



PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT®

*English Standard Version*

# *Acts*

PART 1

JESUS' WITNESSES  
EMPOWERED BY  
HIS SPIRIT  
(CHAPTERS 1–12)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

*English Standard Version*

ACTS PART 1  
JESUS' WITNESSES EMPOWERED BY HIS SPIRIT  
(CHAPTERS 1-12)

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## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

**How to Study Your Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010*

**The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000*

**Greek Word Study Tools**

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

LONGMAN III, TREMPER; GARLAND, DAVID E., eds.

**The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 10, Luke–Acts, Revised Edition**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007*

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., eds.

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament**

*Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985*

POLHILL, JOHN B.

**The New American Commentary, Vol. 26, Acts**

*Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 1995*

## RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

**Logos Bible Software**

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com).





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PRECEPT  
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*Acts Part 1*  
*Lesson 1, Chapter 1*

## LESSON ONE

### Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:  
Observation Worksheet of Acts 1  
“Map of Israel”  
“Map of Jerusalem”  
“Acts at a Glance”  
Word studies  
Cross-references

## POWER

**Power to be what God wants you to be!**  
**Power to do what God wants you to do!**  
**It’s yours for the believing!**

**As we prepare this inductive Precept course on the book of Acts, it seems this is “the hour”—the time to learn from the apostles what it means to be His witnesses, Christ-followers in the midst of a “crooked and twisted generation.”**

**If you are aware of what is transpiring in the nations, you can sense the increasing conflict between the darkness and light. And if you know the whole counsel of God, you should be keenly aware that the day of the Lord is drawing near. If ever there was a need to understand and do the will of God, it is now!**

**May you discover for yourself, through this study, what it means to be His faithful witness even to the remotest part of the earth. And may you hear His “Well done!”**

## DAY ONE

The secret to handling God’s Word accurately is to observe, observe, observe His Word—to hang on His every God-breathed word. As Luke brought his Gospel to a conclusion, he wrote that Jesus “opened their [the eleven apostles and those with them] minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45). May this be your prayer as you begin.



1. Since the book of Acts is an historical account, we are going to study it chapter by chapter, allowing the story to unfold before us. It is our prayer that in doing so you will begin to live the story. That you will be eager and hungry to know all that transpires in the lives of those whose story it is. Eagerness that it continue in you!
2. In the Appendix of this workbook, you'll find what we call "Observation Worksheets" for the first twelve chapters of Acts. They are just that—worksheets to be observed and marked in a way that will help you discover for yourself exactly what God says chapter by chapter in Acts, information He wants you to know, understand, and live by.

Read through Acts 1 and mark the following, using a distinctive color or a combination of colors and/or a colored symbol for each. For this it will be helpful to make a **Key Word Bookmark**. List the following words and mark them the way you will throughout Acts. You can do this on the blank side of the card on the back cover of your workbook. On the other side of the card, you'll see marking suggestions for some words frequently used in the Bible. Below we've indicated words from this list with an asterisk.

- a. *Jesus*\*
  - b. *the Holy Spirit*\*
  - c. *Peter, the apostles* (Mark these the same way.)
  - d. *baptized*
  - e. geographical locations,\* such as *Jerusalem* or the *upper room*. See these locations on the "Map of Israel" and the "Map of Jerusalem" in the Appendix.
  - f. references to "when,"\* such as *then, at this time*.
3. Now, apart from the human author of Acts, whose name we are not told in Acts 1, and Theophilus, to whom he's writing, you've marked the main characters mentioned in Acts 1. So what do you do with these markings besides have a lovely colored page? You want to learn what God tells you about them. So list the *main* things the text tells you about the people you marked, using the chart at the end of the lesson.

Yes, it will take time—but remember to hang on God's every word. Jesus said it is the bread by which we live (Matthew 4:4). We promise it will pay spiritual dividends if you take to heart what you learn.





4. Add the theme, the main event(s) of chapter 1 on the “Acts at a Glance” chart found in the Appendix. This chart is a great way to summarize the main points of the book. We’ll complete the chart as we move through Acts.

*Now aren't you awed by all that you have observed on your own simply by observing the text! Savor the truths . . . think about them . . . talk to the Father about them. Thank Him for His Word—this, Beloved, is the truth. Truth that sanctifies you—sets you apart, makes you more like Jesus, and keeps you from the evil one (John 17:14-18). And we are just beginning!*

DAY  
TWO  
AND  
DAY  
THREE

1. Now let's focus on Acts 1:1-5. At this point, the author does not identify himself by name, but it's apparent that Theophilus knows who he is.
  - a. What implies that Theophilus knows him?
  - b. Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture and since it is all God's Word, Scripture never contradicts Scripture. Theophilus is mentioned only one other place in the New Testament. Look up Luke 1:1-4 and record below what you learn from the text about him and about the connection between Luke and Acts.
  - c. So what do you learn about the writing of Acts—just from reading its first chapter? At this point, what does it seem the author is doing?
2. Tradition has established Luke not only as the author of the Gospel that bears his name but also as the author of Acts, which you can easily understand by comparing the beginnings of Luke and Acts as we did in number 1.





4. Let's look at what the Father promised and Jesus spoke about. We'll begin with Luke and then go to the Gospel of John and follow Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit. Look up the passages and record what you learn from them. Don't miss a detail.
  - a. Luke 24:44-53
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Luke 3:15-17
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. John 7:37-39
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. John 14:1-3, 16-17, 26



e. John 15:26-27

f. John 16:7-14

5. Now summarize what you learned from these Scriptures about the Holy Spirit. You can do it in bullet points.



6. If you have access to Greek word study tools, look up the Greek word translated “baptized” (verse 5) and note what you learn about this verb, including its tense and voice. By the way, the Greek preposition translated “with” can also be translated “in” or “by.” For help on how to do a word study see “How to Use Word Study Tools” in *How to Study Your Bible*. For information on the tense and voice of Greek verbs, see the section “How to Discover Tense, Voice, and Mood.”

7. Now let’s move to Acts 1:6-11. What events are covered in this paragraph?

8. Did you notice “kingdom”? “Kingdom” is mentioned eight times in Acts, two of the eight in Acts 1.
  - a. What do you learn about the kingdom in Acts 1:1-11?



- b. Look up Luke 22:28-30. How does this relate to the disciples asking Jesus in Acts 1:6 if He would restore the kingdom at that time?

*Now you can understand why they wanted to know, can't you?*

- c. One last verse on the kingdom so you know for sure what starts Jesus' reign on earth. Read Matthew 25:31. What verse does this parallel in Acts 1?
- 
9. So what happens between Jesus' ascension to heaven and His return to earth? What do you learn from Acts 1:8? Don't miss the who, the when, the where, the what—and the how.

*We will take an even closer look at Acts 1:6-11 tomorrow.*

DAY  
FOUR

1. After you begin in prayer read through Acts 1:1-11 again. (It's good to read aloud.) Then to review, answer the following questions:
  - a. Why were they not to depart from Jerusalem?
  - b. What were they going to receive?
  - c. When was this going to happen—what would be the timing?



- d. How would it happen?
  - e. What would they become?
  - f. Where?
2. Although “power” and “witnesses” (verse 8) are excellent translations of the Greek nouns (the New Testament was written in Koine Greek—the “common” Greek used during Roman times), it is interesting to look at these particular words in Greek. Look up the following words along with their definitions. If you don’t have word study tools,<sup>1</sup> see if your commentaries give you the Greek words for “power” and “witnesses” and elaborate on their meanings.
- a. power
  - b. witnesses

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<sup>1</sup> You can learn about Greek word study tools in *How to Study Your Bible*, available at [precept.org](http://precept.org) or by calling 1-800-763-8280.



3. Now, let's go back to Luke's final words in the Gospel he wrote for Theophilus. Read Luke 24:45-49 again and look for "power," "witnesses," and "promise." What do you see that parallels Acts 1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. "To the end of the earth"—stop and think about this. What does this tell you about the heart of God, about salvation through genuine faith in Jesus Christ? Look up the following verses and think about them—don't just read, think, Beloved. What do they tell you about the extent of the witness?
  - a. Isaiah 49:6
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Matthew 28:16-20
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Revelation 5:6-10 (You may want to read to verse 14, the end of the chapter). Will the end of the earth be reached? How do you know from these verses?

*And what will be your role, Beloved? You will surely see as you discover the truth of Acts for yourself and go deeper with others.*







- d. How significant is this with respect to the fact that Jesus is coming again? What direction did Jesus go? What received Jesus out of the apostles' sight? How will He come back and from where? So what do you learn about Jesus' departure and His coming again? Just the facts—nothing else!
- e. Compare this with Luke 21:27 and Mark 14:60-62. Are these good cross-references to Acts 1:9-11 and if so, why?
- f. Where is Jesus now . . . and what is He doing? Look up the following Scriptures and be blessed:
- 1) John 14:2-3
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2) Ephesians 1:20-21
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 3) Romans 8:34



*This is a good way to finish your study today, isn't it! Why don't you close your Bible and your workbook and be still for a few minutes. Think about what you've learned today . . . how it can be applied to your life . . . and then worship your God, bow before Him and honor Him with the honor due His name . . . and His Word.*

DAY  
FIVE

1. Jesus ascends to heaven . . . the disciples await the Spirit promised by the Father . . . and until then, what? How significant is what happens next? Enough to devote fifteen verses to it! Read Acts 1:12-26 on your Observation Worksheet.

Mark *prayer* and its synonyms in a distinctive way and add it to your bookmark. It's always good to mark references to prayer as you read the Bible as it is an important discipline. See "pray" on the back cover of your book for a suggested marking.

2. Now, when you marked the references to the apostles including the pronouns, you probably marked the *they* and *these* in verses 12-14. Let's review what we observe about them from these verses. Look at your list about them on the chart at the end of the lesson.

- a. From where to where did the apostles go?

- b. How far are these two places from each other?

- c. In an effort to obey Exodus 16:29, Jews decided that they should not walk more than 2,000 cubits (between 3,000 and 3,600 feet) on Sabbaths. Read the verse from Exodus which commands every man to remain (*yashab*: sit down, dwell, remain) in his *place* (*maqom*: country, home, open place, locality) on the seventh day. You may want to write these Hebrew words with their definitions in your Bible.



d. Let's play "Did you notice?" Did you notice that the apostles are named? That according to verse 14, none of Jesus' brothers are named among the twelve? Look up the following verses and see what you learn from them.

1) First, look at Luke 6:12-16.

2) Now read John 7:2-5.

3) Luke 8:19-21

4) Finally, did you notice there are women present in the Upper Room? If you studied Luke with us, you know Luke's Gospel says many women followed Jesus and ministered to Him and the disciples—and He ministered to women. What does this tell you about Jesus' attitude towards women?





- c. What does this tell you about the importance of the Old Testament—the “Bible” of the Jews?
- d. Twelve was a significant number to the Jewish people—for example, there are twelve tribes of Israel. While we could look up a number of references to twelve, two will do for now. See what you learn from them:
- 1) Luke 22:28-30
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2) Revelation 21:10-14
5. According to Acts 1, how was Judas’s replacement chosen?
- a. What were the qualifications for his replacement?



- b. How was the selection made? Follow the process closely, listing the details and including those involved in the selection process.
- c. Does casting lots seem ungodly? Look at Proverbs 16:33. What do you learn? Who does this involve? What does this tell you about the decider of the lot?
6. Finally, according to verse 22, what was Judas's replacement to do? Were there any other references to *witness* and *resurrection* in Acts 1? If so, why don't you mark these each in a recognizable way.
7. Now you can see what commentaries say about Acts 1.

*Well done! Think of what you have learned for yourself—of what you know that you know because of the time and careful attention you've given to the words of Almighty God—the Sovereign Ruler of the universe.*







JESUS	THE APOSTLES
THE HOLY SPIRIT	PETER





## ACTS 1

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- I**N the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,
- 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
  - 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
  - 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;
  - 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
  - 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”
  - 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.
  - 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
  - 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
  - 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,
  - 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”



- 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.
- 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.
- 14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
- 15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,
- 16 "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.
- 17 "For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."
- 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.
- 19 And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)
- 20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,
- 'May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it';
- and
- 'Let another take his office.'
- 21 "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
- 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."
- 23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.



- 24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen
- 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”
- 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.





ACTS AT A GLANCE

**Book Theme:**

Segment Divisions			Chapter Themes
<b>Author:</b>			1
			2
<b>Date:</b>			3
			4
<b>Purpose:</b>			5
			6
<b>Key Words:</b>			7
			8
			9
			10
			11
			12











