# Acts of the Apostles

## Description

This is a course on Bible Interpretation, demonstrated with the book of Acts.

## Course Objectives

By completing this course, the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of Acts.
3. Better understand the history and geography of the period.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

## Textbooks

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

## Assignments

1. Read Acts at least twice during the course (preferably in two different translations).
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to Acts with a collection of material relevant to its interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

## Schedule

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 minute break), 8:10–9:00.

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| Date | Session | Content |
| 1/7 | 1  2 | Introduction to Course; Author and Audience; Genre, Structure and Themes  Acts 1:1-11 |
| 1/14 | 3  4 | The sermons in Acts; Acts 1:12–2:47  Acts 3:1–4:31 |
| 1/21 | 5  6 | Acts 4:32–5:16  Acts 5:17–6:7 |
| 1/28 | 7  8 | Acts 6:8–8:4  Acts 8:5-40 |
| 2/4 | 9  10 | Inclusion of gentiles; Acts 9:1–11:18  Acts 11:19–12:25 |
| 2/11 | 11  12 | Acts 13:1–15:35  Acts 15:36–16:40 |
| 2/18 | 13  14 | Acts 17:1–18:23  Acts 18:24–21:16 |
| 2/25 | 15  16 | Romans 21:17–23:35  Romans 24:1–26:32 |
| 3/4 | 17  18 | Romans 27:1–28:31  Sign gifts; Paul’s letters and the book of Acts |
| 3/11 | 19  20 | Final Questions and Discussion  Final Exam and Celebration |

## Select Bibliography

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1940.

Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Writings from Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire that Illuminate Christian Origins*, rev.%% ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1987.

Bock, Darrell L. *Acts*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Robert W. Yarbrough and Robert H. Stein. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Borgman, Paul. *The Way According to Luke: Hearing the Whole Story of Luke-Acts*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday, 1971.

Bruce, F. F. *The Book of the Acts*. Revised%% ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Gordon D. Fee. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.

Davids, Peter H. “Miracles in Acts.” In *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*, ed. Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids, 746-52. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

Davids, Peter H. “Tongues.” In *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*, ed. Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids, 1177-79. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

Green, Joel B. “Acts of the Apostles.” In *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Development*, ed. Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids, 7-24. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

Grudem, Wayne A., ed. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Four Views*. Counterpoints, ed. Stanley N. Gundry. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

Liefeld, Walter L. *Interpreting the Book of Acts*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis, ed. Scot McKnight. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

Longenecker, Richard N. “The Acts of the Apostles.” In *John–Acts*. Expositor's Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 9, 205-573. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.

Marshall, I. Howard. “Acts.” In *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*, ed. G. K. Beale and D. A. Carson, 513-606. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Osborne, Grant R. “Resurrection.” In *Dictionary of New Testament Background*, ed. Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, 931-36. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

Polhill, John B. *Acts*. New American Commentary, ed. David S. Dockery, vol. 26. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1992.

Rapske, Brian M. “Prison, Prisoner.” In *Dictionary of New Testament Background*, ed. Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, 827-30. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

Talbert, Charles H. *Reading Acts: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles*. Revised ed. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 2005.

Thompson, Glenn L. “Roman Administration.” In *Dictionary of New Testament Background*, ed. Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, 959-62. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

Witherington, Ben, III%%. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.