

Luke-Acts

Why is Acts so important?

The Leadership Series

Conduct comprehensive theological education within the life and ministry of your church or churches.



Why do you
start with Acts?



VERGE

EXPONENTIAL⁷



IC	XC
NI	KA






For Christ & Scripture

Welcome to B346 Life of Christ!

If you are unfamiliar with Canvas, please take a moment after reviewing the syllabus to read through the [Canvas Orientation](#).

NEW!

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Why do we start
with Acts?

The image shows a screenshot of the BILD International website. A large red 'X' is overlaid across the entire page. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with slide numbers 9 through 15. Slide 9 is titled 'Why do we start with Acts?' and includes the text 'We don't.'. Slide 10 is titled 'The Story' and is highlighted with a red border. Slide 11 is titled 'The First Peoples Series'. Slide 12 is titled 'Missing the Scriptures Series'. Slide 13 is titled 'The Leadership Series'. Slide 14 is a diagram. Slide 15 is titled 'Why do we start with Acts in the Leadership Series?' and includes the text 'To understanding of the mission of the church...'. The main content area of the website features the BILD International logo at the top left, a dark blue navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'NETWORK', 'TRAINING', 'RESOURCES', 'ABOUT US', and 'STORE'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'The Story' is displayed in a large font. Underneath, there is a paragraph of text: 'Resources... the scriptures to those desiring to follow Jesus... early followers did after his resurrection.' At the bottom of the main content area, there is a book cover for 'THE STORY' by Stephen G. Johnson.

Why do we start with Acts
in the Leadership Series?

Wrong question.

Why is the book of Acts
so important?

But first...

**First, start with
author's intent**

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...



STAR WARS



STAR WARS
EPISODE I
THE PHANTOM MENACE

Luke-Acts (and all the gospels) are *prequels*

Written *after* the Pauline epistles

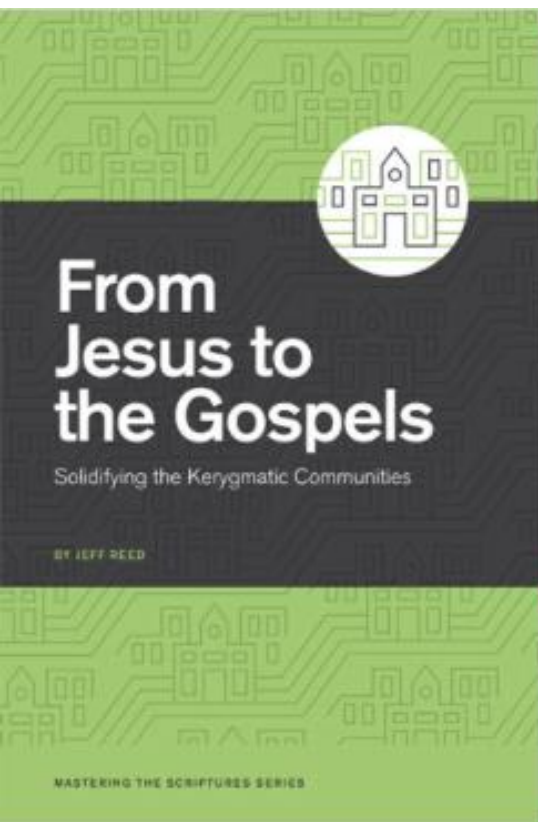
Why did Luke write them?

Lk 1.1: “Since many have undertaken to set down an **orderly account** of the events that have been fulfilled among us...”

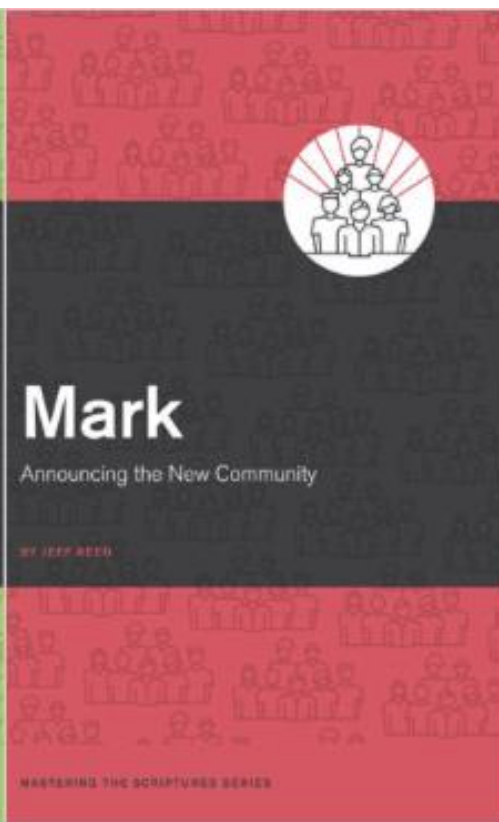
Ac 1.1: “In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus **began to do and teach...**”

Ac 1.6-8: “So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**’”

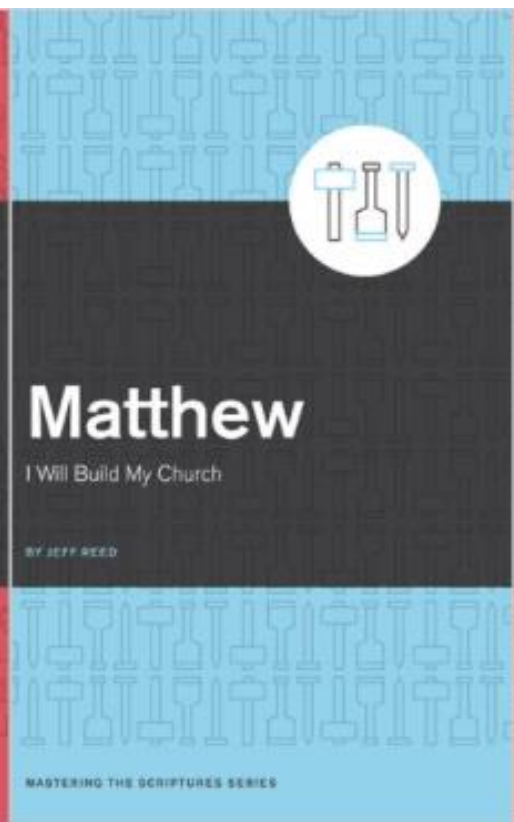
Luke wrote Acts to continue his orderly account of what Jesus did and taught as the good news of the messiah progressed from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and throughout the world, stabilizing Paul's network of churches by confirming the authority of the apostles (and especially Paul), and calling on every generation to engage in the progress of the gospel according to model he portrayed.



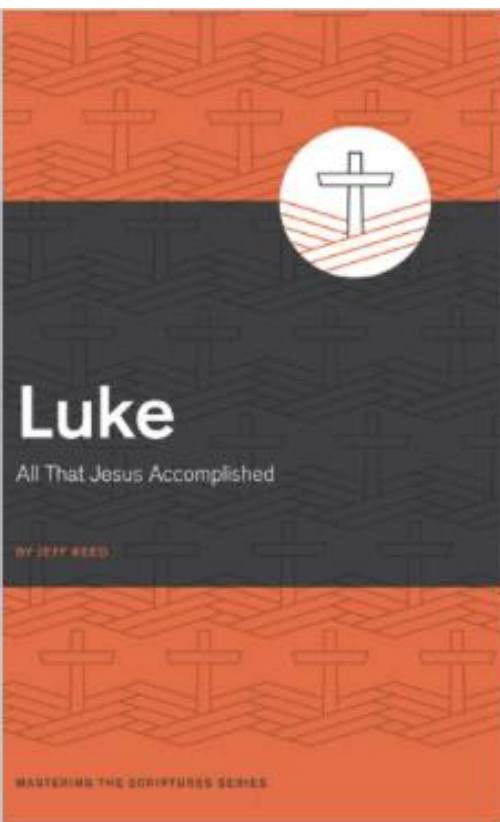
From Jesus to the Gospels
Solidifying the Kerygmatic Communities
BY JEFF REED
MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES SERIES



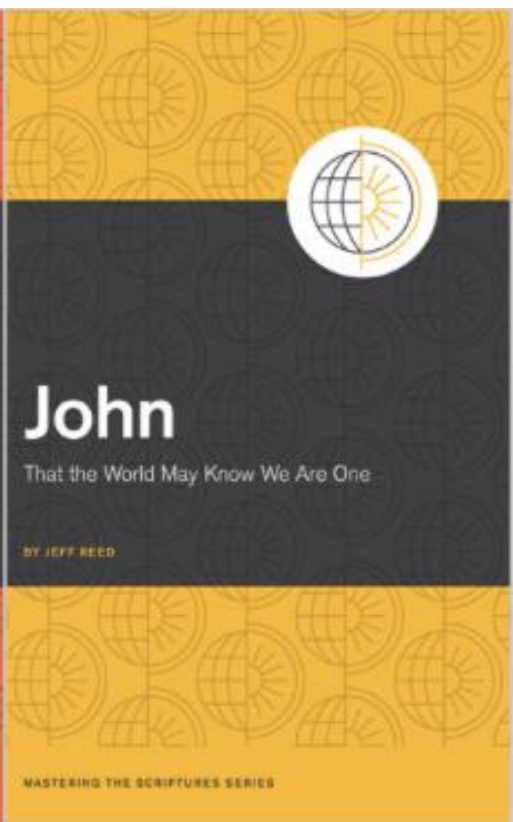
Mark
Announcing the New Community
BY JEFF REED
MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES SERIES



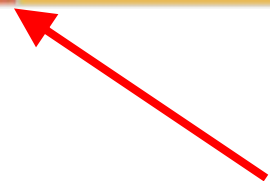
Matthew
I Will Build My Church
BY JEFF REED
MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES SERIES



Luke
All That Jesus Accomplished
BY JEFF REED
MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES SERIES



John
That the World May Know We Are One
BY JEFF REED
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Acts

Luke wrote Acts to continue his orderly account of what Jesus did and taught as the **good news of the messiah progressed** from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and throughout the world, **stabilizing Paul's network of churches by confirming the authority of the apostles (and especially Paul)**, and calling on every generation to engage in the progress of the gospel according to model he portrayed.

Why is the book of Acts
so important?

It teaches the church's
role in mission

UNIT 2: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Issue 1: Understanding the Great Commission

- “Making disciples?”
- Mt 16.15-18: “‘Who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.’”

UNIT 2: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Issue 1: Understanding the Great Commission

- Mt 28.19-20: “Going, therefore, disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - Luke’s commission: Lk 24.44-48, Ac 1.6-8
 - Acts: how the commission unfolded
- “*Mission* is the fulfilling of the Great Commission: extending the good news of the Jesus, and his teaching, to the whole world...”

UNIT 2: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Issue 1: Understanding the Great Commission

Issue 2: The Role of the Local Church in Fulfilling the Great Commission

- Ac 13.1-3: “Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”
- Home base for Paul (Ac 14.26-28, 15.30-41, 18.22-23)
- Other helps
 - Financial support (Ph 4.10-18)
 - Commending leaders (Ac 16.1-5)
 - Local area evangelism (Ac 13.48-49)

UNIT 2: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Issue 1: Understanding the Great Commission

Issue 2: The Role of the Local Church in Fulfilling the Great Commission

- Multiplication of individual converts? (“...make disciples...”)
- Ac 14.23: “After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, ‘It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.’ And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.”
- “*Mission* is the fulfilling of the Great Commission: extending the good news of the Jesus, and his teaching, to the whole world, through the multiplication of established churches.

Why is Acts so important?

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Why is Acts so important?

To clearly understand
Paul's role

- Major “characters,” Acts chs. 1-9 (panels 1-2)
 - Jesus
 - “The apostles”
 - “The believers”
 - “The Seven”
 - Philip
 - Stephen
 - Peter!
 - John
 - Saul/Paul
 - Barnabas

- Major “characters,” Acts 10-15 (panels 3-4)
 - Peter
 - Cornelius
 - The church in Antioch
 - James
 - Barnabas
 - Paul
 - Silas

- Major “characters,” Acts 16-28 (panels 5-6)

- Paul
- Silas
- Apollos
- Priscilla & Aquilla
- The church in Corinth
- The church in Ephesus
- The Ephesian elders
- James

...

- Paul appears in all but panel 1!
- Luke tells his conversion story *three times!* (Ac 9, 22, 26)
- No other “character” can even approach his prominence
- Conclusion: Luke is reinforcing Paul’s apostolic authority

Ep 3.8-10: “Although I am the very least of all the saints, **this grace was given to me** to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that **through the church** the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

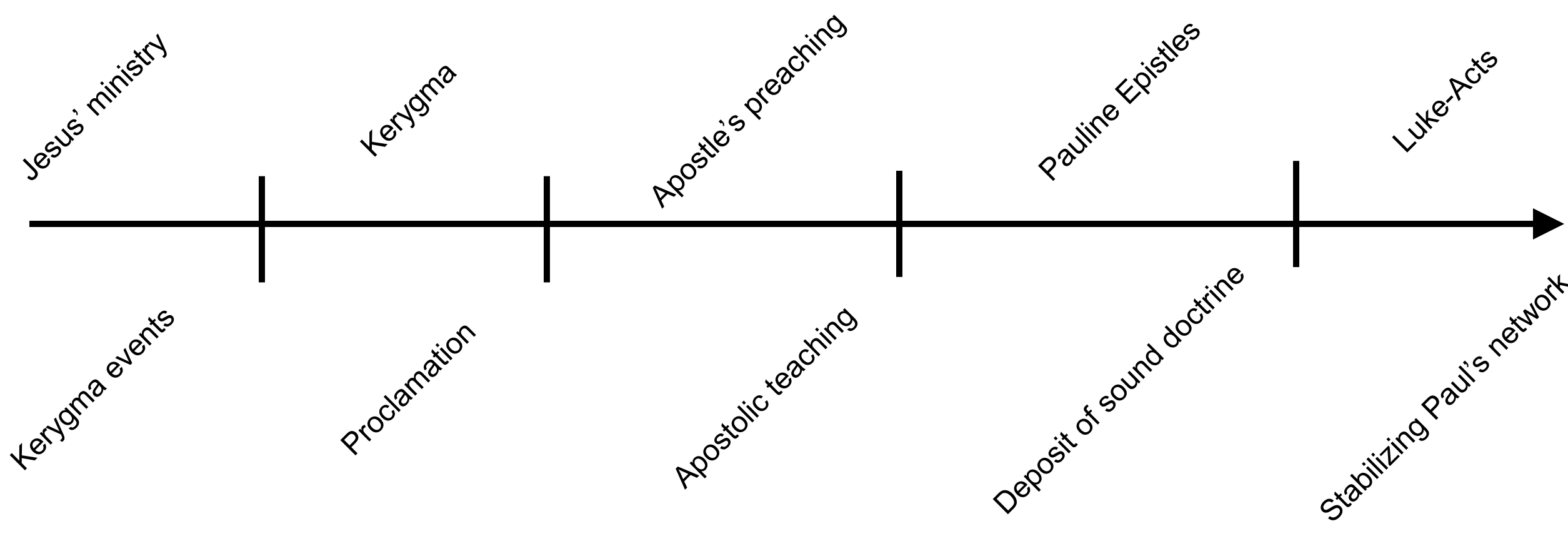
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So what? Two things...

Course design: *Pauline Epistles* is
next

More important: network
stabilization

- Luke-Acts written between 76 and 85 CE
 - Paul dead about 8 years
 - Neronian persecutions in the rear-view
 - Matthew written to stabilize the Jewish churches (Peter prominent here) (...)
 - Galatians, Paul's first (?): to make sure they're "walking straight down the line of gospel truth" (Ga 2.14, N.T. Wright, The Kingdom New Testament)
 - Early, middle, late: kerygma, didache, mission of the church, full maturity (...)
 - Luke-Acts: stabilizing the churches for participation in mission—the multiplication of established churches—straight down the line of gospel truth, as Paul delivered it



Adapted from material in *From Jesus to the Gospels*

Why is the book of Acts
so important?

It's a model for the
fulfillment of mission today

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