



ANNOUNCEMENT:
 Third Quarter/First of Thirteen Sundays

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
New Testament #5
ACTS

Key Themes

- *Jesus' Commission to His Disciples.* "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8).
- *The Coming of the Holy Spirit.* The pouring out of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost marks the dawn of the new age of salvation, empowering and guiding believers.
- *God's Purpose and Plan.* God ordained not only the death and resurrection of Jesus but also that salvation would now go to the ends of the earth.
- *The Unstoppable Gospel.* The message of salvation advances despite strong opposition and apparent setbacks.
- *The geographic movement* of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome.
- *The ethnic movement* of the gospel from Jews to Samaritans to Gentiles.
- *The Divine Legitimacy of the Mission to the Gentiles.* The mission to the Gentiles is not a departure from God's purpose for Israel but its fulfillment.
- *Paul, God's Apostle to the Gentiles.* Paul is not unfaithful to his Jewish roots but is fulfilling God's purpose for Israel: to be a light of revelation to the Gentiles (Isa. 49:6).

Author

Luke, a physician and part-time missionary companion of the apostle Paul.

Recipients

Like the gospel of Luke, Acts is addressed to Theophilus, who was probably the patron who financially supported its writing.

With the beginning of March, have you noticed any new colored smells ?



"Through all the frozen winter
 My nose has grown most lonely
 For lovely, lovely colored smells
 That come in spring-time only.

The purple smell of lilacs,
 The yellow smell that blows
 Across the air of meadows
 Where bright forsythia grows.

The tall pink smell of peach trees,
 The low white smell of clover,
 And everywhere the great green smell of grass the whole word over."

—Kathryn Worth,
 Smells