

Mike Lewis**Background:**

We start a new series in which we will attempt to cover the Book of Acts (in detail) and many of the Pauline Epistles (in slightly less detail). Jesus has departed physically; the Holy Spirit is about to 'descend' and the gospel is about to be taken to 'all nations'. We will follow its journey as it takes place from around the early 30's to the late 60's AD along with Paul's letters which are associated with it.

This week we will take an overview of the text and focus on some parts of chapter 1. The first part of our time will be spent on the overview then we will move on to chapter 1.

Scripture:

Please skim-read through the whole of the book of Acts in an easy-to-read version such as the Contemporary English Version, (CEV), available online at Bible Gateway. Ignore the chapter divisions and verse numbers but be aware of the paragraph headings. Look for broad brush-strokes, not details.

See <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=CEV>

Then read Acts 1 more carefully in a 'quality' translation.

Resources:

Have a look at the other resources (a map, a timeline and a summary of the book) listed below:

SpreadOfChristianity Map

LightOfWord Timeline

Summary of Acts

Questions for discussion**The Book of Acts**

1. Having skimmed rapidly through Acts what was your overall reaction to the book?
2. How does the book of Acts compare with Luke's gospel?
3. What would the church be missing if Acts were not in the Canon of Scripture?
4. How do you rate Luke as a historian, diplomat, theologian?
5. What threads do you see running through Acts?

Acts 1

6. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?
7. What do you understand by the phrase 'to the ends of the earth'?
8. What is meant by the 'kingdom of God' in Acts 1:3?
9. What was the power that would be received (Acts 1:8)?
10. What characteristics of the apostles are revealed in Acts 1?