

THE  
BOOK OF  

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ACTS

R. E. HARLOW



*Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

*The Book of Acts*

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# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

The Book of Acts tells us how the early church faced the challenge of the Great Commission. It describes how the gospel made its way westward until at last it reached Rome. It is a book of people and places. It is also a book of principles, a book which sets before us a blueprint for world evangelism.

You will find this study of Acts basically simple yet stimulating and satisfying. It is not intended to be an in-depth study of the book. Instead, it is a fast-moving survey of those stirring events which changed all history for the rest of time. We trust it will be a challenge and a blessing to you.

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## **Course Components**

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

## **How To Study**

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

## **Exams**

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). For the most part, the answers to the questions in this particular course can be found in the Bible text.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

## **How Your Exams Are Graded**

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

# 1

## THE BOOK ITSELF

### **The New Testament**

**T**here are 27 books in the New Testament written by eight different people. Five of these tell the story of the Lord Jesus (the Gospels) or of the early church (Acts). Twenty-one are letters or epistles written to churches or individual persons. The last is the book of Revelation which tells of things to come.

Acts is a very important book because it tells how the Church started and grew. In the Gospels we read of the life and death of Christ (see Mark 1:1) and that, when He arose, He told His disciples to go everywhere and preach the gospel (see Matt. 28:18-20). The letters of Paul and others are written to churches in various parts of the world (see 1 Cor. 1:1-2). Acts tells us how the disciples obeyed the Lord in spreading the gospel and how these churches were started.



**Acts tells how the  
Church started  
and grew.**



### **The Acts**

The most ancient name of this book is simply Acts. Men have called it the Acts of the Apostles, but only Peter and Paul are prominent and the other apostles are mentioned only briefly. The real Person who is acting in and through the apostles is the Holy Spirit, who is referred to about seventy times in the book. Acts of the Holy Spirit would be a good name for this book.



**Geographical Locations in Acts**

Christ promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit (1:8) and this promise was fulfilled a few days later (2:4). Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit when he was called up before the high priests (4:8) and so was Stephen when the Jews were going to kill him (7:55). You can find many more verses like these telling of the Acts of the Holy Spirit.

## Who Wrote the Book of Acts?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16) and “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21). These verses and hundreds of others show us that it was God who told different men what to put down when they wrote the Bible. Still it is interesting to learn what we can about the authors.

Luke was a doctor (Col. 4:14) and travelled with Paul on some of his long journeys. When telling about these travels, Luke uses the word “we” to say what Paul and he did or where they went. In other parts of the book he naturally says “he” or “they” did this or that (read 16:10; 20:6; 27:1). He was also with Paul at the end of his life, just before Paul was put to death for the sake of the gospel (2 Tim. 4:11).

## Why Did Luke Write Acts?

————— ❧ —————  
**Never forget  
 Christ’s glorious  
 “unfinished” work  
 today in heaven.**  
 ————— ❧ —————

Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke as if it were a letter to an important man called Theophilus. It told the story of what Jesus *began* to do and teach (see Acts 1:1). You might think that since the gospel story ends with the death of Christ, there would not be much more to tell. But Luke wrote this book to tell Theophilus the story of what Jesus *continued* to do and teach, after His death. For Jesus did not only die for our sins, He rose again and then went back to heaven. In heaven He continued to work with His disciples. See Mark 16:20, “the Lord working with them.”

We speak of Christ’s finished work on the cross. Never forget His glorious “unfinished” work today in heaven, praying for us, leading and guiding, and working with us. Luke in his second book wanted to tell about this part of Christ’s work when He had gone back to heaven (Heb. 7:25).

## What Is Acts About?

We have noticed that the book of Acts tells about the work of Jesus in and through His own who are still down here on earth. He told them in 1:8 that they would be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” This is one of the key verses in the whole book.

————— ❧ —————  
**Christ expects you  
to witness for Him  
wherever you are,  
and to be ready to  
go to a distant land  
as a missionary,  
if He calls you.**  
————— ❧ —————

Now Jerusalem was the holy city of the Jews, located in the land of Judea. The next country to it was Samaria, although the Jewish people did not get along very well with the people of Samaria. So Christ told the disciples to witness for Him first right where they were, then in their home land.

Then they must go to their near neighbors, even though they did not like them. But then they were to spread out all over the whole world and tell people about the Lord. See also Mark 16:15-16 and Luke 24:46-48. If you are saved, Christ expects you to witness for Him wherever you are, and to be ready to go to a distant land as a missionary, if He calls you.

## Whom Does Acts Tell About?

While the main persons in Acts are Peter (chapters 1–12) and Paul (chapters 13–28), there are around 80 different people mentioned in the book. Some of these are well known, like John (3:1) who wrote five books in the New Testament; or Timothy (16:1-3), a young man who travelled around with Paul a good deal. Others are not well known but their names are given (eg. 20:4). Each had a part to play in the great work of getting out the gospel. It is very important that each Christian know just what God would have him to do . . . then do it.



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ACTS

**EXAM BOOKLET**  
**AK '10 (2 UNITS) ACTS**

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STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

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INSTRUCTOR



*Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

## A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue                      C. yellow  
B. green                     D. orange

     **B**     

### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

### RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES**

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# CHAPTER 1 EXAM

## THE BOOK ITSELF

### EXAM GRADE

***Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.***

*Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.*

1. Of the various books which make up the New Testament, how many are letters?  
 A. All of them                      C. Only the last ten  
 B. Only the first five              D. All except six                      \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. One important purpose of the Book of Acts is to  
 A. give details of the life and death of the Lord  
 B. recount important truths about the last days  
 C. give an account of the spread of the gospel  
 D. tell of the decline and fall of Jerusalem                      \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. The preferred name for the Book of Acts suggested in the course is  
 A. The Acts of the Apostles  
 B. The Acts of Peter and John  
 C. The Acts of the Holy Spirit  
 D. The Acts of the Risen Christ                      \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Which of the following references from Acts does **NOT** refer to the work of the Holy Spirit?  
 A. Acts 2:4                      C. Acts 7:55  
 B. Acts 4:8                      D. Acts 12:11                      \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Which passage tells us that all Scripture is inspired and profitable for instruction in righteousness?  
 A. Luke 2:39                      C. 2 Timothy 3:16  
 B. Acts 1:20                      D. Acts 2:42                      \_\_\_\_\_

6. We can tell in Acts when Luke is describing his presence with Paul by
- A. the use of Paul’s earlier name, Saul
  - B. the use of the personal pronoun “we”
  - C. the use of the phrase “the beloved physician” employed by Luke to describe himself
  - D. the use of the title “Lord” whenever reference is made to Jesus
7. Acts tells us of
- A. the finished work of Christ
  - B. what Jesus continued to do after His ascension
  - C. the part played by Theophilus in spreading the gospel
  - D. the part played by all the apostles in spreading the gospel
8. Which of the following places was to be evangelized first?
- A. Jerusalem
  - B. Samaria
  - C. Babylon
  - D. Rome
9. The disciples might well have been reluctant to evangelize Samaria because
- A. the Samaritan language was too hard for them to learn
  - B. the Jews disliked the Samaritans
  - C. the Samaritans lived a long distance from Jerusalem and Judea
  - D. Samaria was a Roman colonial city
10. Which of the following is named in the Book of Acts?
- A. Bartimaeus
  - B. Philemon
  - C. Tychicus
  - D. Caesar Augustus

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Why do you think that the Book of Acts is important?

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