

Acts of the Apostles

Textbook: *A New Commentary On Acts*, J. W. McGarvey

Acts - Lesson 1

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 1

Pages vii-18

1. In the Introduction, McGarvey cites one important reason why Acts had once been a much neglected book. Indicate the reason.
2. Why is “Acts of Apostles” a more appropriate title for the book than “The Acts of the Apostles”?
3. Name the person who was Luke’s principal source of information. Why was this so?
4. Give two arguments in support of the credibility of Luke, the author of Acts.
5. What are the two “great divisions” of the book?
6. Who was the “principal agent . . . in directing all the labors of the apostles”?
7. To whom was the book addressed? The meaning of the name?
8. How did Jesus prepare the Apostles for their work prior to his ascension?
9. What was the “promise of the Father”? (verse 4, page 4)
10. What misunderstanding is implied in the question recorded in verse 6? (page 4)
11. After receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were to be witnesses in _____, _____, _____, _____.
12. The ascension of Jesus is recorded by which two of the four gospel writers?
13. What may have been the purpose of listing the names of the Apostles in verse 13, according to McGarvey? (p. 10)
14. Who are “his brethren” in verse 14 and what is significant about the fact that they are present?
15. What experience qualified a man to be chosen as an Apostle?
16. Why choose by lot rather than be election?

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 2

Pages 19-66

1. The day of Pentecost. Sum up the information which McGarvey presents about this special day. Meaning of the word? It occurs when? Other names for the event?
2. Identify and describe the manifestations of miraculous power which occurred on the Pentecost of Acts 2.
3. What was the miracle of tongues? Who spoke in tongues on that day?
4. What various reactions were expressed by those who witnessed this happening?
5. How do you account for a negative reaction?
6. Any thoughts on the difference between the speaking in tongues on the day of Pentecost and contemporary "speaking in tongues"? (If not, proceed to the next question.)
7. The word "preach" means to proclaim or announce. List the things Peter preached on this occasion.
8. Harmonize: Salvation by grace (Ephesians 2:8) and the commandments of Acts 2:38.
9. How many were added on the day of Pentecost, and to what were they added?
10. What were the daily activities of the church in its first few months of existence?
11. Explain the occasion and the healing of the lame man. What lessons are taught here?
12. How did this miracle produce the desired effect and even more than was expected?
13. Whose faith is referred to in 3:16? (p. 55) Explain.
14. Explain why the Jews were not excused from guilt because of their ignorance of the deity of Christ.
15. Give an adequate definition of "repentance."

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 3

Pages 66-116

1. Who arrested Peter and John? What were the charges against them?
2. How do you account for the boldness of Peter's defense before the council?

3. To what extent was Peter's defense effective? Explain.
4. What does the private consultation reveal about the character of the Jewish leaders?
5. What was their instruction to Peter and John? Why?
6. What was Peter's reply?
7. What do you think motivated the church to act as described in verses 32-37?
8. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Explain.
9. What may have tempted them to this sin?
10. Why do you think they were stricken dead?
11. What resulted from this incident?
12. What charges are made and what defenses are set forth in Peter's second appearance before the council? 5:21ff
13. Give a summary of Gamaliel's argument, verses 38, 39. Is it effective?
14. How did the persecution by the council affect the apostles?
15. Distinguish between the Grecian Jews and the Hebrews. Acts 6:1
16. What problem arose in the church and how was it resolved?
17. What does this incident teach us about handling problems in the church today?
18. Describe the conflict that arose between Stephen and the Hellenistic Jews.

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 4

Pages 116-164

1. Acts 7:1 "And the high priest said, 'Are these things so?' What are "these things" that the high priest is referring to?
2. Stephen's discourse, for the most part, doesn't seem to answer the high priest. Does Stephen at some point get around to answering him? Explain.
3. How did Saul participate in the death of Stephen?
4. Luke sums up the activities that followed the death of Stephen. What were they?
5. Give an account of the labors of Philip in Samaria. What was Simon's response to Philip?
6. Summarize the ministry of Peter and John in Samaria.
7. What was the wicked proposal by Simon?
8. How did Peter respond to Simon?
9. For what purpose was Philip directed to go to the desert border of Gaza?

10. Why was this area called “desert”?
11. What do we learn about the Ethiopian eunuch?
12. Who instigated the meeting of Philip and the eunuch? What is significant about this?
13. Are there any lessons in personal evangelism to be learned from Philip’s example?
If so, explain one or two such lessons.
14. What is included in “preached unto him Jesus”?
15. Why do many theologians deny the fact of the eunuch’s immersion?
16. What followed the immersion of the eunuch?

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 5

Pages 164-208

1. Relate some facts of Paul’s life prior to his conversion.
2. Who was Gamaliel?
3. How was Paul affected by contact with Gamaliel?
4. What evidence suggests that Paul may have been a member of the Sanhedrin?
5. What was Paul’s purpose for his trip to Damascus?
6. Tell the story of Saul’s conversion, beginning with the point at which “there shone round about him a light out of heaven.”
7. What human elements of conversion-- faith, repentance, confession, and immersion-- can you identify in this case of conversion as related in chapter 9?
8. What did Paul do following his conversion?
9. When did Paul leave Damascus to go to Jerusalem? (Galatians 1: 17, 18; Acts 9:23-26)
10. What was the reaction of the church toward Saul?
11. Why did the Jews living in Damascus want to kill Saul?
12. Who sent Saul to Tarsus? Why send him there?
13. What did he do in his home province? (Acts 22: 18-21; Galatians 1: 21-24)
14. How did the healing of Aeneas in Lydda produce faith and obedience?
15. The reasons for Peter’s going to Joppa? Was a miracle expected?
16. Describe the vision that Peter experienced on the housetop. Explain the meaning of this vision.

17. How did Peter's vision prepare him for his visit with Cornelius?

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 6

Pages 209-262

1. Peter says that "God is no respecter of persons." How does he support this claim?
 2. What purpose was served when the Holy Spirit was poured on the Gentiles?
 3. What prompted Peter's defense before the Christians in Jerusalem?
 4. What was the outcome of Peter's defense? --short range and long range?
 5. What brought about the founding of the church in Antioch?
 6. Why was Barnabas sent to Antioch? (What did he do in Antioch?)
 7. For what purpose did Barnabas bring Saul to Antioch?
 8. For what purpose did Saul and Barnabas leave Antioch to go to Judea?
 9. How did Herod's persecution of James and Peter affect the church?
 10. God saved Peter's life and permitted James to die. Any thoughts on how to account for the difference?
 11. What does Luke say about the progress of the church following Herod's death?
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Note: Read Excursus A and answer the following questions:

12. List the four objections offered to the possibility that baptism might have some connection with the remission of sins.
13. List the four groups of Scriptures McGarvey offers as proof that there is a connection between baptism and the remission of sins. Identify each class.
14. In one sentence, explain the relationship of baptism and the remission of sins.

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 7

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Vol. 2 pp. 1-52

1. Match the cities that Paul and Barnabas visited with the countries or provinces in which they are located. A map of Paul's journey might be helpful. The NIV Study Bible is one source. There are others.

Cities	Countries/Provinces
1. _____ Perga	a. Pamphlia
2. _____ Selucia	
3. _____ Iconium	b. Cyprus
4. _____ Antioch (#1)	
5. _____ Antioch (#2)	c. Syria
6. _____ Lystra	
5. _____ Salamis	d. Pisidia
6. _____ Attalia	
5. _____ Derbe	e. Lycaonia
6. _____ Paphos	

- 2. Trace Paul's journey by cities visited. List them in order on the outbound journey and on the return journey.**
3. Identify, city by city, key people and groups of people that Paul met along the way and tell briefly about the roles they played in Paul's experiences. Include both those who accepted Paul's message and those who fiercely opposed him.
4. Identify and describe, in chronological order, the miracles that occurred as a part of Paul's ministry on this first journey. Include an account of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 8

Vol. 2, pp. 53-74

1. What conflict arose between the Jews and the Gentile disciples in Antioch?
2. Who was responsible for introducing this conflict in Antioch?
3. Why did Jewish Christians insist that Gentile Christians should keep the Law of Moses? (Consider McGarvey's thoughts.)
4. Was there any question in the minds of Paul and Barnabas concerning the will of God in this matter?
5. What decision was made to help settle the conflict and come to a universal understanding?
6. Sum up the points of Peter's argument that Gentiles did not need to keep the Law of Moses.
7. What was James' summary of the discussion?
8. Why the fourfold prohibition for Gentile converts listed here?
9. What decision was made by the apostles and elders?
10. How do we know that their decision was the will of God?
11. How did the church in Antioch benefit from the report of the men who were sent to them?

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 8

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Vol. 2, pp. 75-145

1. Paul's second missionary journey was preceded by a squabble with Barnabas. Explain.
2. Whom did Paul choose as his partner for this journey? What do we know about him?
3. What are we told about Timothy in chapter 16? His home? His parents? His qualifications?
4. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?
5. Paul was not permitted to preach in two different provinces (territories). Tell this story briefly.
6. What led Paul to travel to Macedonia to preach?
7. Tell briefly the story of Lydia and her relationship with Paul.
8. Paul and Silas spent some time in prison. Why were they imprisoned? How did they handle this experience? What were some positive results? Tell

about their release.

9. Compare Paul's experiences in Thessalonica with those in Berea. Include positive and negative experiences.
10. Describe the religious conditions that confronted Paul in the city of Athens. How did Paul respond? How was his message received?
11. Compile a list of the people and specific groups of people who were converted by Paul on this journey. Identify chapter and verse for all of them.
12. Identify the following people. Describe their experiences and the roles they played in the story of Paul and his co-workers.
 1. Gallio
 2. Crispus
 3. Epicurean philosophers
 4. Priscilla and Aquila
 5. Titus Justus
 6. Jason
 7. Sosthenes
 8. Claudius

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 10

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Vol. 2, pp. 145-202

1. Who was Apollos? What were his strengths? How was his preaching inadequate?
2. Who were Aquila and Priscilla and how did they help Apollos?
3. Describe Apollos' mission in Achaia.
4. How was the baptism of John different from the baptism introduced on the day of Pentecost?
5. Paul came to Ephesus and caused the Holy Spirit to come upon about twelve men, who then spoke with tongues and prophesied. How are we to understand this experience? Consider McGarvey's thoughts.
6. In Ephesus, Paul spoke in the synagogue for how long? Why did he discontinue speaking in the synagogue and where did he go next to continue teaching? How long did he continue in this new location?
7. What is an "exorcist"? Tell briefly the story of the exorcists at work in Ephesus. How were they exposed and how did this affect the people of

Ephesus?

8. Tell briefly the story of Demetrius the silver smith and the trouble he stirred up. How was the whole matter resolved?
9. Beginning at Acts 20:1, trace Paul's travels, city by city, back to Jerusalem. Name people along the way, whether friends or enemies, who played significant roles in Paul's experiences.

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 11

Vol. 2, pp. 203-248

1. Acts 21:18 "Paul went with us unto James." Who is this James? What is known about him?
2. Acts 21:23, 24 What was the purpose of the suggestion that Paul should join the four men who had taken a vow?
3. Why did Paul agree to this proposal? Consider McGarvey's thoughts.
4. What is a "chiliarch"? What part does a chiliarch have in the arrest of Paul?
5. What did Paul hope to accomplish in his address to the mob? Why did the mob interrupt the address?
6. Why was a scourging ordered for Paul? How was it prevented?
7. What was the purpose for bringing Paul before the Sanhedrin? How did Paul frustrate the effort of the Sanhedrin to condemn him? Why did it work?
8. Describe the conspiracy that was formed to kill Paul. How was it discovered and frustrated?
9. Tell a little about Claudius Lysias and his treatment of Paul.
10. The Jews asked Festus to bring Paul from Caesarea to Jerusalem to stand trial. What was their plan, if Festus had agreed?
11. At the trial in Caesarea, Paul said in his own defense that he had not sinned against _____,
_____, or
_____.
12. What circumstances led to Paul's appeal to Caesar?
13. p. 246 How does McGarvey justify his use of "demon-worship" in verse 19? Check the corresponding word or phrase used in two or three other translations. What do you find?
14. Why might Agrippa be more interested than Festus in hearing Paul's story? And how had Agrippa's family been linked to the life and ministry of Jesus?

Acts of the Apostles - Lesson 12

Vol. 2, pp. 248-292

1. In addition to Festus, who joined Agrippa in hearing Paul state his case publicly?
2. Agrippa was a member (a “scion”) of what family?
3. What was the purpose of Festus in bringing Paul before Agrippa?
4. Mention at least one reason why Agrippa was prepared to be an intelligent listener to Paul’s presentation.
5. Consider chapter 26:9-18. Does Paul include anything in this account of his conversion that is not recorded in chapters 9 and 22? Explain.
6. Why did Festus interrupt Paul’s speech and what did he say?
7. Paul asked Agrippa, “Believest thou the prophets?” What was Agrippa’s response?
8. Agrippa found no fault in Paul. Why did he not set him free?
9. Name two people who set out on the voyage to Rome with Paul.
10. How was Paul treated by Julius? An example of his treatment?
11. Part way into the journey Paul has some advice for those in charge. Explain. Who overruled Paul’s advice?
12. The ship Paul is sailing on gets into serious trouble, but Paul tells the crew to be of good cheer. What is the basis for this encouragement?
13. How did those aboard the ship escape safely to land?
14. Tell briefly the story of Paul’s encounter with a viper. How did the barbarians interpret this episode?
15. Paul was not confined to a prison in Rome. Describe his living conditions and his activities during his stay in Rome.