

# Introduction to NT Books

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## V. The Book of Acts

### A. The Authorship of Acts

#### 1. The External Evidence

- a. Early Patristics attested to the Lukan authorship.
- b. The Muratorian Canon attests for the same.

#### 2. The Internal Evidence

- a. The author was a companion of Paul because of the use of “we” and “us” (Acts 16:10-17; 20:5 ff.).
- b. Of all of Paul’s companions, Luke is the only one not eliminated because of contexts.
- c. As in the Gospel of Luke, the author used medical terms supporting the Lukan authorship (cf. Col. 4:14).

### B. The Date of Acts

1. The Book ends with Paul’s first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28).
2. Luke stayed with Paul during his trip which ended around AD 60.

### C. The Origin and Destination of Acts

1. Luke wrote from Rome while with Paul.
2. He wrote to the Gentile Roman Theophilus (Acts 1:1).

### D. The Purpose of Acts

1. He wanted to continue recording what Jesus began to do and teach, now through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1 ff.).
2. He wanted to reveal that the Apostles and disciples’ interpretation of the Great Commission was that of starting Baptist churches (Acts 18:8 ff.).

### E. The Characteristics of Acts

#### 1. The Outline of Acts (1:8) focuses on the following:

- a. The Events of Pentecost (1-2)
- b. The Ministry of the Apostles (3-12)
- c. The Church Planting of Paul (13-21)
  - 1) First Missionary Journey (13-14)
  - 2) Second Missionary Journey (15-18)
  - 3) Third Missionary Journey (12-21)
- d. The Prosperous Journey to Rome (21-28)

2. The Book covers the first thirty years of Apostolic activity (c. AD 30-60), and refers to several historical markers to establish a timeline, such as Claudius’ Jewish expulsion about AD 49 and Gallio’s verdict about AD 51 (Acts 18:2 and 12, respectively).

3. Luke emphasized ecclesiology in Acts, dealing with the nature, administration, financing, and mission of the NT ἐκκλησία.

4. Acts emphasized the role of prayer and the person of the Holy Spirit in church work.

5. Acts is the first book of Baptist history, giving the biblical pattern of the expectation of Christianity until Christ comes back (i.e., planting immersionist assemblies):

- a. Churches are comprised of saved sinners.
- b. Churches will receive persecution from without and heresy from within.
- c. The Lord oversees the progress of immersionist church establishment and preservation.
- d. The Baptist assembly is the authorized institution to reach the world with the Gospel.