

Foundations of the Church - a study of Acts

The Foundation Acts 1:1-12, 2:1-13

Any structure must have a foundation - the higher the structure, the deeper the foundation must go. The Church, now over 2000 years old, has a deep foundation. In the Book of Acts we find the Pattern (Events and decisions), the Principles for those patterns and the Purpose for us today

The Outline of the Book of Acts

The Foundation Acts 1:1-2:13 **Jerusalem** Acts 2:14-7: 60
Judea and Samaria Acts 8:1-12:25 **Ends of the Earth** Acts 13:1-28:31

Author: The book of Acts was written by Luke, a Greek physician. He also wrote the Gospel of Luke. Luke and Acts, up to chapter 16 were written as a result of research, then in **Acts 16** we see Luke has joined Paul on his missionary trips.

Receipient: Theophilus (meaning lover of God) called "Most Excellent" in **Luke 1:3**. Could have been a member of High Priests family.

Content: "All that Jesus began – to teach and to do" **Acts 1:1**

Called: Acts of Apostles and of Holy Spirit

Date: A.D. 63 - before death of Paul or destruction of Jerusalem

1:1-14 Introduction to whole

Burning Question – Now Lord "restore"= Show us your power

Answer – when God says = Power is coming but not like you think

I. Essentials of the Foundation

A. Resurrection of Christ

1. Many convencing proofs – appeared many times
2. 40 days - no question of resurrection

B. The Kingdom of God

1. Used over 50 xs in Matthew and 30 xs in Luke
2. The sphere of God's rule – moral and spiritual force

C. Repentance for the Forgiveness of sin

1. No other religion offers it by grace
2. Essential message according to **Luke 24:47**

D. The Baptism of the Spirit

1. Foretold by John the Baptist **Matthew 3:11**
2. Promised by Christ in
At beginning of Christ's ministry **Luke 3:16-17**
At the end of His earthly ministry **Luke 24:44-49**
After the resurrection **Acts 1:5**

E. The Second Coming of Christ

1. Angel sent just to make sure there was no mistake
Two men - same discription in **Luke 24:4**
2. He is coming again to the earth

II. Elements of the Foundation Acts 2:1-13

A. Power of Holy Spirit

1. Come upon you = overpower **Luke 24:49**
2. Power used in connection of witness **4:33**

B. Witnesses 29 times in the book of Acts

1. Those who see, hear, experience the power of God
2. Of: resurrection – **2:32** and **3:15**
repentance and forgiveness **Luke 24:47** and **Acts 5:32**

III. Extent of the Plan

A. Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified

Disciples not from there so - where God has placed you

B. Judea where Jesus was rejected

Neighboring people, culture

C. Samaria where all Jews were despised

Despised race, enemies, cross cultural

D. Ends of the earth where no one knows Jesus

In all nations **Luke 24:47** Every ethnic group **Matthew 28:19**

IV. Execution of the Foundation

A. Obedience

1. They returned to Jerusalem
2. Gathered all believers

B. Waiting

1. Time for unity – forgiveness, encouragement
2. Time for prayer with unified passion

C. Faith

Believed His words and waited for the promise

Conclusion

God has a plan for the foundation of His Kingdom

Not attached to money, buildings or human organization

We must wait and believe, then go and tell.

Do you have the Power of God to be His witness?

Are you being a witness of His power?