

Structural Considerations for the Acts of the Apostles

- 1. Acts 1:8 foreshadows the geographic and ethnic spread of the gospel covered in Acts, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and even to the ends of the earth.”
- 2. Luke provides six summary statements that mark off six main parts of Acts.
- 3. Luke creates links between each main part by overlapping the content that occurs before and after the summary statements. This overlapping technique also exists between the end of the Gospel of Luke and the beginning of Acts both of which report on Jesus commissioning his disciples and ascending into heaven. The content overlaps.
- 4. The first three parts give focus to the ministry of Peter. The last three parts give focus to the ministry of Paul.
- 5. The first three parts indicate the cultural expansion of the Gospel within Israel through Peter from Jew to Samaritan to Gentile. The last three parts show a geographic expansion by Paul out from Israel to various Gentile peoples in the Roman Empire.
- 6. As a historian Luke selects certain stories to report. While arranging the stories chronologically, Luke also groups the stories thematically to teach theological truths about the Gospel. So, the structure of Acts follows both an expansion of the church and a development and defense of the gospel.
- 7. This structure chart was developed from the outlines in David Gooding’s book *True to Faith*. Gooding’s outlines emphasize Luke’s theological development of the gospel. The only title entirely unique to me is *The Jerusalem Awakening*.

Luke

Acts of the Apostles

