

Acts and Romans

The Church Age

The Three Distinct Groups

- The Bible is written to either the Jews, the Gentiles, or the Church of God
- Keep in mind when reading the New Testament which group of persons the context is addressing
- The Bible is written to a particular people in a particular context, but its application is for all people for all time

The Acts of the Apostles

- The book of Acts was written by Luke the physician
- “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commands to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:1-3

The Theme of Acts

- “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- Acts is the story of how the Apostles were empowered to take the message of salvation to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles
- It was written around 62 A.D.

The Jewish Blindness

- A Few Jews did and do believe in Jesus
- The early church was founded by Jewish disciples
- Jesus came to His own house of Israel but they did not receive Him (Jn. 1:11;Matt. 10:6)
- The Jews in part were blinded as the prophet Isaiah predicted (Is. 6:9,10;Matt. 13:14-15;Mk.4:12;Lk.8:10)
- The last warning to the Jews came in Acts 28

Paul's Declaration In Acts 28

- 20 *For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.* ...23
So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening. 24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. 25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 saying,

- 'Go to this people and say:

"Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; 27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

28 **"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"** 29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

Paul's Declaration Of The Restoration Of The Jews In Romans 11

"25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." --- Romans 11:25-29

The Focus Of The Book Of Acts

- Although the title is Acts of the Apostles the book mainly focuses on:
- Peter 1-12
- Paul 13-28
- In chapters 1-12 the city of Jerusalem is the focus of evangelism and Peter was imprisoned for preaching the gospel message
- In Chapters 13-28 the city of Antioch, in northern Syria, is the center for the gentile church and Paul's missionary journeys are the focus

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Paul, Barnabas and Mark begin the first in a series of missionary journeys across the Greek speaking world. The importance of these missions, especially those of Paul, cannot be overstated. So powerful did the Holy Spirit make their work, that in less than 3 centuries, the entire Roman empire -- the whole civilized world -- had converted to their message. **Chapters 13 & 14**



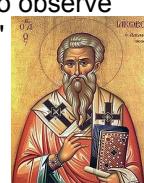
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

On His second missionary journey, Paul was accompanied by Silas. They were joined later by Timothy at Lystra. Involved in a disagreement with Paul, Barnabas and Mark went to the island of Cyprus. When Paul reached Troas, a city on the Aegean sea, he received a vision to go to Macedonia. In Athens Paul preached about the 'unknown God'. He stayed in Corinth about a year and a half where he worked at his trade as a tentmaker while preaching every Sabbath. Upon his return to Caesarea, he went to Jerusalem to make a report of his work to the other apostles, and then returned to the Hellenistic Christian base at Antioch. **Chapters 15:36-18:22**



The Council in Jerusalem Acts 15

- The council was 20 years after the foundation of the church and about 10 years after the reception of the Gentiles into the Church
- The question which started in Antioch is "are the converted Gentiles required to observe Jewish rituals and observances?"
- The answer is "no!"
- James was the leader of the Jerusalem Church



The Answer to the Gentile Question

- “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.*” -Acts 15:19-20
- Abstention of blood pre-dated Mosaic law
- 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is, its blood.*-- Genesis 9:4

Paul’s Third Missionary Journey

On His third missionary journey, Paul spent two and a quarter years at Ephesus where he was joined by Apollos. As was his regular custom, Paul began his preaching in the synagogues. Once he had established a discipleship he moved to another meeting place where he could reach Gentiles as well. An enraged crowd in Ephesus, fanned by the silversmiths (who made idols), brought his residence there to a close, encouraging him to leave for Macedonia where he tried to patch up quarrels that had erupted in the Corinthian church. On his way home, Paul stopped at Miletas to bid farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus. **Chapters 18:23-20:38**



Paul’s Journey To Rome



Letter	Place	Time
1 Thessalonians	Corinth	51 A.D./2nd
2 Thessalonians	Corinth	51 A.D./2nd
Galatians	Corinth or Antioch	50-52 A.D./2nd
1 Corinthians	Ephesus	56 A.D./3rd
2 Corinthians	Macedonia	56 A.D./3rd
Romans	Corinth	57 -58 A.D./3rd
Ephesians	Rome	60-61 A.D./prison
Philippians	Rome	62 A.D./prison
Colossians	Rome	60-61 A.D./prison
Philemon	Rome	60-61 A.D./prison
Titus	Corinth	63 A.D./released
1 Timothy	Macedonia	62-63 A.D./released
2 Timothy	Rome	67 A.D./prison

The Book Of Romans

- Paul's greatest work and first among his thirteen letters
- Written while Paul was in Corinth at the close of his third missionary journey
- Written in 57-58 A.D
- Dictated by Paul to a secretary named Tertius, who identifies himself in Rom. 16:22.
- Paul had never visited Rome, but eventually got there as a prisoner
- The letter was carried to Rome by Phoebe, a deaconess--- Romans 16:1

The Theme Of Romans

- Romans 1-8, Our relationship to God
- Romans 9-11, Paul's desire for Israel to be saved
- Romans 12-16, Our relationship one to another
- Justification by faith
- Living by grace and power of the Spirit
- Serving the Lord with one another

Key Verse For Romans

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” - Romans 1:16

The Entire Book of Romans Builds On The Difference Between Law Righteousness and Faith Righteousness

<u>Law Righteousness</u>	<u>Faith Righteousness</u>
Only for the Jew	For everyone who believes
Based on works	Comes by faith alone
Self righteousness	God's righteousness
Cannot Save	Brings Salvation
Tries to obey the Lord	Calls on the Lord
Leads to Pride	Glorifies God
Based on fear of failure	Based on Fatherly love