

CHRIST CHURCH, VIRGINIA WATER SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2010

SERMON NOTES: 8.00 & 9.30 AM SERVICES

Title: "How to Read Acts"

Preacher: Ro Mody

Four Principles for Reading and Understanding Acts:

1. Look for the Historical and Literary Context

Author of Acts: Luke the Doctor

Date: Around AD 70

Type of Literature: A Salvation/Fulfillment History

The Biblical Context: Acts continues the story of the OT & the Gospel of Luke

2. Look for the Structure of Acts

- I. Introduction: The Mission Plan of the Ascended Lord in Act and Word (1:1-14)
- II. The Word in Jerusalem (1:15-6:7)
- III. The Word Goes Out from Jerusalem (6:8-9:31)
- IV. The Word Advances in Judea and Samaria (9:32-12:25)
- V. The Word Goes to Cyprus and Asia Minor (13:1-16:5)
- VI. The Word Goes to Europe (16:6-18:22)
- VII. The Word in Ephesus: The Climax of Paul's Mission (18:23-20:38)
- VIII. The Word Reaches Rome: Paul's Final Journey (21:1-28:31)

3. Look for the Main Theme of Acts

Acts 1:1-2 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that **Jesus began to do and to teach** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving **instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen**.

Acts 1:3 After his [Jesus's] suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and **spoke about the kingdom of God**.

Acts 28:30-31 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house [in Rome] and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance **he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ**.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

So, the Book of Acts is about:

The Continuing Acts and Words of the Ascended Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit by His chosen Apostles so that the Word (Gospel of the Kingdom of God) goes out from Jerusalem to the whole world.

4. Look for Luke's Purpose and Application

- To give Christians certainty and assurance of their experience of salvation in the face of attacks on their faith.

Luke 1:1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eye-witnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that **you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.**

- To motivate Christians and equip Christians bear faithful witness to the gospel in world evangelism/mission.

Look at the evangelistic sermons in Acts as a model for our evangelism:

Peter's Pentecost Sermon to Jews (Acts 2:14-40)

Paul's Sermon in Athens to pagans (Acts 17:22-31)