



THE ROYAL TASK

CONFIDENT IN OUR KING

Acts 1:1-3

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • August 24 & 25, 2019 • Acts, week 1 • Msg. 19-26 • Social Media: #TheRoyalTask

1. Be _____ (v.1)

Acts 1: 1 *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (ESV)*

2. Be _____ (v.2)

3. Be _____ (v.3)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Matthew 16:18** and **Luke 13:18-19**. What difference does it make when we think about the current climate of our culture to know that Jesus made these promises about the work and growth of his church?
2. Read **2 Timothy 3:1-17**. While there is success promised to Christ's Church, what does this passage do to prepare you for how our work will need to proceed in this age? How do you fight pessimism in light of this?
3. Read **Acts 5:12** and **Hebrews 2:1-4**. How should these verses challenge the "Red Letter Christian" movement, which dismisses the Apostle's writings and only relies on Christ's words?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-19**. Why is certainty about this central feature of the gospel so important? What is at stake for those who doubt this?

This Week's Compass 20/20 Discussion Question

- Read **Daniel 2:31-45**. How can this future forecast motivate and fuel our sacrifice for all that Compass is seeking to do to advance the cause of Christ?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

August 25th

Ps. 124-127 & 1Cor. 7:1-24

August 26th

Ps. 128-131 & 1Cor. 7:25-40

August 27th

Ps. 132-135 & 1Cor. 8

August 28th

Ps. 136-138 & 1Cor. 9

August 29th

Ps. 139-141 & 1Cor. 10:1-13

August 30th

Ps. 142-144 & 1Cor. 10:14-33

August 31st

Ps. 145-147 & 1Cor. 11:1-15

September 1st

Ps. 148-150 & 1Cor. 11:16-34

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

- Msg. 12-32 – **Luke: God's Diligent Student**
- Msg. 19-03 – **The Centrality of the Resurrection**
- Msg. 19-04 – **The Argument for the Resurrection**
- Msg. 18-12 – **Am I A Fool to Believe in the Resurrection?**
- Msg. 08-18 – **Gospel Crazy: Confident in Its Veracity**
- Msg. 04-25 – **When God Breaks the Rules He Made**
- Msg. 06-19 – **How Do We Decipher Truth in an Age of Conspiracy, Distrust & Relativism**

This Sermon's Social Media Hashtag

#TheRoyalTask

Social Media Connections:

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PastorMike

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Blomberg, Craig L. **The Historical Reliability of the Gospels**. InterVarsity, 1986.
- Craig, William Lane. **Assessing NT Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus**. Mellen, 1989.
- Geisler, Norman. **Miracles and the Modern Mind**. Baker Books, 1992.
- Erickson, Millard. **Making Sense of the Trinity**. Baker Books, 2000.
- Geivett, Doug & Gary Habermas. **In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History**. IVP, 1997.
- Gromacki, Robert. **The Virgin Birth: A Biblical Study of the Deity of Jesus Christ**. Kress, 2008.
- Habermas, Gary and Michael Licona. **The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus**. Kregel Publications, 2004.
- Lewis, C. S. **Miracles: How God Intervenes in Nature and Human Affairs**. MacMillan Publishing, 1947.
- McDowell, Josh. **Did the Resurrection Happen... Really?** Moody Publishing, 2011.
- Morris, Leon. **The Lord from Heaven: A Study of New Testament Teaching on the Deity & Humanity of Christ**. IVP, 1974.
- Pache, Rene. **The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**. Moody Press, 1969.
- Saucy, Robert. **Scripture: Its Power, Authority, and Relevance**. Word Publishing, 2001.
- Tenney, Merrill. **The Reality of the Resurrection**. Harper & Row, 1963.
- White, James. **The Forgotten Trinity: Recovering the Heart of Christian Belief**. Bethany House, 1998.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

A Supplement to Our Study through the Book of Acts

DR. MIKE FABAREZ

We are diving into a brand new verse-by-verse study of a pivotal book of the New Testament. In some ways this exposition of the Acts of the Apostles should feel familiar because the human author, Dr. Luke, is the same author of the Gospel we just wrapped up this year. Not only are the first verses of both books addressed to “Theophilus” (Lk.1:3 & Ac.1:1), but the 750 unique Greek vocabulary words found only in Luke and Acts show the common source of these two books. And with Dr. Luke’s medical education, the polished style and use of medical terms make perfect sense.

One of the most interesting things about the authorship of Acts is that Dr. Luke himself ends up in the action of the narrative describing the Apostle Paul’s travels and preaching experiences. Luke’s use of pronouns shifts from third person (“him,” “he,” and “they”) to first person (“we” and “us”) in chapters 16 through 28. Of the seventeen ministry partners of the Apostle Paul that he names in all of his New Testament writings, cross-referencing them throughout the book of Acts eliminates all of them except for Dr. Luke. This is why there has been unanimous agreement among God’s people and biblical scholars that Luke is the author of both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Many have wondered about the initial recipient of these two books. He is named “Theophilus” which means “loved by God.” Beyond his name we can only speculate about who this man was. Some suggest he was not only the recipient but also the benefactor who underwrote this research project. Of course there is a broad audience in view, not only from Luke’s perspective and intention, but certainly from the Holy Spirit who governed the “God-breathed” superintendence of the writing of these two books.

The abrupt ending of the book of Acts has always been a curious feature. Chapter 28 records Paul’s imprisonment by the Romans, as Paul finds himself under house arrest in Rome for two years. Paul comes to Rome in AD. 61 and the story leaves off in AD. 63. Of course, we’d like closure as to how it all turned out, but this sudden ending leads us to the obvious conclusion that the “pause in the action” is the period of time when Luke finished composing this book. So, the dating of the writing of Acts can confidently be pinned at AD. 63. And add to this, that with all the coverage of Roman leaders and persecutions in the book, Luke makes no mention of Emperor Nero’s notorious persecutions of AD. 64 or General Titus’ destruction of Jerusalem in AD. 70.

While the book of Luke seeks to give us an orderly account of Christ’s earthly ministry, the book of Acts is intending to show us the ongoing work of Christ in the world through the Holy Spirit in his authoritative Apostles. In one sense Luke’s first volume is “the works of Christ,” and his second “the work of Christ through his Apostles.” The book of Acts covers a 30-year period of history, from Christ’s ascension to the expansion of the church through Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) all the way to Greece and Rome.

The book of Acts chronicles the unstoppable nature of God’s work through the Church. As the record of Christ’s words in Acts 1:8 mandates, the witness of Christ’s people will invincibly move from “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” The book of Acts carefully defends the fact that Christianity is not an “unbiblical cult” or some politically subversive group. The selection of recorded sermons is strategic in proclaiming Christianity as the logical and necessary extension of the prophetic hope of the Old Testament.

In Ephesians 2:20 Paul wrote that the church is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets” with “Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.” We have in the book of Acts a divinely intended record of this unique foundational period in which the Apostles and prophets authoritatively and miraculously established and expanded the Church from which every successive generation of Christians would benefit.

I look forward to studying this book verse-by-verse in the months and years ahead. May God bless our mutual study and my exposition of this critically important book. Below I have provided a short list of select resources, which I hope you find helpful as you dig deeper into Acts between our weekend studies. All of these will be available through the Compass Bookstore and can also be acquired electronically through Logos Bible Software (Logos.com). May God prepare us for transformational spiritual and numerical growth in the days ahead.

-- Pastor Mike

EXEGETICAL COMMENTARIES - *books that seek to grapple with various aspects of interpretation*

Bruce, F. F. ***The Book of the Acts***. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

Gaebelein, Frank E., Merrill C. Tenney, and Richard N. Longenecker. ***The Expositor's Bible Commentary: John and Acts. Vol. 9***. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

Marshall, I. Howard. ***Acts: An Introduction and Commentary. Vol. 5***. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1980.

Kistemaker, Simon J., and William Hendriksen. ***Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles. Vol. 17. New Testament Commentary***. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001.

Schnabel, Eckhard J. ***Acts***. Expanded Digital Edition. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Trites, Allison A., William J. Larkin. ***Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. Vol 12: The Gospel of Luke and Acts***. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2006.

Peterson, David G. ***The Acts of the Apostles***. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009.

EXEGETICAL SUMMARIES - *books that summarize all the interpretive options in the passage*

Cheng, Belinda, and Robert Stutzman. ***An Exegetical Summary of Acts 1–14***. Exegetical Summaries. Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2017.

Abernathy, David, and Robert Stutzman. ***An Exegetical Summary of Acts 15–28***. Exegetical Summaries. Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2018.

PATRISTIC/HISTORICAL COMMENTARIES - *a book that records the interpretations of Acts through AD. 750*

Martin, Francis, and Evan Smith. ***Acts. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture NT 5***. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

HOMILETICAL COMMENTARIES - *books that record the exposition of Acts by a preacher*

Lloyd-Jones, David Martyn. ***Authentic Christianity. 1st U.S. ed. Vols. 1-6. Studies in the Book of Acts***. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2000.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. ***Acts. MacArthur New Testament Commentary***. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.

Hughes, R. Kent. ***Acts: The Church Afire. Preaching the Word***. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1996.

Ogilvie, Lloyd J., and Lloyd J. Ogilvie. ***Acts. Vol. 28. The Preacher's Commentary Series***. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1983.

BIBLICAL ATLASES - *important resources regarding the many geographic references in the book of Acts*

Beitzel, Barry J. ***The New Moody Atlas of the Bible***. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Currid, John D., and David P. Barrett. ***Crossway ESV Bible Atlas***. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Rasmussen, Carl G. Zondervan ***Atlas of the Bible***. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.