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LESSON I.

INTRODUCTORY: THE BOOK AND ITS AUTHOR.

THE Acts of the Apostles, or "The Gospel of the Holy Ghost," is a record of the chief historical facts concerning the Church which took place between the years *Anno Domini* 30 and 60.

As the four Gospels tell of the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God; so the Gospel of the Holy Ghost tells of the effect of that life, death, and resurrection as it was brought to bear upon the hearts and lives of men.

The Old Testament had told of the settling down of a dark cloud of sin between the world and God, and of the gradual illumination of that cloud as pierced by light from Heaven or lit up by the teaching of the Prophets. The New Testament tells of the enlightening and dispelling of the cloud by the rising of the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings.

The Distinction between the Gospels and the Acts.

In the Gospels we see the brightness of the visible manifestation of Christ; in the Acts of the Apostles the continued manifestation of Christ, not by His visible presence but by the presence of the Holy Ghost. Throughout the succeeding ages the light of the Holy Spirit has continued, but its progress is not recorded in Holy Writ. We learn of it from human records, or by tracing the work of God's servants in the world around us.