Contents

The Book of Acts

2. God Pours His Holy Spirit on His People — July 7–13........................................ 11
4. The Church’s First Leaders — July 21–27...................................................... 25
5. Paul Becomes a Christian — July 28–August 3............................................ 32
6. Peter’s Work for God — August 4–10.............................................................. 39
7. Paul’s First Trip to Share the Good News — August 11–17............................. 46
8. The Jerusalem Group — August 18–24............................................................. 53
10. Paul’s Third Trip to Share the Good News — September 1–7..................... 67
11. Paul’s Arrest in Jerusalem — September 8–14............................................ 74
12. Paul in Prison — September 15–21............................................................... 81
13. Paul’s Trip to Rome — September 22–28.................................................... 88

Editorial Office: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600
Come visit us at our Web site: http://www.absg.adventist.org

Printing and Circulation Office: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193

Principal Contributor....................................................................................... Wilson Paroschi
Editor ............................................................................................................. Soraya Homayouni
Contributing Editor ...................................................................................... Margie English
Three Angels Deaf Ministries Consultant....................................................Esther Doss
Publication Manager ..................................................................................... Lea Alexander Greve
Editorial Assistant ....................................................................................... Sharon Thomas-Crews
Art and Design ............................................................................................. Lars Justinen
Line Drawings ............................................................................................... Jon Gilbertson
Pacific Press® Coordinator............................................................................ Wendy Marcum
E. G. White Estate Consultant........................................................................ Tim Poirier

The Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, the members of which serve as consulting editors. The published Bible study guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s). The Easy Reading Edition is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide in cooperation with Three Angels Deaf Ministries, P.O. Box 1946, Greenbelt, MD 20768; http://www.3adm.org.

© 2018 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide Easy Reading Edition may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide Easy Reading Edition, under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. “Seventh-day Adventist,” “Adventist,” and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference.
Many history experts believe that the most important time in history happened when a small group of men told people everywhere about Jesus and the Good News. This small group of men was mostly Jews. The Holy Spirit gave them power to do their work.

The book of Acts is the story about that important time in history. That time lasts a little over 30 years. It starts with Jesus’ waking up from the dead and coming back to life in A.D. 31. It ends when Paul is put in prison in Rome for the first time in A.D. 62 (Acts 28:30). We believe Luke wrote the book of Acts soon after Paul went to prison. Why do we think that Luke wrote the book soon after that happened? Because the story in the book of Acts ends just after Paul becomes a prisoner. The Bible shows us that the Romans let Paul go free from prison later. Then Paul continues to tell people the Good News about Jesus. Paul preaches and travels until he is arrested a second time, a few years later. This time, Paul is killed in Rome in A.D. 67.


When we keep in mind that Luke is not Jewish, we will understand an important topic he writes about: God wants to save everyone. God has no favorites. God commands the church to witness to everyone everywhere (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:21, 39, 40; Acts 3:25; Acts 10:28, 34, 35). If we fail to do this work, then we go against the Good News itself and a very important Bible truth: we are all the same before God. We are sinners who need Jesus to save us.

Other important topics in Acts are: (1) God’s power over everything and His plan to save us (Acts 17:24, 25; Acts 20:27; Acts 23:11); (2) the truth that Jesus is both Lord and Savior (Acts 2:32, 36; Acts 3:13, 15; Acts 4:10–12; Acts 5:30, 31); and (3) the Holy Spirit’s work to lead the church and make it grow strong to do God’s work (Acts 2:1–4; Acts 4:24–31; Acts 8:14–17, 29, 39; Acts 10:19, 20). The New Testament church’s success does not come from human wisdom or skill. The New Testament church’s success comes from God. The same thing is true for us today. No other church leader in Paul’s time is able to do what Paul did (1 Corinthians 15:10). God uses Paul to change the world in a powerful way, and God will use us too.

Acts tells the story about how fast the New Testament church grew. We can see one example of how fast the church grew when we read about how the church answers hard questions. The church answers hard questions about (1) faith and how our faith helps us become saved, (2) the things non-Jewish members must do, and (3) the time when Jesus will come back to earth. The New Testament church does a lot of work in a short time. The church’s success shows us what God can do when we give our lives to Him and pray. But we must not be proud. We must not let our problems or disagreements with other believers stop our work for God. Then the Spirit can use us to bring honor and glory to God.

The book of Acts tells us the story about the people in the New Testament church who did God’s work. God asked them to start this work. Today, God asks us to finish the work they started. What can we learn from their story to help us do God’s work?

*Wilson Paroschi is a professor at Brazil Adventist University (UNASP), in Eugenheiro Coelho, Sao Paulo. He has a PhD degree in New Testament from Andrews University (2004). He also studied at the University of Heidelberg, in Germany (2011).*