

# Homework Assignment

## The Book of Acts: Chapter II

*Meat Lovers Bible Study*  
*Wednesdays: @ 7:00 p.m.*  
*New Millennium Bible Fellowship PC*  
*Bishop J. Lee Slater & Exc. Pastor D. Slater*  
*www.nmbfchurch.org*

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

The life of the early church is recorded and preserved for us in the book of Acts *and the epistles*. The following outline is intended to be used while studying the book. It will help to keep the whole of the book before you as you work your way through each section.

#### A. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

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The importance of this second of Luke's two-volume work can hardly be over-estimated, for without it we would have no record of the beginnings and development of the early church. Therefore, as Acts furnishes for us a *selective* record of events that took place during the formative years of the church, it provides us with the historical antecedents of our faith and how that faith came to be embraced from Jerusalem to Rome. It also provides helpful information of the facts surrounding many of the letters of the apostles, which in turn helps us to better understand *when* they said what they said and *why* they said it. It was probably written in the early 60's, perhaps from Antioch, Rome or Ephesus.

#### B. THE PURPOSE OF ACTS

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As was stated, Acts is the second part of what was originally a two-part, single volume (i.e. Luke-Acts; cf. [Acts 1:1](#)). Therefore, it is reasonable to include Luke's purpose for Acts as falling under his purpose for the book of Luke. In [Luke 1:4](#) the author says that he is writing to "most excellent Theophilus" . . . "in order that he might know the certainty of the things he had been taught." Apparently, as Longenecker observes, Theophilus "seems to have been a man, who though receptive to the gospel and perhaps even convinced by its claims, had many questions about Christianity as he knew it." Luke wrote to strengthen him in his belief. Given the contents of the book of Acts, Theophilus appears to have had questions about the coming and activity of the Holy Spirit, the ministry of the apostles, Paul and his dealings with the Jerusalem apostles and the advance of Christianity to the Imperial capital.

In a sentence, given the emphasis on the unity of the church (2, 4, 15, 20) and its expansion from Jerusalem to Rome we may say that the Luke's purpose was to demonstrate to Theophilus the sovereign, unified and unmitigated advance of the gospel into all the world, i.e. from Jerusalem to Rome. There are seven "progress reports" on the unity and advance of the church that further confirm this (cf. 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30, 31). With this knowledge, Theophilus, who was probably a Roman official, could understand how Christianity reached his city.

**THE CHURCH IS BORN (2:1-11)**

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**1. Pentecost**

- a. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (2:1-4a)**
- b. The Sign: Tongues (2:4b-11)**
- c. The Reaction: Mixed (2:12-13)**

**2. Peter's Explanation in a Sermon (2:14-36)**

- a. Pentecost: The fulfillment of Joel 2 (2:14-21)**
- b. Pentecost: Based upon Christ's Work (2:22-36)**

**3. The Reaction to Peter's Sermon (2:37-41)**

- a. People cut to the heart (2:37-40)**
- b. 3000 saved (2:41)**

**SUMMARY OF THE YOUNG CHURCH (2:42-47)**

- 1. Unity among the people (2:42-46)**
- 2. Praise to God from the people (2:47)**

**Note:**

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