

ACTS 1:1-11

BACKGROUND

The book of Acts was written by one of the Apostle Paul's companions named Luke who was a historian and a doctor by trade (Colossians 4:14). Most scholars believe he wrote the book no later than about 64 AD, which was about 30 years after the death of Jesus. Luke wrote Acts and the Gospel of Luke for a man named Theophilus, whom he addresses in Acts 1 and Luke 1. In Luke 1 we can reasonably guess from the title given to Theophilus ("most excellent") that he was a Roman official and a convert ("what you have been taught").

In Acts, Luke's great theme is not simply the *history* of the early church, but the history of the *mission* of the early church. His primary goal isn't to give us an exhaustive description of life among believers in this time period. Rather, his primary aim is to show us how the gospel throughout the known world and how it changed lives, families, cities, and peoples.

PRAY

PLEASE READ ACTS 1:1-11

SHARE OBSERVATIONS (Who? What? When? Where? Repeating words, phrases, & themes?)

QUESTIONS

1. What does v1 tell us about Luke's theme or subject for the book of Acts? Why do you think that knowing this is important?
2. Why do you think Jesus prepares the apostles' minds (v3) before he sends them power (v4)?
3. What does the apostles' question in v6 reveal about their understanding of the kingdom? How does Jesus correct and inform their understanding in v7-8?
4. What are the modern equivalences of the places Jesus mentions in v8? How does this inform our understanding of how the gospel spreads?
5. How does this passage encourage or challenge you? How can we pray in response to this passage?
6. In what ways can we be praying for each other?