

GROW: OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

(Acts 1:1-2)

PREAMBLE

Luke: Gentle writer
- learner of great capacity
Historian
Reliable medical-author
Paul's fellow worker + travel companion
most loyal friend
A "world-Christian"
- perspective of ministry

PACE

Connects to "what previously happened"
"PART TWO"
speedy pace of amazing spread
overcoming barriers
God's direction of history
Resurrection, exaltation and authority of Jesus
Prayer life of early Christians

PAUL

Humility (always going back to Jerusalem)
Persecutor to preacher to prisoner
ultimate change!!
Jewish hostility + prejudice vs. Roman friendliness + impartiality

POLITICS

Tiberius
Augustus (Calligula)
Claudius
Nero
Roman Emperors in Judea
Roman Governors in Judea
Galilee
Poppet kingship

PURPOSE

An account of spread of the Gospel "to the ends of the earth"
Witness in Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, to the ends of the earth
Paul's journeys
Power of the Church
We can get too comfortable in attitude, perspective, how we act etc

ENDS OF THE EARTH

Asia Minor + Europe (Galilee) 46-49 CE
Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth
Ephesus 53-54 CE
revisiting, gradually, disciples
"All roads lead to Rome"
"Gospel biz plan!"

SPEECHES

Basic tenets:
OT promises of God fulfilled
Jesus the Messiah has come, and will come again as Judge
Hear, repent, be baptised

ACTS AS APOLOGETIC HISTORY

DEFEND: set the record straight
Christianity is harmless
Christians are/Christianity is innocent
Christianity is lawful
- true fulfillment of Judaism
- takes note of major points too

POWER

Acts of the Holy Spirit
- mentioned nearly 60 times!
Not about the activities of over zealous humans

PROCLAMATION

"the word of God spread... and the church grew in numbers"

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