

Book of Acts — Detailed Chapter-by-Chapter Synopsis with Locations

Acts 1 — Jerusalem & Mount of Olives

Jesus ascends to heaven after forty days of appearances. The disciples return to Jerusalem, pray in the upper room, and appoint Matthias to replace Judas, preparing for the coming of the Spirit.

Acts 2 — Jerusalem

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends with wind and fire. Peter preaches boldly, leading about three thousand to baptism. The new believers share possessions, meet daily in the temple, and break bread in homes.

Acts 3 — Jerusalem

Peter and John heal a man lame from birth at the temple gate called Beautiful. Peter proclaims Jesus as the promised Messiah and calls Israel to repentance.

Acts 4 — Jerusalem

Peter and John are arrested and questioned by the Sanhedrin but refuse to be silent. The believers pray for boldness and continue to testify with great power; they share all things in common.

Acts 5 — Jerusalem

Ananias and Sapphira fall dead after lying about their gift. Miracles abound; crowds are healed. The apostles are jailed, freed by an angel, and defy the council saying, 'We must obey God rather than men.'

Acts 6 — Jerusalem

A dispute over food distribution among widows leads to the appointment of seven Spirit-filled servants, including Stephen and Philip. The church continues to grow even as opposition intensifies.

Acts 7 — Jerusalem

Stephen recounts Israel's story before the council, exposing their resistance to the Holy Spirit. He sees the Son of Man standing at God's right hand and becomes the first Christian martyr, with Saul consenting.

Acts 8 — Samaria, Gaza Road, Azotus, Caesarea

Persecution scatters the believers. Philip preaches in Samaria, confronts Simon the magician, and later baptizes the Ethiopian official on the desert road before being transported to Azotus and continuing to Caesarea.

Acts 9 — Damascus, Jerusalem, Lydda, Joppa

Saul encounters the risen Christ on the road to Damascus and is converted. After healing and preaching, he escapes plots and visits Jerusalem. Peter heals Aeneas in Lydda and raises Tabitha in Joppa.

Acts 10 — Joppa & Caesarea

Peter's vision of unclean animals prepares him to visit Cornelius, a Gentile centurion. As Peter preaches, the Holy Spirit falls on all who listen, confirming Gentile inclusion through baptism.

Acts 11 — Jerusalem & Antioch

Peter reports to Jerusalem how God gave the Spirit to Gentiles. In Antioch, Greeks believe and Barnabas brings Saul to help teach the new church, where disciples are first called Christians.

Acts 12 — Jerusalem & Caesarea

Herod Agrippa I persecutes believers, killing James and imprisoning Peter, who is freed by an angel. Herod later dies suddenly in Caesarea after accepting worship as a god.

Acts 13 — Antioch, Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch

Barnabas and Saul are sent by the Spirit. On Cyprus they confront Elymas the sorcerer. In Pisidian Antioch Paul preaches a history-filled sermon declaring justification through Jesus.

Acts 14 — Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Antioch

In Iconium and Lystra they face both acceptance and violence. Paul is stoned but survives. They strengthen new believers and appoint elders before returning to Antioch.

Acts 15 — Jerusalem & Antioch

The Jerusalem Council decides Gentile believers need not keep the full Mosaic Law, only abstain from idolatry and immorality. The decree unites the diverse early church.

Acts 16 — Philippi, Macedonia

Paul meets Timothy, is guided to Macedonia, and baptizes Lydia in Philippi. After freeing a slave girl, Paul and Silas are jailed; an earthquake frees them and converts the jailer.

Acts 17 — Thessalonica, Berea, Athens

In Thessalonica Paul's message provokes jealousy. Bereans study the Scriptures daily. In Athens, Paul preaches at the Areopagus, speaking of the 'unknown God' and the resurrection.

Acts 18 — Corinth, Ephesus, Antioch

Paul ministers in Corinth for eighteen months, working with Priscilla and Aquila. Gallio's ruling protects Christians under Roman law. Apollos is later instructed by Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus.

Acts 19 — Ephesus

Paul spends two years teaching in the Hall of Tyrannus. Miracles occur, magic books are burned, and a riot erupts over the loss of idol-making trade tied to Artemis worship.

Acts 20 — Macedonia, Troas, Miletus

Paul revisits Macedonia and Greece, encourages believers, and in Troas raises Eutychus from the dead. At Miletus, he gives a tearful farewell to the Ephesian elders.

Acts 21 — Caesarea & Jerusalem

Paul journeys toward Jerusalem despite prophetic warnings. He is seized in the temple after rumors and nearly killed before Roman soldiers intervene.

Acts 22 — Jerusalem

Paul recounts his conversion before the crowd and reveals his Roman citizenship, stopping his flogging. His testimony divides his accusers.

Acts 23 — Jerusalem to Caesarea

Paul faces the Sanhedrin, divides Pharisees and Sadducees, and escapes an assassination plot through his nephew's warning. He is escorted by night to Caesarea under heavy guard.

Acts 24 — Caesarea

Before Governor Felix, Paul defends his faith, speaks of righteousness and judgment, and is held under house arrest for two years, conversing often with Felix and Drusilla.

Acts 25 — Caesarea

Festus succeeds Felix. Paul appeals to Caesar to prevent return to Jerusalem. King Agrippa and Bernice arrive for a hearing where Paul's case is reviewed.

Acts 26 — Caesarea

Paul testifies before Agrippa II, recounting his encounter with Christ. Agrippa famously remarks, 'Do you think in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?'

Acts 27 — Crete, Sea of Adria, Malta

Paul sails for Rome. A fierce storm drives the ship for two weeks before shipwrecking on Malta. Paul's faith saves all aboard, fulfilling the angelic promise.

Acts 28 — Malta & Rome

Paul heals many on Malta, then reaches Rome where he welcomes visitors and proclaims the kingdom of God boldly and without hindrance while under house arrest.