

The Adventure story of Acts part 1

Impassioned and confronting speeches by Peter and Stephen

The promise to Abraham – the blessing of all the nations

Your group and mine!

The problem of the new diversity beginning to be recognised

The Jewish hope

The Messianic kingdom

Recapping about the author, Dr Luke – his background

The writing of the two documents

*In his gospel Luke has recorded Jesus' life on earth **with** his disciples, and then in the Acts, he focusses our attention on Jesus' life from heaven, now **in** his disciples by the Holy Spirit.*

Where Luke got his material for his Gospel, and the Acts

With Paul in Jerusalem before and after his arrest

Travelling with Paul to Rome and with him in prison

The importance of the Acts of the Apostles to us

The influences on Luke's writing styles

Luke's intentions in writing and the Roman attitude to Christianity

The story so far! *(especially if you did not study Acts part 1 but even if you did!)*

The church in Jerusalem

Increasing opposition and the resulting scattering of the church

Saul's encounter with Jesus

The widening circle – the Gentiles in Judea and then in Syrian Antioch

Persecution, the death of James, the deliverance of Peter, the judgement of Herod

A change of geographical emphasis from **the capital of Judaism** – Jerusalem – to Syrian Antioch

As the story continues..... Paul's 'modus operandi' – first the synagogue – then to the Gentiles!

Our attention directed Westwards towards Rome ***the capital of the world!***

A change of emphasis to 'Saul' and his ministry, from Barnabas as leader to 'Paul' as main teacher

The Damascus Road experience

Paul's recognition of the Messiah of Scripture

The Kingdom of God now a reality, not yet completed; in us by the Spirit, not in the Temple,
– the '*now and not yet*' concept

The churches Paul left behind in pagan surroundings

Paul the man ... his zeal now focussed on Jesus

His background and its God-ordained usefulness in his mission

His profession and its influence on his ministry

His personal life that we know so little about

His character! revealed to us in Acts and in his letters

Paul's friends, co-workers, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Barnabas – Pastor, encourager, missionary and the 'second fiddle' to Paul.

Silas – Paul's choice of a new missionary co-worker after Barnabas stood his ground about ***Mark***, who later wrote the first of the gospel account of the life of Jesus.

Timothy – like a son to Paul from his second visit to Lystra, through to the very end!

What you discovered about Timothy from Philippians 2: 19–24

Priscilla and Aquilla – Paul's host family in Corinth and then travelling companions to Ephesus.

Apollus – who needed Priscilla and Aquilla to complete the message he was keen to preach.

Luke – himself not mentioned by name but a vital part of Paul's team as we have seen!

Titus, Epaphroditus, Onesimus, Philemon, (For more look at Romans 16, men and women)

Those churches that Paul founded

Cyprus, Lystra, Derbe, Iconium in Galatia, Ephesus,
Over to Europe to Macedonia: Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth
By shipwreck on Paul's way to a trial in Rome, Malta
And all the unnamed places in-between!

The challenge of the 'Unfinished Story of Acts'

Your personal prayer in response to the challenge