaria - 8:25

IV. THE WITNESS IN JUDEA - 8:26 - 12:25

A. The Witness of Philip - 8:26-40

1. The Ethiopian Eunuch - 8:26-39
2. The Coastal Plain - 8:40

B. The Salvation of Saul/Paul - 9:1-31

1. The Revelation on the Road to Damascus - 9:1-9
2. Ananias of Damascus - 9:10-19a
3. The Preaching of Saul/Paul - 9:19b-22
4. The Conspiracy - 9:23-25
5. The Return to Jerusalem - 9:26-30
6. The Results - 9:31

C. The Witness of Peter - 9:32 - 11:18

1. Lydda - 9:32-35
2. Jaffa - 9:36-43
3. The Salvation of Cornelius - 10:1 - 11:18
 - a. The Vision of Cornelius - 10:1-8
 - b. The Vision of Peter - 10:9-16
 - c. The Application of Peter's Vision - 10:17-23a
 - d. The Meeting of Peter and Cornelius - 10:23b-34a
 - e. Peter and the Keys of the Kingdom - 10:34b-43
 - f. The Salvation of the Gentiles - 10:44-48
 - g. Peter's Defense in Jerusalem - 11:1-18

D. The Church of Antioch - 11:19-30

1. The Development of the Church - 11:19-26
2. The Benevolence of the Church - 11:27-30

E. The Persecution of the Church of Jerusalem - 12:1-25

1. The Death of James - 12:1-2
2. The Imprisonment of Peter - 12:3-5
3. The Deliverance of Peter - 12:6-17
4. The Results - 12:18-25
 - a. On Herod Agrippa - 12:18-23
 - b. On the Church - 12:24-25

V. THE WITNESS TO THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH - 13:1 - 20:38

A. The First Missionary Journey - 13:1 - 14:28

1. The Appointment of Barnabas and Paul - 13:1-3
2. Cyprus - 13:4-12
3. The Witness in Antioch of Pisidia - 13:13-52
 - a. The Arrival - 13:13-15
 - b. Paul's Message - 13:16-41
 - (1) Introduction: Historical Review - 13:16-22
 - (2) The Messiahship of Jesus - 13:23-37
 - (3) The Conclusion - 13:38-41
 - c. The Results - 13:42-52
4. Iconium - 14:1-7
5. Lystra - 14:8-20a

6. Derbe - 14:20b-21a
7. The Return to Antioch - 14:21b-28

B. The Jerusalem Council - 15:1-35

1. The Occasion - 15:1-5
2. The Deliberations - 15:6-21
 - a. The Gathering of the Church - 15:6
 - b. The Testimony of Peter - 15:7-11
 - c. The Testimony of Barnabas and Paul - 15:12
 - d. The Testimony of James - 15:13-21
3. The Decision - 15:22-29
4. The Report to Antioch - 15:30-35

C. The Second Missionary Journey - 15:36 - 18:22

1. The Split Between Paul and Barnabas - 15:36-40
2. The Confirmation of the Churches - 15:41 - 16:5
3. The Macedonian Call - 16:6-10
4. Philippi - 16:11-40
 - a. Lydia - 16:11-15
 - b. The Soothsaying Maiden - 16:16-18
 - c. The Imprisonment of Paul and Silas - 16:19-34
 - d. The Departure - 16:35-40
5. Thessalonica - 17:1-9
6. Berea - 17:10-15

7. Athens - 17:16-34
 - a. Paul's Witness - 17:16-20
 - b. Paul's Speech to the Areopagus - 17:22-31
 - c. The Results - 17:32-34
8. Corinth - 18:1-18
 - a. The Arrival - 18:1-4
 - b. Paul's Ministry - 18:5-11
 - c. Paul Before Gallio - 18:12-17
 - d. The Departure - 18:18
9. Ephesus - 18:19-21
10. The Return to Antioch - 18:22

D. The Third Missionary Journey - 18:23 - 20:38

1. Galatia and Phrygia - 18:23
2. Ephesus - 18:24 - 19:41
 - a. Apollos - 18:24-28
 - b. The Disciples of John the Baptist - 19:1-7
 - c. The Ministry of Paul - 19:8-12
 - d. The Failure of the Imitators - 19:13-20
 - e. Paul's Plans - 19:21-22
 - f. The Riot Over Artemis - 19:23-41
3. Macedonia and Greece - 20:1-4
4. Troas - 20:5-12
5. Miletus - 20:13-38

- a. The Arrival - 20:13-17
- b. The Message to the Elders of Ephesus - 20:18-35
 - (1) Introduction - 20:18a
 - (2) Paul's Ministry Among Them - 20:18b-27
 - (3) The Warning - 20:28-31
 - (4) The Commendation - 20:32-35
- c. The Departure - 20:36-38

VI. PAUL IN PRISON - 21:1 - 28:31

A. The Journey to Jerusalem - 21:1-16

- 1. Tyre - 21:1-6
- 2. Ptolemais - 21:7
- 3. Ceasarea - 21:8-14
- 4. The Departure for Jerusalem - 21:15-16

B. Jerusalem - 21:17 - 23:30

- 1. The Reception - 21:17-26
- 2. The Temple Riot - 21:27-36
- 3. Paul's Defense Before the Temple Mob - 21:37 - 22:21
 - a. Permission to Speak - 21:37-40
 - b. The Address - 22:1-21
 - (1) The Introduction - 22:1-2
 - (2) Paul's Background - 22:3-5
 - (3) The Damascus Road Experience - 22:6-16
 - (4) The Temple Vision - 22:17-21

4. The Arrest - 22:22-29
5. Paul's Defense Before the Sanhedrin - 22:30 - 23:10
 - a. The Convening of the Council - 22:30
 - b. Paul's Defense - 23:1-6
 - c. The Dissension - 23:7-10
6. The Divine Assurance - 23:11
7. The Deliverance of Paul - 23:12-30
 - a. The Conspiracy - 23:12-15
 - b. The Report of the Conspiracy - 23:16-22
 - c. The Preparations for Escape - 23:23-24
 - d. The Letter of Explanation - 23:25-30

C. Ceasarea - 23:31 - 26:32

1. The Arrival - 23:31-35
2. The Defense Before Felix - 24:1-27
 - a. The Charge - 24:1-9
 - b. The Defense - 24:10-21
 - c. The Results - 24:22-27
3. The Defense Before Festus - 25:1-12
 - a. The Visit of Festus to Jerusalem - 25:1-5
 - b. The Trial Before Festus - 25:6-12
4. The Defense Before Herod Agrippa II - 25:13 - 26:32
 - a. The Private Explanation - 25:13-22
 - b. The Public Explanation - 25:23-27

- c. Paul's Defense - 26:1-23
 - (1) The Permission to Speak - 26:1
 - (2) The Address to Agrippa - 26:2-3
 - (3) Paul's Pre-Salvation Status: A Pharisee - 26:4-5
 - (4) The Key Issue - 26:6-8
 - (5) Paul's Persecution of the Church - 26:9-11
 - (6) The Damascus Road Experience - 26:12-18
 - (7) Paul's Post-Conversion Experience - 26:19-23
- d. The Questioning - 26:24-29
- e. The Verdict - 26:30-32

D. The Journey to Rome - 27:1 - 28:16

- 1. On the Ship - 27:1-44
 - a. From Ceasarea to Fair Havens - 27:1-8
 - b. The Storm - 27:9-26
 - (1) The Warning - 27:9-11
 - (2) The Sailing - 27:12-13
 - (3) The Wind - 27:14-20
 - (4) Paul's Comfort - 27:21-26
 - c. The Shipwreck - 27:27-44
- 2. Melita - 28:1-10
 - a. The Snake Incident - 28:1-6
 - b. The Healing of the Father of Publius - 28:7-10

3. The Journey to Italy - 28:11-15

4. Arrival in Rome - 28:16

E. Rome - 28:17-31

1. The Messages to Jewish Leaders - 28:17-29

a. The First Message - 28:17-22

b. The Second Message - 28:23-29

2. Paul's Ministry in Rome - 28:30-31

F. Aftermath

1. The Two Years in Rome

2. Paul's Release

3. Paul's Ministry - A Fourth Missionary Journey

4. The Second Imprisonment

5. Martyrdom