

This Session is being recorded

Study of Acts

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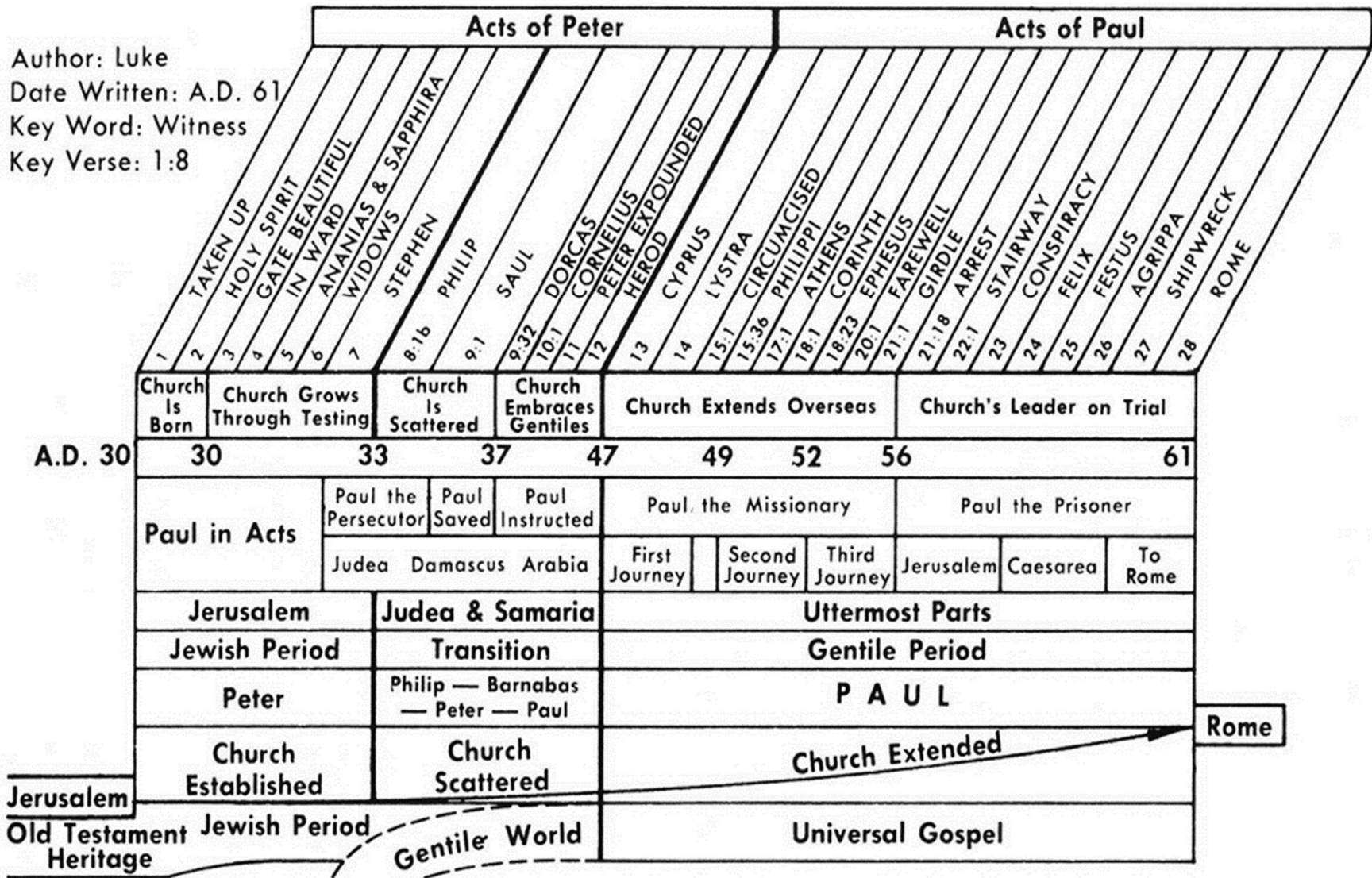
Join us live via Zoom Tuesday evenings 6:20-7:30 Central

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▼ Review

Author: Luke
 Date Written: A.D. 61
 Key Word: Witness
 Key Verse: 1:8



Rome



Acts 15:1-3 ¹And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved,” ² Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.

- Why do you think that we are only told “certain men” without their names?
- Was this an issue where they could agree to disagree?
- What does it mean that they had no small dissension and dispute with them?

Acts 15:4-6 ⁴ And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. ⁵ But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.” ⁶ Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

- What is the importance that believers of the Pharisees rose up?
- Is circumcision required for believers?
- Was circumcision the only issue being debated?

Acts 15:7-11 ⁷ And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up *and* said to them: “Men *and* brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as *He did* to us, ⁹ and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

- What steps are required to obtain a purified heart?
- What does Peter say about the yoke that would have shocked Jewish ears?
- What is the inverse of Gentile salvation?
- What does Peter’s statement “ ¹⁰ **Now therefore, why do you test God** “ mean to these Jewish believers?

Acts 15:12-18 ¹² Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men *and* brethren, listen to me: ¹⁴ Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ¹⁶ ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; ¹⁷ So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.’ ¹⁸ “Known to God from eternity are all His works.

- What is the impact of the multitude keeping silent?
- Why state Barnabas and Paul and not the other way around as was used most frequently?
- What is “after this”?
- Who was James?
- What is the meaning of the quote from Amos 9 in vs. 16-17?
- What is rebuilding the ruins?

Acts 15:19-21 ¹⁹ Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰ but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.

²¹ For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

- What does James' statement that he judged imply?
- How did James arrive at this list of 4 things to avoid?
- Does Jesus save us or do we save ourselves with God's help?



▼ **Wrap up and Closing Prayer**