



Acts: The Power of the Gospel



Acts Chapter 1-14



Here is the summary of those first 14 chapters, enhanced with a defining key verse for each chapter. From an evangelical conservative framework, these specific verses highlight the core themes of biblical authority, the deity of Christ, the necessity of repentance, and the sovereign power of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1: The Ascension and Chosen Vessels

The resurrected Christ instructs the apostles, promises the Holy Spirit, and ascends bodily into heaven. The disciples return to Jerusalem, remain in unified prayer, and scripturally choose Matthias to replace Judas, reinforcing the apostolic foundation.

Key Verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Chapter 2: Pentecost and the Birth of the Church

The Holy Spirit descends, empowering believers to speak in known foreign languages. Peter preaches a Christ-centered, expository sermon proving Jesus's resurrection from prophecy. Three thousand souls repent, creating a vibrant church built on apostolic doctrine.

Key Verse:

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Chapter 3: Miraculous Healing and the Call to Israel

Peter and John heal a lame man at the Temple gate through the power of Jesus's name. As a crowd gathers, Peter preaches his second sermon, exposing the nation's guilt in crucifying the Messiah and calling Israel to national and personal repentance.

Key Verse:

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..." (Acts 3:19-20a)

Chapter 4: The First Persecution and Boldness of the Church

The Sanhedrin arrests Peter and John for preaching the resurrection. Standing boldly before the council,

Peter declares the exclusive nature of salvation. Ordered to stop preaching, the apostles refuse to obey man over God and pray for continued gospel boldness.

Key Verse:

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Chapter 5: Purity Checked and Apostles Vindicated

God executes swift judgment on Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit, preserving the church's purity. Despite re-arrest and physical beatings by the religious leadership, the apostles are miraculously freed by an angel and rejoice in suffering for Christ.

Key Verse:

"But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" (Acts 5:29)

Chapter 6: Practical Ministry and Spiritual Warfare

To protect their focus on prayer and teaching, the apostles direct the church to choose seven Spirit-filled men to handle the daily distribution of food. Among them is Stephen, whose powerful ministry triggers fierce, fabricated opposition from hostile religious factions.

Key Verse:

"And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7)

Chapter 7: Stephen's Defense and Martyrdom

Stephen delivers a masterful scriptural defense, demonstrating that Israel historically rejected God's appointed messengers, culminating in their murder of Jesus. Enraged, the council stones Stephen to death, making him the first Christian martyr.

Key Verse:

"And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 7:59-60)

Chapter 8: The Gospel Explodes into Samaria

Severe persecution scatters the church, driving the gospel into Samaria. Philip preaches Christ there with great success, and the apostles validate the Samaritan believers. Philip is then divinely directed to preach Christ from Isaiah 53 to an Ethiopian eunuch.

Key Verse:

"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 8:14-15)

Chapter 9: The Miraculous Conversion of Saul

Saul, the chief persecutor, is blinded and transformed by a literal vision of the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He immediately begins preaching Jesus as the Son of God, eventually traveling to Jerusalem where Barnabas vouches for his true conversion.

Key Verse:

"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.'" (Acts 9:15)

Chapter 10: The Gospel to the Gentiles (Cornelius)

God gives Peter a rooftop vision declaring all foods clean, breaking down Jewish-Gentile barriers. Peter obeys the Spirit, visits the home of the Roman centurion Cornelius, and preaches Christ. The Holy Spirit falls on the Gentile listeners, granting them entry into the church.

Key Verse:

"To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:43)

Chapter 11: The Gentile Shift and the Church at Antioch

Peter explains his divine mandate to the Jerusalem leadership, who glorify God for extending salvation to the Gentiles. Meanwhile, scattered believers plant a thriving, multi-ethnic missionary church in Antioch, where the term "Christian" is born.

Key Verse:

"When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.'" (Acts 11:18)

Chapter 12: Political Persecution and Divine Deliverance

King Herod executes James and imprisons Peter. The church prays fervently, and an angel miraculously frees Peter from maximum-security confinement. Herod later accepts divine worship from a crowd and is struck down dead by an angel of the Lord.

Key Verse:

"But the word of God increased and multiplied." (Acts 12:24)

Chapter 13: Paul's First Missionary Journey Begins

Set apart by the Holy Spirit at Antioch, Paul and Barnabas begin their first missionary journey. In Pisidian Antioch, Paul preaches a definitive sermon anchoring the gospel in Old Testament history and proclaiming justification by faith alone.

Key Verse:

"And by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." (Acts 13:39)

Chapter 14: Hardship, Miracles, and Church Leadership

Paul and Barnabas experience miracles and intense hostility in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. After surviving a stoning, Paul retraces his steps to strengthen the young congregations, appointing biblically qualified elders to shepherd each local church.

Key Verse:

"...strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

