



# Chapter 28: The Birth of the Church

The Bible and It's

Influence

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# Introduction



1. The Acts of the Apostles is a unique continuation from the Gospel of Luke, both addressed to Theophilus.
2. It closely resembles the gospels in literary form, continuing the narrative style and themes established in Luke's Gospel.



<https://stpaulcenter.com/how-to-read-the-acts-of-the-apostles/>

# Journey Theme



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- Acts traces a significant journey from Jerusalem to Rome, documenting travels through 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 Mediterranean islands.
  - This journey serves as a narrative thread, showing the expansion of the early church along Greek shipping routes and into diverse cultural contexts.
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# Pentecost

- Pentecost, a pivotal event in Acts, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.
- It is portrayed as a reversal of the Tower of Babel story, highlighting unity through diverse languages and the empowerment of the early church for its mission.



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# Healing and Preaching

- Acts vividly portrays apostolic healing, echoing the miraculous deeds of Jesus documented in Luke's Gospel.
- These healings serve as a powerful demonstration of continuity between Jesus' ministry and the ongoing mission of the early church, emphasizing divine authority and compassion.

# Common Life

- The early Christian community embraced a culture of sharing possessions, reflecting ideals of communal living and mutual support.
- However, the cautionary tale of Ananias and Sapphira underscores the importance of honesty and integrity within the community, warning against deceit and hypocrisy.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ananias\\_and\\_Sapphira](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ananias_and_Sapphira)

# Imprisonment

- Despite facing persecution, the apostles remained steadfast in their mission to preach the gospel.
- Gamaliel's wise counsel and the council's release with a warning underscore the resilience of the apostles, who rejoiced in their suffering for the sake of Christ.

# Appointment of Deacons

- Conflict between Hellenists and Hebrews within the early Christian community necessitated the appointment of deacons.
- Among them was Stephen, who emerged as a pivotal figure, serving the community and actively engaging in preaching the gospel message.



<https://vridar.org/2011/12/12/stephen-the-hellenistic-hebrew-division-in-the-jerusalem-church-2/>



# Stephen's Speech and Martyrdom

- Stephen delivered a powerful speech, confronting Jewish authorities and highlighting their history of resistance to God's messengers.
- His martyrdom marked a significant turning point, illustrating early tensions between Jewish authorities and the burgeoning Christian community, emphasizing the cost of proclaiming the gospel message.