



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **9th Grade | Unit 3**

BIBLE 903

The Acts of the Apostles

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. WRITER 5

BACKGROUND | **6**

VIEWPOINT | **9**

STYLE | **13**

SELF TEST 1 | **16**

2. PURPOSE 19

PARTICULAR PURPOSE | **19**

HISTORICAL PURPOSE | **22**

COMPREHENSIVE PURPOSE | **30**

SELF TEST 2 | **34**

3. CONTENT 37

PENTECOST | **38**

HOME MISSIONS | **43**

THE PARALLEL TEXTS | **48**

SELF TEST 3 | **56**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

Authors:

Muriel Irene Evans, Th.M.

Ronald Jerry Evans, Th.M.

Editor-in-Chief:

Richard W. Wheeler, M.A. Ed.

Editor:

J. Douglas Williamson

Consulting Editor:

John L. Booth, Th.D

Revision Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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The Acts of the Apostles

Introduction

Studying this LIFEPAAC® you will learn about the history of the early church, from the time of the Ascension of Jesus Christ until the imprisonment of Paul in Rome around AD 65-67. Since Luke is the author of the Gospel of Luke as well as the Acts of the Apostles, we shall see many similarities between these two historical accounts and the fact that Acts is really a sequel to the Gospel record. Luke's second letter could well be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit, for the emphasis in this report is on the work which the Lord Jesus Christ continued to do after He ascended to the Father's right hand in heaven, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the men he had sent forth as apostles. It is the record of how a few men, empowered by the Spirit of God, literally turned the world upside down in the first century.

In this LIFEPAAC you will study the background, viewpoint, and style of the writer, his particular, historical, and **comprehensive** purpose in writing, and will look closely at the content of the Acts of the Apostles.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Tell about the origin, occupation, and associations of the author of the Acts of the Apostles.
2. Give details concerning the chronological, medical, and personal viewpoint of the writer and facts about his style of writing.
3. Tell about the person to whom it was written and those about whom it was written—Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the apostles.
4. Give details concerning the continuity, sequence, and scope of the Acts of the Apostles.
5. Tell about the meaning, message, and fulfillment of Pentecost.
6. Give details concerning the ministry of Peter, Stephen, and Philip in the area of home missions, and the ministry of Paul in foreign missions.

1. WRITER

Luke, as a medical doctor, the author of Acts as well as the Gospel of Luke, was one of the most cultured, refined, and educated men of his day. As a result, he was a sharp instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit to write an **articulate** account of the life of Jesus Christ and the

events that took place in the early Christian church. In this section, we will seek to learn as much as possible about the life of Luke and the reasons why he wrote his record in the way that he did.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Tell about the origin, occupation, and associations of the author of the Acts of the Apostles.
2. Give details concerning the chronological, medical, and personal viewpoint of the writer and facts about his style of writing.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

articulate (är tik´ yu lit). Expressing oneself clearly; clearly presented.

comprehensive (kom´ pri hen´ siv). Including much.

incorporate (in kôr´ pu rât). To bring together in a single whole; to mix or combine completely.

investigative (in ves´ tu gâ´ tiv). Inclined to careful search, detailed examination, or systematic inquiry.

methodical (mu thod´ u kul). Orderly, systematic.

pivotal (piv´ u tul). Belonging to a person or thing on which any important matter turns or depends.

respectively (ri spek´ tiv lē). With respect to each of two or more, in the order named or mentioned.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: haṭ, a-ge, cãre, fãr; let, e-qual, te.rm; it, i-ce; hot, o-pen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pu.t, rüle; child; long; thin; /T-H/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

As we study the Acts of the Apostles, we will discover details concerning the writer of the book, the purpose for which he wrote, and the content of this detailed history of the early church. We will note the writer's background, the viewpoint from which he wrote, and his individual style of writing.

BACKGROUND

Under this heading, we will observe the origin, occupation, and associations of Luke, the historian.

Origin. These three Scriptures identify Luke or Lucas as “the beloved physician,” who was one of Paul’s fellow laborers, and the person who was with the apostle in prison as his life drew to a close. Nothing is known about Luke’s parents or family; but he was probably a Gentile and not a Jew, because he is not included among those “of the circumcision” in Colossians 4:10-14. Apparently, Luke was a Greek rather than a Roman since in Acts 28:2 and 4 he called the men of the island of Malta “barbarians,” and Paul separated such from Greeks in Romans 1:14. This Luke should not be confused with the Lucius of Romans 16:21, a Jewish kinsman of Paul’s or with the Lucius of Cyrene in Acts 13:1; for the author of Acts would not describe himself in this way.

Now that we have noted the Greek origin of Luke, let us take a look at the *occupation* in which he was engaged.

Occupation. It is specifically stated that Luke was a physician—an occupation that would have caused him to be held in high esteem. In fact, he was so highly regarded that the apostle Paul called him “the beloved physician.” This designation would indicate that his kind manner and concern for those he tried to help had probably endeared him to the hearts of many, as well as to the great apostle. It also speaks highly of his Christian character and his

Read Colossians 4:14;
Philemon 24; and
2 Timothy 4:11.



loyalty, for as we shall see later, Luke endured many afflictions with Paul and remained with him in trying times when everyone else had left.

As a doctor, Luke would have been a cultured, refined person who had received the finest education of his time. We know from secular history that three great centers of learning existed in that day, at Alexandria, Athens, and Tarsus. We also know from the Scriptures that Paul was from the city of Tarsus in the province of Cilicia, and that this city was “no mean city,” but rather a center of great importance (see Acts 21:39 and 22:3).

Paul probably attended the university there before he went on to do postgraduate work with Gamaliel in Jerusalem, and more than likely Luke and Paul were students together in the great learning center at Tarsus. Interestingly, these two New Testament writers had greater literary ability than any of the others the Holy Spirit used to pen this portion of the Bible. The Lord greatly used this highly cultured Gentile, Luke, in his capacities as physician, historian, and writer.



| Luke, the beloved physician

**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.1 Luke is known as the a. _____ and also one of Paul's
b. _____.
- 1.2 Luke was probably a a. _____, and not a b. _____, for his name is not included among those of the c. _____
- 1.3 Luke should not be confused with a. _____, a Jewish kinsman of Paul's, or
b. _____ of Cyrene.
- 1.4 Luke was likely a _____ and not a Roman.
- 1.5 Three great learning centers in Luke's day were located at a. _____,
b. _____, and c. _____.
- 1.6 Paul was from the city of a. _____ in the province of
b. _____, a center of great importance.
- 1.7 Likely Paul and Luke were _____ together at the university in Tarsus.
- 1.8 Both Paul and Luke had greater _____ ability than any of the other New Testament writers.

Read Acts 20:4 and 5; 21:8; and Romans, 16.

Having observed Luke's origin and occupation, let us look now at his *associations*.

Associations. The friendship between Paul and Luke probably began at the university of Tarsus and was destined to continue for a lifetime. Luke accompanied the apostle during his missionary travels and was with him even to the closing moments of his life in a Roman prison. As a result, Luke was acquainted and associated with the many people who were a part of the life of the apostle Paul. In the above verses we learn of no less than seven people who were "of Paul's company," and who accompanied him and Luke into Asia. Indeed, wherever they went, people attached themselves to Paul's party, many of whom were "fellow labourers" with the apostle. Sopater of Berea

is possibly the Sosipater of Romans 16:21; and, if so, he was a kinsman of Paul's. Aristarchus and Gaius were men of Macedonia—of Thessalonica and Derbe, **respectively**—who were known (Acts 19:29) as Paul's "companions in travel." We learn from Acts 27:1-2 that Aristarchus went on the voyage to Rome with Paul and Luke when they were shipwrecked on the island of Melita, or Malta. Paul called him his "fellow prisoner" in Colossians 4:10, which means that he must have spent some time with the apostle in prison. Paul referred to Luke in Philemon, 24, as his "fellow labourer" along with Aristarchus, Marcus, or John Mark (who wrote the Gospel According to Mark), and Demas, who later forsook Paul. Secundus is not spoken of again in Scripture, but Gaius is referred to in Romans 16:23 as Paul's host and the host of the whole church in Corinth, the city from which Paul was writing to the Romans. We learn from 1 Corinthians 1:14 that Paul had

baptized Gaius, which means that he had probably led him to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, after which baptism would naturally follow. Timotheus, or Timothy, was one with whom Luke would have closely associated, for he was a close and constant companion of the apostle Paul. In Acts 16:1 we discover that Timothy was a “disciple” from the city of Lystra, well reported of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium, and whom Paul desired to take with him on his travels. Although his father was a Greek, Timothy’s mother, Eunice, was a Jewess who believed (2 Timothy 1:5) and who had taught her son the Scriptures from the time he was a small child (2 Timothy 3:15). Thus Timothy was a great asset to Paul (Acts 19:22) on the second missionary journey, as the young man “ministered unto him.” In Romans 16:21 Paul called Timothy “my workfellow,” and in 1 Corinthians 4:17, “my beloved son” and “faithful in the Lord.” Paul referred to him in I Corinthians 16:10 as one who “worketh the work of the

Lord,” and in Philippians 2:20 and 22 he said he had “...no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state,” and that Timothy “...as a son with the father...hath served with me in the gospel.” In 1 Thessalonians 3:2, Paul calls him “our brother” and “minister of God” and “our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ.” From Hebrews 13:23, we learn that Timothy was also a prisoner, but that he had been set free. Luke must have been intimately acquainted with one so closely associated with the apostle Paul. Tychicus, in Ephesians 6:21 and Colossians 4:7, is designated “a beloved brother,” “a faithful minister,” and a fellow servant in the Lord.” Trophimus, the last of the group mentioned in Acts 20:4, was a man from Ephesus (Acts 21:29) who later became sick (2 Timothy 4:20). Luke would have had close fellowship with all these men and with those whom he had met in the churches established by Paul.



Answer true or false.

- 1.9 _____ Luke was with Paul when he was a prisoner in Rome.
- 1.10 _____ The doctor did not associate with Paul’s co-workers.
- 1.11 _____ Seven men accompanied Paul and Luke as they went to Asia.
- 1.12 _____ Aristarchus was from Thessalonica in Macedonia.
- 1.13 _____ Gaius was from the city of Berea.
- 1.14 _____ Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus were shipwrecked on Malta.
- 1.15 _____ Timothy’s mother was a Greek and his father was a Jew.
- 1.16 _____ Tychicus was a man from Ephesus who later became sick.

**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.17 Paul's "companions in travel" were a. _____ and
b. _____.
- 1.18 The one who forsook Paul was _____.
- 1.19 The man whom Paul baptized and who was his host and the host of the church at Corinth was _____.
- 1.20 Timothy's mother's name was a. _____ and his grandmother was called
b. _____.

Complete these activities.

- 1.21 Give three descriptions of Aristarchus used by the apostle Paul or Luke.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____
- 1.22 Give six phrases used by Paul in describing Timothy's relationship to him.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____
e. _____ f. _____
- 1.23 Imagine that you are the apostle Paul preparing to introduce Timothy at a banquet where he is to be the speaker. On separate paper write in complete sentences a 150-word description of Timothy's background and details concerning how he has been of help to you in the ministry of the Gospel.

TEACHER CHECK

_____ initials

_____ date

VIEWPOINT

Now that we have noted Luke's background including the origin, occupation, and associations which influenced him as a person and an author, let us observe the *viewpoint* from which he wrote.

Under this heading we will discover that Luke wrote his history of the Acts of the Apostles

Read Luke 1:2-4; and Acts 1:1 and 2.



from chronological, medical, and personal points of view. We will now look into these three aspects of his writing.

Chronological. Since Luke is the author of both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, we can learn some facts about his method from both of these records. As a

doctor Luke would have been trained to be an orderly person, tracing the symptoms of a patient's disease until he found the root cause of the problem. As a historian and writer, this **methodical** aspect of the physician's approach also comes forth, for in Luke 1:3 we read that his letter is being written "in order." For the most part Luke's Gospel is written in chronological fashion, beginning with events before the birth of Christ and carrying on to the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ.

His second letter is also orderly in its arrangement, outlining the activities of the apostles from the Ascension to the imprisonment of the apostle Paul in Rome. The repetition of such words as *until, when, then, in those days, and wherefore*, throughout the book of Acts, shows us how careful this author was to list the events in the order of their occurrence. Leaf through the Acts of the Apostles, noting the words with which Luke begins each chapter, and you will see that the sequence of events is chronological.



Answer true or false.

- 1.24 _____ Luke is the author of two books of the New Testament.
- 1.25 _____ As a physician Luke was not trained to be methodical.
- 1.26 _____ Luke's Gospel is, for the most part, chronological.
- 1.27 _____ Acts is an outline of the apostles' activities from the birth of Christ to His Ascension.
- 1.28 _____ Luke's second letter is not chronological in sequence.

**Read Acts 16:10-17;
20:4-15; 21:1-18; and
Chapters 27 and 28.**



Having seen the orderliness of Luke's writings, let us now look at the *personal* aspect of the point of view from which he wrote.

Personal. To talk with other people and to get the details about events that have happened to them are interesting experiences; but to be a part of a situation yourself, to experience the event as an eyewitness, is even more exciting. Luke was able to experience events firsthand as he accompanied Paul and his company during their missionary travels and ministered along with them. This personal aspect appears abruptly in Acts, 16:1-10. Luke has been writing about "he" and "they," but switches to "we" in verse 10. From this point on, we see Luke intimately involved in the account, accompanying



| Suffering Shipwreck

Paul from Troas to Philippi during the second missionary journey, and going with him from Philippi to Jerusalem on the third. In the last two chapters of Acts, we learn that Luke was with Paul during the voyage to Rome, suffering

shipwreck along with him, and even afterward was with him in the Roman prison. This personal aspect of the Acts of the Apostles is what makes it come alive to the reader, and is one

of the ways in which the Holy Spirit worked to bring about a Book—the Bible—which is fascinating from start to finish!



Complete these statements.

- 1.29** Luke wrote part of Acts from a _____ point of view.
- 1.30** He experienced many events in Acts as an _____.
- 1.31** In Acts chapter a. _____, the viewpoint switches suddenly from the third-person vocabulary, “he” and “they,” to the first-person word, “_____.”
- 1.32** On the second missionary journey, Luke accompanied Paul and his party from
a. _____ to b. _____.
- 1.33** He traveled with Paul from a. _____ to b. _____ on the third missionary journey.
- 1.34** Luke suffered _____ along with Paul and Aristarchus.

Read Acts 1:16-19;
3:1-11; 4:9 and 10;
5:1-16; 8:5-8;
9:32-43; 13:4-11; 14:8-10;
19:11 and 12; 20:7-12; and 28:1-9.



Having observed the personal approach of Luke in his second letter, let us observe the *medical* aspects of his viewpoint in the book of Acts.

Medical. A person’s point of view is greatly influenced by his vocation. The Lord chose men from a variety of backgrounds and occupations to write the different books of the Bible. The advantage of having various views concerning a subject is evident in the account of the suicide of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed the Lord. In his Gospel, Matthew stressed the pieces of silver, mentioning them four times in this short passage (27:3-10). Matthew had been a publican, or tax collector. He briefly stated that Judas went and hanged himself. However,

in Acts 1:16-20 Luke, the physician, never mentioned the thirty pieces of silver; but described in detail the cause of death. He noted that this death was no normal hanging, for Judas fell head first and burst open, which allowed his insides to gush out. This description is certainly not a pretty picture, but it is typical of the doctor’s keen eye for detail in stating the specific cause of death.

Another case in point is described in Acts 3:1-11, where Luke noted that the man had been lame ever since he had been born, that Peter took him by the right hand, and that it was his feet and ankle bones that received strength. In Acts 4:9-10, Luke twice emphasized that the impotent man had been made completely whole. Many of these facts might have escaped the notice of a person writing from a nonmedical viewpoint. The details about the death of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 are followed by a full account of the burial procedures, as a physician might give them. In the same chapter, the doctor discusses in detail the multitude

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------|--|
| 1.01 | _____ Lucius | a. Half brother of Jesus whom Luke met in Jerusalem |
| 1.02 | _____ Tarsus | b. place where Luke joined Paul's party |
| 1.03 | _____ Aristarchus | c. Jewish kinsman of Paul's |
| 1.04 | _____ Troas | d. brother of John the Baptist |
| 1.05 | _____ Dorcas | e. sorcerer who was blinded when opposing Paul |
| 1.06 | _____ Eutychus | f. shipwrecked along with Paul and Luke |
| 1.07 | _____ Elymas | g. soldier who was healed under Peter's ministry |
| 1.08 | _____ Stephen | h. a woman, also named Tabitha, who was made alive |
| 1.09 | _____ narrative | i. city of Cilicia from which Paul came |
| 1.010 | _____ James | j. a deacon who was stoned to death while Saul watched |
| | | k. tells the events of history as they happened |
| | | l. young man who fell out a window and was restored |

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011 Luke was called the a. _____, as well as a b. _____ of Paul's.
- 1.012 Three great learning centers in the time of Paul and Luke were located at a. _____, b. _____, and c. _____.
- 1.013 Timothy's mother, a. _____, was a b. _____, while his father was a c. _____.
- 1.014 Gaius, who was baptized by a. _____, was from the city of b. _____ in Macedonia, and was host of the church at c. _____.
- 1.015 A husband and wife, named a. _____ and b. _____, lied to the Holy Spirit and their death was pronounced by c. _____.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the blank (each numbered answer, 2 points).

- 1.016** A word which means *orderly* or *systematic* is _____ .
 a. comprehensive b. articulate c. methodical
 d. pivotal e. investigative
- 1.017** Paul studied under a rabbi named _____ in Jerusalem.
 a. Luke b. Gamaliel c. Nicodemus
 d. Publius e. Elymas
- 1.018** Luke was likely a _____ and also a _____ .
 a. Jew/Pharisee b. Roman/centurion c. Gentile/Roman
 d. Jew/Sadducee e. Gentile/Greek
- 1.019** Paul came from the city of _____ in _____ .
 a. Jerusalem/the Land of Israel b. Rome/Italy
 c. Tarsus/Cilicia d. Philippi/Macedonia
 e. Alexandria/Egypt
- 1.020** Luke stayed at the house of _____ in _____ .
 a. Cornelius/Caesarea b. Philip/Caesarea
 c. James/Jerusalem d. Saul/Tarsus
 e. Simon/Joppa

Complete these activities. (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.021** List the names of three men whose sermons are recorded in the book of Acts.
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
- 1.022** Give the names of three people who were healed as recorded in Acts.
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
- 1.023** List the names of three people who accompanied Paul and Luke in travel.
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____

1.024 Give three phrases used by Paul in describing Timothy's relationship to him.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.025 State three descriptions of Aristarchus used by Paul and Luke.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.026 Name the cities where Luke accompanied Paul, on his second and third missionary journeys.

- Second Journey: a. _____ to b. _____
- Third Journey: c. _____ to d. _____

88 110	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials	date
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804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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