

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	xv
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xix
INTRODUCTION	3
I. ACTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	3
II. ORIGIN AND PURPOSE OF ACTS	6
III. PAUL IN ACTS	14
IV. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	17
TEXT, EXPOSITION, AND NOTES	28
I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH (1:1-5:42)	28
A. THE FORTY DAYS AND AFTER (1:1-26)	28
1. <i>Prologue (1:1-3)</i>	28
2. <i>The Apostles' Commission (1:4-8)</i>	33
3. <i>The Ascension (1:9-11)</i>	37
4. <i>In the Upper Room (1:12-14)</i>	39
5. <i>A Replacement for Judas Iscariot (1:15-26)</i>	42
B. THE DAY OF PENTECOST (2:1-47)	49
1. <i>The Descent of the Spirit (2:1-4)</i>	49
2. <i>The Crowd's Amazement (2:5-13)</i>	53
3. <i>Peter's Proclamation (2:14-36)</i>	59
a. "This is that" (2:14-21)	59
b. The resurrection of Jesus proclaimed (2:22-28)	62
c. Jesus: Lord and Messiah (2:29-36)	65
4. <i>Call to Repentance (2:37-40)</i>	68
5. <i>The First Christian Church (2:41-47)</i>	72
C. AN ACT OF HEALING AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (3:1-4:31)	76
1. <i>A Cripple Cured (3:1-10)</i>	76

2. <i>Peter's Address in Solomon's Colonnade (3:11-26)</i>	79
a. The power of Jesus' name (3:11-16)	79
b. Call to repentance (3:17-21)	82
c. Witness of the prophets (3:22-26)	85
3. <i>Arrest of Peter and John (4:1-4)</i>	89
4. <i>Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (4:5-12)</i>	90
5. <i>Debate in the Sanhedrin (4:13-17)</i>	94
6. <i>The Apostles Dismissed with a Caution (4:18-22)</i>	96
7. <i>Peter and John Rejoin Their Friends (4:23-31)</i>	97
D. ALL THINGS IN COMMON (4:32-5:11)	100
1. <i>Community of Goods (4:32-35)</i>	100
2. <i>The Generosity of Barnabas (4:36-37)</i>	101
3. <i>Deceit and Death of Ananias (5:1-6)</i>	102
4. <i>Death of Sapphira (5:7-11)</i>	106
E. THE APOSTLES BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN (5:12-42)	108
1. <i>Signs and Wonders (5:12-16)</i>	108
2. <i>The Apostles Imprisoned and Released (5:17-21a)</i>	109
3. <i>The Apostles Brought before the Sanhedrin (5:21b-26)</i>	111
4. <i>The High Priest's Charge and the Apostles' Reply (5:27-32)</i>	112
5. <i>The Court's Decision (5:33-40)</i>	113
6. <i>The Apostles Continue Their Public Witness (5:41-42)</i>	117
II. PERSECUTION AND EXPANSION (6:1-9:31)	119
A. STEPHEN (6:1-8:1A)	119
1. <i>The Appointing of the Seven (6:1-6)</i>	119
2. <i>Progress Report (6:7)</i>	123
3. <i>Stephen's Activity Arouses Opposition (6:8-10)</i>	124
4. <i>Stephen Accused before the Sanhedrin (6:11-15)</i>	125
5. <i>The High Priest's Question (7:1)</i>	129
6. <i>Stephen's Reply (7:2-53)</i>	129
a. The patriarchal age (7:2-8)	129
b. Israel in Egypt (7:9-19)	136
c. Moses' early days (7:20-29)	138
d. The call of Moses (7:30-34)	140
e. The wilderness wanderings (7:35-43)	141
f. Tabernacle and temple (7:44-50)	146
g. Personal application (7:51-53)	151

7. <i>The Stoning of Stephen (7:54-8:1a)</i>	153
a. Stephen's final witness (7:54-56)	153
b. Death of Stephen (7:57-60)	157
c. Saul's agreement (8:1a)	161
B. PHILIP (8:1B-40)	162
1. <i>Persecution and Dispersion (8:1b-3)</i>	162
2. <i>Philip in Samaria (8:4-8)</i>	163
3. <i>Simon Magus Believes and Is Baptized (8:9-13)</i>	165
4. <i>Peter and John Visit Samaria (8:14-17)</i>	168
5. <i>Peter and Simon Magus (8:18-24)</i>	170
6. <i>The Apostles Return to Jerusalem (8:25)</i>	172
7. <i>Philip and the Ethiopian (8:26-40)</i>	173
C. CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSUS (9:1-31)	180
1. <i>Saul's Expedition to Damascus (9:1-2)</i>	180
2. <i>The Light and Voice from Heaven (9:3-7)</i>	181
3. <i>Saul Enters Damascus (9:8-9)</i>	185
4. <i>Ananias Sent to Saul (9:10-16)</i>	185
5. <i>Ananias Visits Saul (9:17-19a)</i>	187
6. <i>Saul Preaches in Damascus (9:19b-22)</i>	189
7. <i>Saul Escapes from Damascus (9:23-25)</i>	191
8. <i>Saul in Jerusalem; He Is Sent to Tarsus (9:26-30)</i>	192
9. <i>The Church Enjoys Peace and Prosperity (9:31)</i>	196
III. THE ACTS OF PETER AND BEGINNINGS OF GEN- TILE CHRISTIANITY (9:32-12:24)	197
A. PETER IN WESTERN JUDAEA (9:32-43)	197
1. <i>Peter at Lydda: the Healing of Aeneas (9:32-35)</i>	197
2. <i>Peter at Joppa: the Raising of Dorcas (9:36-43)</i>	198
B. THE STORY OF CORNELIUS (10:1-48)	201
1. <i>Cornelius the Centurion Sees a Vision (10:1-8)</i>	201
2. <i>Peter Sees a Vision (10:9-16)</i>	204
3. <i>The Messengers from Cornelius Arrive at Joppa (10:17-23a)</i>	207
4. <i>Peter Enters the House of Cornelius (10:23b-33)</i>	208
5. <i>Gentiles Hear the Good News (10:34-43)</i>	210
6. <i>Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit (10:44-48)</i>	216
C. PETER'S ACTION ENDORSED AT JERUSALEM (11:1-18)	219
1. <i>Peter Called to Account (11:1-3)</i>	219

2. <i>Peter's Defense (11:4-17)</i>	220
3. <i>Peter's Defense Accepted (11:18)</i>	223
D. ANTIOCH BECOMES A CHRISTIAN BASE (11:19-30)	223
1. <i>Gentile Evangelization in Antioch (11:19-21)</i>	223
2. <i>Barnabas and Saul's Ministry at Antioch (11:22-26)</i>	226
3. <i>Famine Relief (11:27-30)</i>	229
E. HEROD AGRIPPA I AND THE CHURCH (12:1-24)	232
1. <i>Martyrdom of James and Imprisonment of Peter (12:1-4)</i>	232
2. <i>Peter's Escape from Prison (12:5-11)</i>	234
3. <i>Peter Reports His Escape (12:12-17)</i>	237
4. <i>Peter's Escape Discovered (12:18-19)</i>	239
5. <i>Death of Herod Agrippa I (12:20-23)</i>	240
6. <i>Continued Progress of the Gospel (12:24)</i>	242
IV. CHURCH EXTENSION FROM ANTIOCH AND APOSTOLIC DECREE AT JERUSALEM (12:25-15:35)	243
A. BARNABAS AND SAUL (12:25-13:3)	243
1. <i>The Envoys from Antioch Return (12:25)</i>	243
2. <i>Barnabas and Saul Sent Out from Antioch (13:1-3)</i>	244
B. CYPRUS (13:4-12)	246
1. <i>The Missionaries Arrive in Cyprus (13:4-5)</i>	246
2. <i>Confrontation at Paphos (13:6-12)</i>	247
C. PISIDIAN ANTIOCH (13:13-52)	250
1. <i>Arrival at Pisidian Antioch (13:13-15)</i>	250
2. <i>Paul's Synagogue Address in Pisidian Antioch (13:16-41)</i>	252
a. <i>Exordium (13:16)</i>	252
b. <i>Preparation for Christ (13:17-22)</i>	253
c. <i>Fulfillment in Christ (13:23-37)</i>	256
d. <i>Peroration (13:38-41)</i>	261
3. <i>Response to Paul's Address (13:42-43)</i>	263
4. <i>Gentile Interest Arouses Jewish Opposition (13:44-52)</i>	264
D. ICONIUM, LYSTRA, DERBE (14:1-28)	270
1. <i>Adventures in Iconium (14:1-7)</i>	270
2. <i>Miraculous Healing at Lystra (14:8-13)</i>	273
3. <i>Proclamation of the Living God (14:14-18)</i>	275

4. <i>Persecuted at Lystra, the Missionaries Go On to Derbe and Then Retrace Their Steps (14:19-23)</i>	278
5. <i>Return to Antioch on the Orontes (14:24-28)</i>	280
E. THE COUNCIL OF JERUSALEM (15:1-35)	282
1. <i>Judaizers Visit Antioch (15:1-2)</i>	285
2. <i>Paul and Barnabas Go Up to Jerusalem (15:3-5)</i>	287
3. <i>The Council Meets (15:6)</i>	289
4. <i>Peter's Speech (15:7-11)</i>	289
5. <i>Paul and Barnabas Address the Council (15:12)</i>	291
6. <i>James's Summing Up (15:13-21)</i>	292
7. <i>The Apostolic Letter to Gentile Christians (15:22-29)</i>	296
8. <i>The Church of Antioch Receives the Apostolic Letter (15:30-35)</i>	300
V. PAUL LEAVES ANTIOCH AND MOVES TO THE AEGEAN WORLD (15:36-19:20)	301
A. RECENTLY PLANTED CHURCHES REVISITED (15:36-16:5)	301
1. <i>Paul Parts Company with Barnabas and Takes Silas as His Colleague (15:36-41)</i>	301
2. <i>Paul and Silas in South Galatia; Timothy Joins Them (16:1-4)</i>	303
3. <i>The Churches Grow in Faith and Numbers (16:5)</i>	305
B. PHILIPPI (16:6-40)	305
1. <i>The Call from Macedonia (16:6-10)</i>	305
2. <i>Troas to Philippi (16:11-12a)</i>	308
3. <i>The Faith of Lydia (16:12b-15)</i>	310
4. <i>The Pythoness (16:16-18)</i>	312
5. <i>Paul and Silas Imprisoned (16:19-24)</i>	313
6. <i>Earthquake at Midnight: the Jailer's Conversion (16:25-34)</i>	315
7. <i>Paul and Silas Leave Philippi (16:35-40)</i>	318
C. THESSALONICA TO ATHENS (17:1-34)	322
1. <i>Arrival at Thessalonica (17:1-4)</i>	322
2. <i>Trouble in Thessalonica (17:5-9)</i>	323
3. <i>Beroea (17:10-15)</i>	326
4. <i>Athens (17:16-21)</i>	328
5. <i>Paul's Areopagitica (17:22-31)</i>	332
6. <i>The Athenians' Reaction (17:32-34)</i>	342

D. CORINTH (18:1-17)	345
1. <i>Paul Arrives in Corinth (18:1-4)</i>	345
2. <i>Paul Spends Eighteen Months in Corinth (18:5-11)</i>	348
3. <i>Paul before Gallio (18:12-17)</i>	351
E. EPHESUS (18:18–19:20)	354
1. <i>Hasty Visit to Ephesus (18:18-21)</i>	354
2. <i>Brief Visit to Judaea and Syria (18:22-23)</i>	356
3. <i>Apollos (18:24-28)</i>	358
4. <i>Paul and the Twelve Disciples of Ephesus (19:1-7)</i>	362
5. <i>The Lecture Hall of Tyrannus (19:8-10)</i>	365
6. <i>Conflict with the Magicians (19:11-19)</i>	366
7. <i>Further Progress Report (19:20)</i>	370
VI. PAUL PLANS TO VISIT ROME AND GETS THERE BY AN UNFORESEEN ROUTE (19:21–28:31)	370
A. HE PREPARES TO LEAVE EPHESUS FOR MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA (19:21–20:6)	370
1. <i>Paul Makes Plans for the Future (19:21-22)</i>	370
2. <i>The Riot at Ephesus (19:23-41)</i>	372
a. <i>Indignation of the silversmiths (19:23-28)</i>	372
b. <i>Demonstration in the theater (19:29-34)</i>	375
c. <i>The town clerk calms the agitation (19:35-41)</i>	377
3. <i>Paul Visits Macedonia and Greece (20:1-6)</i>	380
B. THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM (20:7–21:16)	383
1. <i>Paul at Troas (20:7-12)</i>	383
2. <i>From Troas to Miletus (20:13-16)</i>	385
3. <i>Paul Sends for the Elders of the Ephesian Church (20:17)</i>	387
4. <i>Paul Bids Farewell to the Ephesian Church (20:18-35)</i>	389
a. <i>Retrospect on his Ephesian ministry (20:18-21)</i>	389
b. <i>Paul's prospects (20:22-24)</i>	390
c. <i>His charge to the elders (20:25-31)</i>	390
d. <i>Final admonition (20:32-35)</i>	394
5. <i>An Affectionate Parting (20:36-38)</i>	395
6. <i>Miletus to Tyre (21:1-6)</i>	397
7. <i>Tyre to Caesarea (21:7-9)</i>	399
8. <i>Agabus Reappears (21:10-14)</i>	400
9. <i>Arrival at Jerusalem (21:15-16)</i>	402

C. PAUL AT JERUSALEM (21:17–23:30)	403
1. <i>Meeting with James and the Elders (21:17-26)</i>	403
2. <i>Riot in the Temple (21:27-30)</i>	408
3. <i>Paul Rescued by the Romans (21:31-36)</i>	410
4. <i>Paul Obtains Leave to Address the Crowd (21:37-40)</i>	412
5. <i>Paul's Defense to the People of Jerusalem (22:1-21)</i>	414
a. <i>His early days (22:1-5)</i>	414
b. <i>The Damascus road (22:6-11)</i>	415
c. <i>Ananias of Damascus (22:12-16)</i>	416
d. <i>Paul's vision in the temple (22:17-21)</i>	418
6. <i>Paul Reveals His Roman Citizenship (22:22-29)</i>	419
7. <i>Paul Brought before the Sanhedrin (22:30)</i>	422
8. <i>Paul before the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)</i>	424
a. <i>Interchange with the high priest (23:1-5)</i>	424
b. <i>The resurrection hope (23:6-10)</i>	427
9. <i>The Lord Appears to Paul in the Night (23:11)</i>	430
10. <i>Plot against Paul's Life (23:12-15)</i>	431
11. <i>The Plot Revealed (23:16-22)</i>	431
12. <i>The Tribune Prepares to Send Paul to Caesarea (23:23-24)</i>	433
13. <i>Letter from the Tribune to Felix (23:25-30)</i>	434
D. PAUL AT CAESAREA (23:31–26:32)	435
1. <i>Paul Taken to Caesarea (23:31-35)</i>	435
2. <i>Paul Accused before Felix (24:1-9)</i>	438
3. <i>Paul's Defense before Felix (24:10-21)</i>	442
4. <i>Felix Adjourns Proceedings (24:22-23)</i>	446
5. <i>Paul's Interviews with Felix (24:24-26)</i>	447
6. <i>Felix Replaced by Festus; Paul Left in Custody (24:27)</i>	448
7. <i>Festus Visits Jerusalem (25:1-5)</i>	450
8. <i>Paul Appeals to Caesar (25:6-12)</i>	451
9. <i>Agrippa II and Bernice Visit Festus (25:13-22)</i>	455
10. <i>Paul Appears before Agrippa (25:23-27)</i>	458
11. <i>Paul Accepts Agrippa's Invitation to Speak (26:1)</i>	461
12. <i>Paul's "Apologia pro vita sua" (26:2-23)</i>	462
a. <i>Exordium (26:2-3)</i>	462
b. <i>The resurrection hope (26:4-8)</i>	462
c. <i>Paul's persecuting zeal (26:9-11)</i>	464
d. <i>The heavenly vision (26:12-18)</i>	465
e. <i>Paul's obedience to the vision (26:19-20)</i>	467

THE BOOK OF THE ACTS

f. Paul's arrest (26:21)	468
g. Peroration (26:22-23)	469
13. <i>Interchange between Festus, Paul, and Agrippa</i> (26:24-29)	470
14. <i>Agreement on Paul's Innocence</i> (26:30-32)	471
E. PAUL'S VOYAGE AND SHIPWRECK (27:1-44)	474
1. <i>Caesarea to Myra</i> (27:1-5)	476
2. <i>They Trans-ship at Myra and Sail to Crete</i> (27:6-8)	479
3. <i>Paul's Advice Rejected</i> (27:9-12)	481
4. <i>They Are Caught by the Wind Euraquilo</i> (27:13-20)	484
5. <i>Paul's Encouragement</i> (27:21-26)	487
6. <i>They Approach Land</i> (27:27-29)	489
7. <i>The Sailors' Attempt to Escape Frustrated</i> (27:30-32)	491
8. <i>The Meal on Board</i> (27:33-38)	491
9. <i>The Shipwreck</i> (27:39-41)	493
10. <i>Safe Ashore!</i> (27:42-44)	495
F. WINTER IN MALTA (28:1-10)	496
1. <i>Welcome to Malta!</i> (28:1-6)	496
2. <i>Works of Healing in Malta</i> (28:7-10)	499
G. ROME AT LAST (28:11-31)	500
1. <i>The Last Lap: "And So We Came to Rome"</i> (28:11-15)	500
2. <i>Paul Handed Over to Be Kept under Guard</i> (28:16)	503
3. <i>Paul and the Roman Jews</i> (28:17-28)	504
a. First interview (28:17-22)	504
b. Second interview (28:23-28)	506
4. <i>The Gospel Advances without Hindrance in Rome</i> (28:30-31)	509

INDEXES

<i>General</i>	513
<i>Authors</i>	521
<i>Scripture References</i>	529