

# THE KINGDOM AND THE LORD

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Summer 2022, Acts 28:11-31

September 18, 2022

*Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God  
and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Acts 28:31

## **The final miles to Rome**

<sup>11</sup> After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island. It was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. <sup>12</sup> We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. <sup>13</sup> From there we set sail and arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli. <sup>14</sup> There we found some brothers who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup> The brothers there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged. <sup>16</sup> When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

Acts 28:11-16

1. Now the wind is literally at Paul's back
2. Paul is encouraged – maybe because his letter to the Romans (see Romans 1:8-12) had been read!

## **Paul's first task in Rome: meet with the Jewish leaders**

<sup>17</sup> Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. <sup>18</sup> They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. <sup>19</sup> But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—not that I had any charge to bring against my own people. <sup>20</sup> For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

<sup>21</sup> They replied, "We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. <sup>22</sup> But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect."

Acts 28:17-22

1. The "hope of Israel" (God himself in Jeremiah 14:8; 17:13) is that Messiah would establish God's kingdom (see Daniel 2)
2. Doug is skeptical that the Jewish leaders didn't know more about Paul, but they are concerned about any conflict with Paul in light of Claudius' edict of 49 AD

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<sup>23</sup> They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup> Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. <sup>25</sup> They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

<sup>26</sup> “ ‘Go to this people and say,  
“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”  
<sup>27</sup> For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

<sup>28</sup> “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!”

Acts 28, Paul quotes from Isaiah 6:9-10

1. By “explained and declared the kingdom of God” Luke is pointing to the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises AND to the ethics of the kingdom (summarized in the Sermon on the Mount)
2. Paul’s “convincing them about Jesus” sounds like Luke 24:27 and would include all the faith in Jesus elements of the gospel: cross and resurrection, promise of the Holy Spirit, faith repentance
3. God faithfully preserved the Jewish people to bring the gospel to us Gentiles whose rejection of Messiah was foretold in Isaiah (thanks to Bob Deffinbaugh, see also Romans 11:1-10)

## The last word in Luke’s continuing story

<sup>30</sup> For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup> Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 28:30-32

1. The abrupt ending is Luke’s way of telling us that the gospel is more important than Paul (see Philippians 1:12-14), but there might be an even more important reason for this ending
2. “Declaring the kingdom” and “preaching about Jesus” summarize Luke’s message in Luke/Acts (see Luke 4:43, 9:2, 18:24-29, 22:16-30; Acts 1:3, 8:12, 13:32-33, 19:8)
3. The more Paul is chained, the less he (and more importantly, the gospel) is hindered

## Acts 29: Preaching the kingdom and teaching about the Lord

1. Preaching the kingdom announces the advent of the “crusher” kingdom of which we are a part!

<sup>44</sup> *“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.*

Daniel 2

2. The kingdom always includes repentance and faith: my response and the Jesus story

<sup>14</sup> *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

Mark 1 (see Luke 4:43)

3. Participation in this kingdom requires a new ethic: what I should love and what I should hate

*“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.”*

Luke 6:20 (the “ethic” for this kingdom is summarized in 6:20-49)

4. Luke’s most important reason for this abrupt ending? The Great Commission is not complete and the Holy Spirit is still at work!

*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his 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. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

<sup>6</sup> *So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

<sup>7</sup> *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.”*

Acts 1

## Resources for further studies in Acts

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Acts at <https://open.life.church/items/179224-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has several sermons on texts in Acts which are available at

<https://www.biblebb.com/brefindex/act.htm>

Tim Keller has a wonderful article at Christianity Today (April, 2021) on hope and resurrection at

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/april-web-only/timothy-keller-hope-times-fear-resurrection-better-world.html>

Keller also addresses the impact of the resurrection on his own diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in *The Atlantic* at

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/tim-keller-growing-my-faith-face-death/618219/>

This Gospel Coalition “Why the Resurrection Changes Everything” article includes a survey of many of the key resurrection texts: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-the-resurrection-changes-everything/>

Peter Krol offers an interesting take on the structure of Acts 27 at

<https://www.knowableword.com/2021/09/03/what-should-we-make-of-pauls-shipwreck-narrative/>

D. A. Carson has a wonderful essay from Acts 17 on “Worldview Evangelism” at

<https://www.monergism.com/athens-revisited-exegetical-study-acts-17-da-carson>

Deffinbaugh’s Acts messages are at <https://bible.org/series/studies-book-acts>

His sermon on Acts 28 is at <https://bible.org/seriespage/35-paul-rome-acts-28-31>

Allstair Begg has a sermon in this text which focuses on the how God works through the circumstances of Paul’s life at <https://www.truthforlife.org/resources/sermon/all-things-god-works/>

For those who want to dig deeper into the worldview clash at Mars Hill, I recommend Andrew Klavan’s challenging “Speaking Truth into Modern Culture” at <https://youtu.be/Cckiti7as44>

John Stott’s *The Spirit, The Church and the World: The Message of Acts* (IVP, 1990) and F. F. Bruce’s work: *New Testament History* (Doubleday, 1980) and *The Book of the Acts* (Eerdmans, 1984). For this passage, I also like Kistemaker’s commentary (Baker Book House, 1990).

Harry Boer, *That My House May Be Filled* (Eerdmans, 1957)

- A UNIFIED, TWO-VOLUME WORK
- FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: LUKE
- A TRAVELING CO-COACHER WITH PAUL (CO-AUTHOR 2:1)

# LUKE ACTS

It produced my first account about all the things Jesus began to do & teach

IMPLICATION: ACTS WHAT JESUS CONTINUED TO DO & TEACH

TRADITIONAL NAME: The Acts of the Apostles  
ACCURATE NAME:

# The ACTS of Jesus & the SPIRIT

## LUKE-ACTS

HOW GOD'S KINGDOM CAME ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN THROUGH JESUS & HIS SPIRIT & HIS CHURCH

EXAMPLES OF FAITHFULNESS TO KING JESUS:

- SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN WORDS & ACTION
- FORMING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE ARE EQUALS
- TRUSTING IN THE POWER & GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRIT

### 1 INTRODUCTION

**KINGDOM OF GOD:** JESUS RESTORES GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE WORLD. CALLED ISRAEL TO FOLLOW HIM. ENTROINED AS KING THROUGH HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION.

**PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT:** FULFILLS PROPHECY WORDS (ISAIAH 61, EZEKIEL 36, JONAH 2)

**YOU'LL BE MY WITNESSES:** JERUSALEM, JUDAEA & SAMARIA, ENDS OF THE EARTH.

**JESUS IS EVALUATED AS KING OF THE WORLD:** DANIEL (ca. 7)

**JESUS IS ENTROINED AS SON OF MAN**

### 2-7 IN JERUSALEM

**2 PENTECOST:** NEW SPIRIT. GOD'S GLORY: FILLING OF TEMPLE IN THE PAST - EZEKIEL 40. IN THE FUTURE - EZEKIEL 43, ISAIAH 2.

**3-5 A TALE OF TWO TEMPLES:** A PRACTICE DESCRIBED IN THE TORAH (CONSIDERED TO BE PROHIBITED BY THE TEMPLE).

**LUKE'S POINT:** THE NEW TEMPLE OF JESUS (COMMUNITY) IS WHERE DIVERSE PEOPLE ENCOUNTER GODS. JESUS FOLLOWERS SELL POSSESSIONS TO SUPPORT THE POOR.

**6-7 PETER HEALS & PREACHES IN THE TEMPLE - ARRESTED & TRIED:** JESUS DISCIPLES GATHER DAILY IN THE TEMPLE COURTS & HOUSE TO HOUSE.

### 8-12 JERUSALEM

**8-9 FIRST PERSECUTION:** WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE SON OF A MAN? STEPHEN.

**10-12 JERUSALEM DRIVEN FROM THE CITY:** JESUS FOLLOWERS DRIVEN FROM THE CITY.

### 8-12 JUDEA & SAMARIA

ROAD THE MOSTLY JEWISH JERUSALEM-GALILEA COMMUNITY OF JESUS.

**9-10 PHILIP IN SAMARIA:** CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSAUS.

**11-12 PETER & CORNELIUS:** CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSAUS.

**13-14 THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH:** FIRST MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH. FIRST USE OF "CHRISTIANS" (Ch. 26).

### 13-20 THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

**13-14 ASIA MINOR:** ASIA MINOR & GREECE.

**15-16 ASIA MINOR & GREECE AGAIN!**

**17-18 THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL:** NO WAY! WOULD PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE SON OF A MAN? (ca. 30-40).

**19-20 ACCUSATIONS OF REBELLION (ca. 47-49):** THE BIBLE BEGAN AS THE ONE TRUE GOD & KING? CALLED TO FOLLOW HIM.

### 21-28 PAUL'S WITNESS SPREADS TO ROME

**21-22 PAUL ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM:** HE TRIANDED MARSHES FOR PEOPLE & OUR TEMPLE (ca. 47-49).

**23-26 PAUL ON TRIAL BEFORE:** GOVERNOR FELIX, GOVERNOR FESTUS, KING AGRIPPA, THE SANHEDRIN.

**27-28 UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN ROME:** PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT ALLOWS TIME TO COMPOSE HIS APOSTOLIC LETTERS.

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**THE PARADOX OF THE EARLY CHURCH:** A Jewish messianic movement, but ethnically diverse - MEN & WOMEN, RICH & POOR, SLAVE & FREE... all considered as equals - LEAD TO JESUS ALONE. *...but not in religious "hearts" to Rome.*

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