Contents

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

PREFACE

1

BEGINNINGS 13

(1) Prologue to the Age of the Apostles 15 • (2) The Ascension of Jesus 16 • (3) Days of Waiting 20 • (4) A Day of Decision 21 • (5) The Descent of the Spirit 24 • (6) Popular Reactions to the Spirit's Working 26 • (7) The First Christian Sermon 27 • (8) Audience Reaction 30

2

FELLOWSHIP AND OPPOSITION 33

(9) Early Christian Fellowship 33 • (10) A Lame Man Healed 35 • (11) Another Sermon by Peter 37 • (12) First Opposition 39 • (13) A Religious Dilemma 41 • (14) Return to a Prayer Meeting 43

3

EARLY PROBLEMS 46

(15) Early Christian Communism 46 • (16) Barnabas, Ananias, and Sapphira 47 • (17) Signs and Wonders 49 • (18) Another Arrest 51
• (19) Gamaliel 53 • (20) The Seven 55

4

STEPHEN, PHILIP, AND SAUL 58

(21) Opposition to Stephen 58 • (22) Stephen's Defense and Martyrdom 60 • (23) Organized Persecution 62 • (24) Stirrings in Samaria 64 • (25) Peter and John in Samaria 66 • (26) Philip and the Ethiopian 69 • (27) A Divine Revelation to Saul 70 • (28) A Special Mission for Ananias 73 • (29) Saul at Damascus, Jerusalem, and Tarsus 75

5

PETER LAUNCHES OUT 78

(30) Peter at Lydda and Joppa 78 • (31) Cornelius' Vision 79 • (32) Peter's Vision 81 • (33) Peter at Cornelius' House 83 • (34) Peter Defends His Action 85 • (35) Beginnings at Antioch 87 • (36) Famine Relief for Judaea 89

6

CRISES AND CHALLENGES 91

(37) Action Against James and John 91 • (38) The Effect of Peter's Release and the Death of a King 93 • (39) Barnabas and Saul Again 95 • (40) The Gospel in Cyprus 97 • (41) Paul at Pisidian Antioch 99 • (42) The Aftermath of a Sermon 101

THE END OF A MISSION AND ITS SEQUEL 104

(43) At Iconium and Lystra 104 • (44) The Conclusion of the First Mission Tour 106 • (45) A Church Council at Jerusalem 108 • (46) Critical Decisions 110 • (47) Back to Antioch 112

8

A NEW CHARTER OF FREEDOM 115

(48) Paul Battles for Freedom 115 • (49) Paul Talks About the Jerusalem Apostles 117 • (50) The Promise to Abraham 119 • (51) Arguments and Allegory 121 • (52) Christian Freedom 123 • (53) Christian Responsibility 126

9

PRACTICAL ADVICE AND PROGRESSIVE ADVENTURE 129

(54) Practical Words From a Practical Man 129 • (55) Against Partiality and Faith Without Works 131 • (56) Dangers 133 • (57) Timothy Joins the Team 135 • (58) Moving on to Europe 137 • (59) The Fortune Teller 139

10

FROM PHILIPPI TO CORINTH 142

(60) A Prison Shake-up 142 • (61) Dismissal From Philippi 144 • (62) Thessalonica 145 • (63) Beroea 148 • (64) Paul at Athens 149 • (65) Paul at the Aeropagus 151 • (66) Paul at Corinth 154

11

LETTERS TO THESSALONICA 157

(67) Paul Writes to the Thessalonians 157 • (68) Present Relationships 160 • (69) Practical Advice for Hard-pressed Christians 161 • (70) Another Letter to Thessalonica 164 • (71) More Practical Matters 166

12

FROM CORINTH TO EPHESUS 168

(72) Before Gallio 168 • (73) Journeyings 169 • (74) Apollos 172 • (75) Paul Begins Work at Ephesus 174 • (76) The Sons of Sceva 176

13

COMMENTS FOR CORINTH 179

(77) A Letter to Corinth 179 • (78) Paul's Antidote to Schisms 181 • (79) Immorality and Lawsuits 183 • (80) Some Comments on Marriage 185 • (81) Food Problems 187 • (82) Christian Rewards 190 • (83) Problems of Worship and Fellowship 192 • (84) Procedure for Public Worship 194 • (85) Spiritual Gifts 196 • (86) The Gift of Tongues 198 • (87) Thoughts on the Resurrection 200 • (88) Future Plans 203

BACK TO EUROPE WITH MORE ADVICE FOR CORINTH 205

(89) Riot at Ephesus 205 • (90) Another Letter to Corinth 207 • (91) The Glory of the Christian Ministry 209 • (92) Earthen Vessels 211 • (93) Ambassadors for Christ 213 • (94) Titus' Report and the Collection Scheme 216 • (95) Liberality 218 • (96) Paul Defends Himself 219 • (97) Legitimate Boasting 222 • (98) Visions 224 • (99) Plans 226

15

14

GREAT THOUGHTS FOR THE IMPERIAL CITY 228

(100) A Brief Stay in Greece 228 • (101) A Letter to the Christians at Rome 230 • (102) An Assessment of the Gentile World 232 • (103) An Assessment of the Jewish World 234 • (104) God Meeting Man's Need 236 • (105) An Illustration From Adam 238 • (106) Alive to God 240

16

MORE DOCTRINE AND ETHICS FOR ROME 243

(107) Inner Conflict 243 • (108) Life in the Spirit 245 • (109) The Problem of Israel and the Justice of God 247 • (110) God's Solution to Israel's Problem 249 • (111) Practical Advice 251 • (112) The Strong and the Weak 253 • (113) Plans and Greetings 255

17

JOURNEY TO JAIL 259

(114) From Troas to Miletus 259 • (115) Advice to Church Elders 261 • (116) At Tyre and Caesarea 263 • (117) Arrival at Jerusalem 266 • (118) The Arrest of Paul 267 • (119) Paul Addresses a Crowd 269 • (120) The Binding of a Roman Citizen 271

18

DEFENSE BEFORE AGRIPPA 274

(121) Dissension Over the Resurrection 274 • (122) Sworn to Kill 276 • (123) Paul Before Felix 278 • (124) Appeal to Caesar 280 • (125) Festus and Agrippa Discuss Paul's Case 282 • (126) Paul's Defense Before Agrippa 283 • (127) Decisions of Innocence 285

19

A STORMY PASSAGE TO ROME 287

(128) A Storm at Sea 287 • (129) Shipwreck 289 • (130) Hospitality in Malta 291 • (131) In Rome at Last 292

20

A GLIMPSE AT TWO CHURCHES 295

(132) A Letter to a Warm Community 295 • (133) A Humble Mind and a Workable Salvation 297 • (134) Warnings 299 • (135) Spiritual Qualities and Fragrant Gifts 301 • (136) A Letter About Christ 136 • (137) Warnings Against Deluding Doctrines 306 • (138) Life on a Higher Plane 308 • (139) Christian Counsel and Christian Greetings 310

21

A PERSONAL NOTE AND A GENERAL LETTER 313
(140) A Personal Plea 313 • (141) A Letter of C

(140) A Personal Plea 313 • (141) A Letter of Christian Reflection 315 • (142) God's Workmanship 317 • (143) Ministering a Mystery 319 • (144) Living in a New Way 322 • (145) In the World, at Worship, and at Home 324 • (146) Children, Slaves, and Enemies 326

22

LETTERS TO TWO FRIENDS 329

(147) Paul Writes to Timothy 329 • (148) The Church: Its Officers and Its Detractors 331 • (149) Discipline Among Christians 333 • (150) Rules for the People of God 336 • (151) A Theology for Living 338 • (152) A Farewell Letter to Timothy 340 • (153) Trials and Triumphs 342

23

A WORD OF CONSOLATION 345

(154) Son of God and Son of Man 345 • (155) Superior to Moses and Joshua 347 • (156) The Priesthood of Christ 349 • (157) An Exhortation and an Exposition 351 • (158) The New Covenant 353 • (159) Exhortations, Warnings, and Encouragements 356 • (160) Sufferings 358 • (161) Responsibilities 360

24

PETER TAKES TO WRITING 364

(162) Peter Writes About Christian Salvation 364 • (163) About Christian Relationships 366 • (164) Reflections on Suffering and Discipline 368 • (165) True Knowledge 371 • (166) False Knowledge 373 • (167) Challenge 375

25

BRIEF LETTERS FROM JOHN 378

(168) John Writes About Fellowship 378 • (169) The Family of God 380 • (170) Love and Faith 382 • (171) Two Personal Notes 385

26

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE 387

(172) John Writes to Some Asian Churches 387 • (173) Messages of Warning and Encouragement 390 • (174) A Vision of Heaven 392 • (175) The Seals 394 • (176) Six Trumpets of Doom 397 • (177) The Seventh Trumpet 399 • (178) The Beasts and the Martyrs 400 • (179) The Bowls 403 • (180) Babylon 405 • (181) Worship and Judgment 408 • (182) All Things New 410

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 413

SUBJECT INDEX 417

SCRIPTURE INDEX 419

List of Illustrations

The Place of the Ascension, Levant Photo Service
A "Lame Man"
Ruins of the Synagogue at Capernaum, Levant Photo Service
Service
The Distance from Damascus to Jerusalem
The Ruins of Herod's Augustan Temple in Samaria, Levant Photo Service
Samaria, Levant Photo Service
The Abana River in Damascus, Dr. Ralph W. Harris 71 Between Tarsus and the Cilician Gates, Levant Photo Service
Between Tarsus and the Cilician Gates, Levant Photo Service
Levant Photo Service
- C
Joppa and Caesarea 82
Herod's Fortress at Caesarea, Jack Lewis 82
Paul's First Missionary Journey
Paul's Second Missionary Journey
A View of the Panel on Mars Hill, Levant Photo Service . 150
The Route From Athens to Corinth
The Ruins of the Temple of Apollo at Corinth,
Levant Photo Service
Two Views of Corinth, Levant Photo Service 157
Paul's Third Missionary Journey 171
The Marble Street of Ephesus, Levant Photo Service 174
Old Corinth and New Corinth, Levant Photo Service 178
The Ephesus Area
Roman Milestones in Arnon Valley, Moab
Levant Photo Service
Asia Minor
The Seven Churches of Revelation