



Outline of the Book of Acts of the Holy Spirit by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

OUTLINED IN **ACTS 1:8**

GOD IS PARTNER BLUEPRINT FOR REDEMPTION

- I. **Holy Spirit's Witness in "Palestine" 1:1 – 8:40**
 - A. To Apostles **1:1 - 26**
 1. Jesus' completion on earth **1:1-9**
 - a. Summary His acts in Luke's book **1:1-3**
 - b. Statement of His promise to Apostles **1:4-8** (Luke 24:46 – 49)
 - c. Specter of His ascension **1:9**
 2. Apostles' completion to "wait" **1:10-26**
 - a. Recognition of their witness to His ascension **1:11**
 - b. Return to **Jerusalem 1:12-14**
 - c. Replacing **Judas Iscariot** in The Twelve **1:15-26** Psalm 69:25; 109:8
 - B. To Jews **2:1 – 7:60**
 1. Apostles, baptized in the Holy Spirit, preached **1st Gospel sermon**
 - a. Matthias "with the eleven" received outpouring **1:26-2:1-4**
 - b. Devout Jews still keeping Moses' law came together **2:5-13**
 - c. **Peter** explained this was fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy **2:14-21** Joel 2:28-32
 - d. **Peter**, and the 11, preached on the resurrected Jesus as "the Christ" and fulfillment of David's prophecy **2:22-36** Psalm 16:8-10
 - e. Jews commanded to obey Christ
 - 1) new method of salvation **2:37-41**
 - 2) new worship for a new people **2:42**
 - 3) new confirmation of new truth (not Moses' miracles) **2:43**
 - 4) new fellowship of benevolence under a new law **2:44-45**
 - 5) new church growth **2:46-47**
 2. **Peter's 2nd sermon**
 - a. Preceded by the healing of a beggar **3:1-10**
 - b. Preached Jesus, fulfills **all Old Testament** prophecy...
 - 1) of His death and resurrection **3:18**
 - 2) of His offer of salvation **3:20-21**
 - 3) of His new law **3:22-26**
 - c. Prompted the **1st Jewish rejection and persecution**
 - 1) **Peter & John** arrested by Jewish leaders **4:1-4; 3:1**
 - 2) Same council that crucified Jesus **4:5-12; John 18:12-14; 19-24; Matthew 26:57-68**
 - 3) Force of truthful facts **4:13-22**
 - 4) Prayer for more force in preaching **4:23-31**

- 5) Force of church benevolence, i.e. portioning blessings “among them”
 - a) Procedure **4:32-37**
 - b) Perjuring (**1st church disciplinary action**) **5:1-11**
 - c) Purifying process **5:12-16**
- 3. Pressure from Jewish council grows (**2nd Jewish persecution**)
 - a. all apostles are jailed **5:17-19**
 - b. LORD’s angel releases them to preach openly **5:20-32**
 - c. Gamaliel’s logical & wise counsel **5:33-39**
 - d. Apostles beaten but rejoicing **5:41-42** .
- 4. Pleasant solution to **church’s 2nd problem**
 - a. racial problem in nature: Greeks felt Hebrews neglected their widows in the “daily distribution” **6:1**
 - b. “preacher(s)” preach solution - but do not necessarily have to “serve tables” (i.e. there is work for all) **6:2-4**
 - c. Greeks got the job (complainers get the assignment) **6:5-7**
- 5. Jewish persecution boils over (**3rd persecution**)
 - a. Stephen chosen for slanderous attack **7:8-15**
 - b. Stephen’s sermon outlines O.T. history of Jews’ rejection of God’s way, and ends in his present-day **7:1-53**
 - c. Stephen forgave those who stoned him to death **7:54-60**
 - d. **Saul** sought the scattered church **8:1-4**
- C. To Samaritans **8:5 – 8:40**
 - 1. Philip [Cf **6:5-6**] preached Christ to **Samaritans**
 - a. accompanied by miracles **8:5-8**
 - b. baptized men and women, and Simon a sorcerer **8:9-13**
 - c. apostles had to come and lay hands on the Samaritans that they might receive the Holy Spirit **8:14-17**
 - d. Simon (sorcerer) showed his heart corrupt after baptism **8:18-25**
 - 2. Philip preached Christ to **Ethiopian** eunuch
 - a. queen’s treasurer had worshipped in Jerusalem and returned reading Scripture **8:26-34**
 - b. Philip provided New Testament interpretation of the Old Testament prophecy **8:35-36**
 - c. eunuch confessed his faith and was baptized **8:37-40** **Isaiah 53:7-8**

II. HOLY SPIRIT’S WITNESS IN REST OF THE WORLD **9:1 – 28:31**

- A. To and through the Apostle **Paul 9:1-31**
 - 1. Slaughtering **Saul** succumbed to the Savior on **Damascus’** road **9:1-9**
 - 2. Still in sins and needed to be baptized **9:10-19** Cf **22:16**
 - 3. Strengthened by preaching Jesus **9:20-22**
 - 4. Suppressed by unbelieving Jews **9:23-25**
 - 5. Scared disciples in **Jerusalem** needed endorsement by Barnabas before they would accept him **9:26-31**
- B. To 1st Gentiles **9:32-11:18**
 - 1. **Peter’s** sermons and miracles continued...
 - a. in **Lydda**, healed paralyzed Aeneas **9:32-35**
 - b. in **Joppa**, raised Tabitha from the dead **9:36-43**
 - 2. In **Caesarea**, an angel of God told Cornelius to send to Joppa for **Peter** to preach the Gospel to him **10:1-8**

- a. in Joppa, **Peter's** trance was not to call "common" anything (or anyone) God now called "clean" **10:9-23**
 - b. in Caesarea, **Peter** sees sincerity of Gentiles **10:24-48** (**Peter's 3rd recorded sermon**)
 - 3. In **Jerusalem**, **Peter** preached the facts of Cornelius' conversion to Jewish brethren i.e. that Gentiles should be also be saved **11:1-18**
- C. To All World **11:19-12:24 Matthew 28:19-20**
- 1. **Antioch** church 1st to receive God's new name: "Christians"
 - a. gospel preached to Greeks **11:19-24**
 - b. Barnabas brought **Saul** back from Tarsus **11:25-26a**
 - c. God gave name "Christians" to those who assembled **11:26b**
 - d. 1st church with benevolence for Jewish brethren! **11:27-30**
 - 2. In **Jerusalem**, (**4th Jewish persecution**)
 - a. Herod killed James, jailed **Peter** **12:1-4**
 - b. **Peter** released by an "angel of the LORD" **12:5-19**
 - c. Herod eaten by worms for arrogance against God **12:20-24**

III. JOURNEYS OF SAUL OF TARSUS (**PAUL**) **12:25 – 28:31**

- A. Holy Spirit sends **Saul**, Barnabas, and John Mark **12:25 – 13:3** 1st Trip
- 1. **Cyprus**, strike Elymas the sorcerer blind **13:4-12**
 - 2. through **Pamphylia** to **Antioch in Pisidia** **13:13-14a**
 - a. **Paul's 1st recorded sermon** in Jewish synagogue **13:14b-41**
 - b. Gentiles begged for more "the next Sabbath" **13:42-44**
 - c. Jewish envious backlash **13:45-52**
 - 3. in **Iconium** - city divided by Jewish "poisoning" **14:1-7**
 - 4. in **Lystra**
 - a. **Paul** healed a born cripple **14:8-10**
 - b. people misinterpreted them to be "gods" **14:11-18** **2nd Sermon**
 - c. out-of-town Jews led **Paul's** stoning **14:19-20**
 - 5. return to **Antioch** after appointing elders in every church **14:21-28**
- B. Holy Spirit strikes down "Phariseeism" from Christians in **Jerusalem**
- 1. **Paul** and Barnabas refuted the false doctrine that physical circumcision is still a sign of spirituality to God today **15:1-5**
 - 2. apostles and elders settle the matter once and for all **15:6-29**
 - a. **Peter's 4th sermon** about Cornelius' conversion **15:6-11**
 - b. **Paul** reported on miracles and sermons to Gentiles **15:12**
 - c. **James** quotes **Amos 9:11-12** as example of O.T. **15:13-21**
 - d. apostles, elders, whole church concur and send out James' recommendations for Gentile Christians **15:22-29**
 - 3. **Paul**, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas) and Silas took copy to Antioch brethren **15:22, 30-35**
- C. Paul and Barnabas separate over John Mark **15:36-39** 2nd Trip
- 1. **Paul** and Silas go through **Syria** and **Cilicia** **15:40-41**
 - 2. at **Derbe** and **Lystra**, passed out Jerusalem letter and chose Timothy to accompany them further **16:1-5**
 - 3. through **Phrygia** and **Galatia**, the **Holy Spirit forbade them** to go to **Asia**; **Holy Spirit forbade them** entering **Bithynia** from **Mysia** **16:6-7**
 - 4. at **Troas** saw the Macedonian call **16:8-10**

5. sailed to **Samothrace**, next **Neapolis**, to **Philippi 16:11-12**
 - a. preached to women in prayer at riverside **16:13**
 - b. Lydia obeyed and offered hospitality **16:14-15**
 - c. cast out "spirit of divination" **16:16-18**
 - d. her masters had Paul and Silas beaten and jailed **16:19-24**
 - e. God opened jail with earthquake and jailor's heart by shaking it with the Gospel **16:25-34**
 - f. Paul insisted on being released publicly **16:35-40**
 6. through **Amphipolis, Appollonia**, to **Thessalonica 17:1a**
 - a. reasoned with Jews and Greeks in synagogue, many of whom "were persuaded" **17:1b-4**
 - b. unpersuaded Jews used evil men for a mob **17:5-9**
 7. Paul came to **Bereans** who accepted Scripture **17:10-12**, but Thessalonian Jews "stirred up the crowds" **17:13-14**
 8. Paul was conducted to **Athens 17:15**
 - a. Paul preached in the marketplace **17:16-18**
 - b. Paul preached on Aeropagus **17:19-31 3rd recorded Sermon**
 - c. mixed response to the message **17:32-34**
 9. Paul comes to **Corinth 18:1**
 - a. lodges with fellow-tentmakers, Aquila & Priscilla **18:2-3**
 - b. **Holy Spirit constrained him** to preach to both Jews and Greeks **18:4-11**
 - c. Jews "rose up against Paul" **18:12-17**
 10. sailed for **Syria**, but stopped at **Ephesus**, leaving Aquila and Priscilla there **18:18-21**
 11. landed at **Caesarea**, returned to Antioch **18:22**
- D. Paul departs from Antioch through **Galatia** and **Phrygia 18:23 3rd Trip**
1. Apollos preached Bible truth only through "the baptism of John" and went on to Corinth in Achaia **18:24-28**
 2. Paul baptized the **Ephesian** 12 "in the name of the Lord Jesus" because Apollos had left them "undone" **19:1-7**
 3. Paul preached 3 months in synagogue, but with hardened opposition he withdrew to Tyrannus' school and taught for another 2 years **19:8-10**
 - a. special miracles with handkerchiefs or aprons **19:11-12**
 - b. Jewish exorcists trounced by evil spirits **19:13-17**
 - c. magic book bonfire shows mighty results **19:18-20**
 - d. run out of Ephesus by Diana-shrine makers **19:21-41**
 4. to **Macedonia**, then **Greece** (3 months), return through **Macedonia** to **Philippi**, to **Troas** "to break bread" **20:1-12**
 5. sailed from **Assos** to **Mitylene**, to **Chios**, to **Samos** and stayed at **Trogyllium**, then to **Miletus 20:12-16**
 - a. **Ephesian** elders meet with Paul **20:17**
 - b. Paul told them about Ephesian church **20:18-35 4th Sermon**
 - c. prayers and tears followed **20:36-38**
 6. sailed to **Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Phoenicia, Cyprus**, landed at **Tyre** in **Syria 21:1-3**
 - a. in **Tyre**, Spirit told Paul **NOT to go to Jerusalem 21:4-6**
 - b. in **Ptolemais** greeted the brethren **21:7**
 - c. came to **Caesarea** and stayed with Philip and his 4 virgin daughters who prophesied. Holy Spirit says through Agabus Paul will be bound by Gentiles **21:8-14**
 - d. lodged with Mnason on the way to **Jerusalem 21:15-16**

E. Jerusalem to Rome 21:17-28:32

1. In Jerusalem

- a. Elders ask Paul to silence Jewish critics by observing a vow and offering a sacrifice for purity of the law **21:17-25**
- b. Paul is beaten by Jewish mob and arrested by soldiers to protect him from them **21:26-36**
- c. Paul preaches his mission to them in Hebrew **21:37-22:24** **5th recorded Sermon**
- d. Paul uses Roman citizenship to avoid scourging **22:25-29**
- e. Paul divides Jewish council of Pharisees and Sadducees with the issue of the "resurrection of the dead" **22:30-23:10**
- f. plot by 40 Jews to kill Paul revealed **23:11-22**

2. In Caesarea

- a. Paul sent by armed guard to Caesarea **23:23-35**
- b. Tertullus presented Jews' case against Paul **24:1-9**
- c. Paul defends himself **24:10-21** **6th recorded Sermon**
- d. Felix, the governor, delays his obedience **24:22-26**
- e. Porcius Festus is the next governor **24:27**
 - 1) journeys to Jerusalem and keeps Paul in Caesarea **25:1-6a**
 - 2) Festus hears Paul's defense **25:6b-10**
 - 3) Paul appeals to Caesar **25:11-12**
- f. Paul's defense before Agrippa **25:13-26:32** **7th Sermon**

3. On to Rome 27:1-28:31

- a. Paul in custody of Julius, a centurion **27:1**
- b. on an Adramyttium ship, sailed to Sidon, Cyprus, and to Myra **27:2-5**
- c. on an Alexandrian ship, sailed to Cnidus, Crete to Fair Havens near Lasea **27:6-8**
- d. Paul predicts shipwreck but is ignored **27:9-38**
- e. wrecked on island of Malta **27:39-28:10**
- f. boarded an Alexandrian ship, Twin Brothers, and landed at Syracuse **28:11-12**
- g. reached Rhegium, to Puteoli, Appii Forum & Three Inns **28:13-15**
- h. came to Rome **28:16-31**

Actual Acts:

- **Luke** shows Jesus' anointing with the Holy Spirit as fulfilling Scripture (**Luke 3:21-22; 4:16-21**), and the book of Acts showing the Apostles' anointing with the Holy Spirit fulfilling Scripture as well (**Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-21,43; 5:12**). Acts shows the Bible reader the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy concerning the Holy Spirit's work on earth under Jesus' New Law (**John 14:15-18, 25-26; 15:26-27; John 16:5-15; 17:11-23**). In **Matthew - John** one has the record of "all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up" (**Acts 1:1-3**), and in **Acts** one has the record of the Holy Spirit's authorization of the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (**Acts 1:4-8; Mark 16:15-20**). The Holy Spirit inspired the preaching (and writing) of the Gospel, and confirmed it with the miracles thus recorded. Just as Jesus Christ need not perform miracles today for one to believe in Him as the Son of God (**John 20:30-31**), so the miraculous confirmation of that Gospel needs no repetition outside the pages of the New Testament!
- Only the chosen 12 Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, because the text says:
 - The "they" included Matthias "with the eleven" **1:26-2:1**;
 - Only Galileans spoke with other tongues that day **2:7**;
 - Peter stood up "with the eleven" **2:14**;
 - "Wonders and signs" were done [only] "through the apostles" **2:43**
- There is NO Old Testament prophecy concerning the coming of Christ, kingdom of Christ, or subsequent "prophet" after Jesus that has not been fulfilled!
Cf Acts 3:22-24 There is NO yet-to-be-fulfilled New Testament prophecy of a future kingdom on earth, coming king, restoration of the physical Jewish nation and land, or salvation by any other means than the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Words of Jesus NOT found in **Matthew - John** quoted in **Acts 20:35**.
- The Holy Spirit inspires speakers of the Gospel (**Acts 2:4; 4:29-31; 18:5**), interrupts plans of the speakers of the Gospel (**Acts 8:26-27; 10:17-23; 13:1-3; Acts 16:6-10; 21:4, 10-12; 27:9-12, 20-26**), and produces miraculous works to instill confidence in the messages of the speakers of the Gospel (**Acts 2:43; Acts 4:15-16; 5:12; 6:8-10; 8:5-7; 14:1-3; 8-10; 19:11-12; 28:1-10**), BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT NEVER DIRECTLY COMMUNICATES THE GOSPEL TO THE SINNER NEEDING TO OBEY THE GOSPEL (**Acts 9:4-6; 16:14-15**)!
- **Acts 15** is NOT a convention voting on what to believe, but IS the apostolic and Biblical version of what should have been taught!