

18 days through Acts

This reading plan takes you through the whole book of Acts in 18 days. Each daily reading will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. You can read on your own, or if you'd prefer, why not read with a friend or family member. And don't worry if you get behind, just pick up the readings when you can. Why not post any reflections from your daily reading on the Hub Church Facebook group page. Enjoy!

Day 1

Acts 1:1-2:47



Day 2

Acts 3:1-4:37



Day 3

Acts 5:1-6:15



Day 4

Acts 7:1-60



Day 5

Acts 8:1-9:19^a



Day 6

Acts 9:19^b-10:23^a



Day 12

Acts 18:18-19:41



Day 11

Acts 17:1-18:17



Day 10

Acts 15:22-16:40



Day 9

Acts 13:38-15:21



Day 8

Acts 12:1-13:37



Day 7

Acts 10:23^b-11:30



Day 13

Acts 20:1-21:16



Day 14

Acts 21:17-22:29



Day 15

Acts 22:30-23:35



Day 16

Acts 24:1-25:22



Day 17

Acts 25:23-27:12



Day 18

Acts 27:13-28:31



A little about Acts...

Who is the author?

The author is not explicitly identified, but early church tradition ascribes the authorship of Luke-Acts to Paul's companion Luke – the beloved physician (see Col 4:14, 2 Tim 4:11, Phm 1:24). There are indications in Acts itself that Luke was present at some of the events recorded – this is indicated by the use of 'we' in the following passages – Acts 16:10-17, 20:1-16, 21:1-19, 27:1-44, 28:1-16. For a fuller study as to who Luke is – see the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) online (<http://www.internationalstandardbible.com/L/luke-the-evangelist.html>).

When and where was it written?

There is no clear evidence as to where it was written – however, given that:

- the narrative ends in Rome,
- Paul states 'only Luke is with me' in 2 Tim 4:11 and
- 2 Tim 1:16-17 places Paul in Rome at that time,

then, it is most likely that Luke was in Rome, with Paul, when he wrote both the gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles.

As to when it was written, if Luke was in Rome with Paul, the earliest that Luke-Acts could have been written is Paul's arrival in Rome – which most scholars date at around AD 62. There is no clear indication as to the latest date it could have been written – some scholars date it as late as in the 70s. However, if the intent of Luke-Acts was a legal brief to be used in Paul's defense, then this would indicate a date soon after Paul's arrival and before his death.

Who was it intended for?

Although the recipient is identified as an individual named Theophilus, it is not clear whether Theophilus is a generic Christ-follower (Theophilus means 'loved of/ by God') or a specific individual. Many commentators believe that Theophilus is a specific individual – most probably a Roman official or magistrate (as indicated by the use of the term 'most excellent' in Luke 1:3).

Why was it written?

Luke explicitly states in the prologue to his gospel that his intent is to 'write an orderly account' of the events in Jesus' life (Luke 1:1-4). In his preface to the book of Acts he states that in his gospel he had told all that Jesus began to do and teach – thereby making the book of Acts a continuation of the gospel.

In Luke 1:3, Luke addresses Theophilus as 'most excellent' - an honorific normally used in addressing men of prominent rank or office (in Acts 23:26 it is applied to Felix). If we see Theophilus as a government official, then it is reasonable to assume that Luke-Acts was intended as a legal brief to be used in Paul's defense – and also in defense of Christianity as a *religio licita*. See also International Bible Society Introduction to Acts (<https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-acts/>)