



THE BIGGEST STORY

**SCRIPTURE JOURNAL
FOR KIDS**

ACTS



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The Biggest Story Scripture Journal for Kids: Acts (ESV)

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)

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ABOUT THE ESV

The Bible

The words of the Bible are the very words of God our Creator speaking to us. They are completely truthful;¹ they are pure;² they are powerful;³ and they are wise and righteous.⁴ We should read these words with reverence and awe,⁵ and with joy and delight.⁶ Through these words God gives us eternal life,⁷ and daily nourishes our spiritual lives.⁸

The ESV Translation

The English Standard Version® (ESV®) stands in the classic stream of English Bible translations that goes back nearly five centuries. In this stream, accurate faithfulness to the original text is combined with simplicity, beauty, and dignity of expression. Our goal has been to carry forward this legacy for this generation and generations to come.

The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the meaning and structure of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. We have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious study, and for Scripture memorization.

¹ Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18 ² Ps. 12:6 ³ Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23 ⁴ Ps. 19:7–11

⁵ Deut. 28:58; Ps. 119:74; Isa. 66:2 ⁶ Ps. 19:7–11; 119:14, 97, 103; Jer. 15:16 ⁷ John 6:68; 1 Pet. 1:23

⁸ Deut. 32:46; Matt. 4:4

The ESV Publishing Team

The ESV publishing team has included more than a hundred people. The fourteen-member Translation Oversight Committee benefited from the work of fifty biblical experts serving as Translation Review Scholars and from the comments of the more than fifty members of the Advisory Council. This international team from many denominations shares a common commitment to the truth of God's word and to historic Christian orthodoxy.

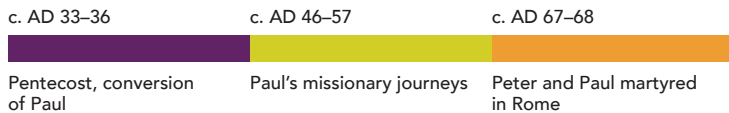
To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

INTRODUCTION TO ACTS

Timeline



Who Wrote It?

Luke wrote Acts.

What's It About?

After his resurrection and before ascending to the Father, Jesus promised his disciples that he would send them the Holy Spirit. Sure enough, at the beginning of Acts the Spirit falls on Jesus's followers, filling and empowering them. And look at what the Spirit does through them! The apostles perform miracles, preach the good news, and suffer for Jesus. Through their witness the church grows.

As you read, look for Peter's sermons in the first half, Paul's missionary journeys in the second half, and how the gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Rome. Acts reads like a great adventure! It's filled with heroes and villains, miracles and voyages, arrests and escapes, awesome sermons and amazing conversions, and even a wild shipwreck and an incredible rescue. Enjoy reading this great gospel tale!

Character Profiles



Luke

A highly educated doctor and friend of the disciples. He was a gifted researcher and missionary who wrote about Jesus's life and the growth of the church.



Peter

One of the twelve apostles, who confessed Jesus as the Christ and taught great sermons. He also wrote two letters, helping believers live in an unbelieving world.



Paul

A violent Pharisee and Roman citizen whom the Lord Jesus confronted and changed into one of the most important people in the history of the Christian faith.



Ananias and Sapphira

A married couple within the early church who decided it was okay to lie about their generosity and to keep money for themselves. It was not okay!



Stephen

A smart, bold servant of the Lord who served as one of the first deacons in the early church. He told the truth, even when it was dangerous.

You Are Here

c. AD 33–60

The book of Acts records the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome. The followers of Jesus were careful to obey his command (1:8) to teach the good news to everyone everywhere!



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the **kingdom of God**.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the **Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the

Kingdom of God: In the Old Testament God’s people had a king who ruled over them. Then Jesus came announcing the kingdom of God as the true king who always pleased God. In Acts we read about the spread of Jesus’s kingdom from the royal city (Jerusalem) to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8; 28:23, 31).

Holy Spirit: In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit helped special leaders serve God (Ex. 31:1–5; Judg. 3:10; 6:34). In Acts the Spirit comes and fills God’s people as they repent and trust in Jesus (2:17; 10:45).

Read Acts 1:1–3. The book of Acts is the second Bible book written by Luke. The first book is the Gospel of Luke. In Acts 1:1, Luke says his first book is about what “Jesus began to do and teach.” So that means his second book—Acts—is about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach. In Acts, you’ll read about Jesus’s followers—what they say and how they act. You’ll read about the Holy Spirit and how he gives power to Jesus’s followers. And all this is how Jesus continues his work—through the book of Acts and even today.



Write a prayer that starts this way: "Lord Jesus, I pray that you'll continue your work through me today. Will you help me . . ."

Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

Judea and Samaria: When you put Judea and Samaria together, they are basically the same as the original kingdom of Israel in the Old Testament before it split into the northern and southern kingdoms. King Jesus is restoring all things through the gospel (8:1).

¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“ ‘May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“ ‘Let another take his office.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a **witness** to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Witness: If you saw a crime, you might go to court as a witness. You would testify about what you had seen. Jesus’s apostles (such as Peter, James, and John) had seen and heard Jesus (2:32; 3:15). Now he was sending them throughout the world to tell other people (26:16).



The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Peter’s Sermon at Pentecost

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal dotted lines.

The Spirit Comes



- ¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall
prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and
magnificent day.
²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon
the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

 *Make a list. What are some skills and strengths that God's Spirit has given you? How can you use them, even this week, to serve other people?*



Make a list. What are some skills and strengths that God's Spirit has given you? How can you use them, even this week, to serve other people?

- ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
- ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
- ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

- “The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.””

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall