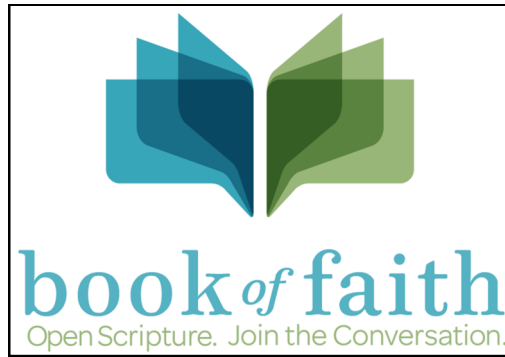
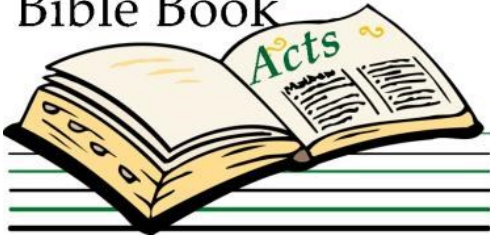


June's Bible Book



We are "rooted" in
God's word!

The Book of Acts

The book of Acts is sometimes referred to as "The Acts of the Apostles", because the book details the ministry of the early followers of Jesus following his resurrection and ascension. If you have a study Bible, take time to read the notes at the beginning of Acts.

Some interesting aspects of Acts:

- Length: 28 Chapters (perfect size for reading a chapter a day for the month!)
- Authorship: Acts was written by the writer of the Gospel of Luke. Many scholars today refer to the two works as Luke-Acts, acknowledging their shared authorship and that the two are sequential volumes of a single literary project.
- Luke-Acts 52 chapters combined occupy a full quarter (28%) of the New Testament.
- Acts reflects Luke's emphasis on the early church as a missionary community, spreading the gospel to areas beyond Palestine, and to the gentiles (non-Jews).
- Luke also addresses Acts to "Theophilus", and picks up the story right where he left off with his gospel ("in my former book").
- Luke seems to be writing as a combination of historian, biographer, and theologian.
- In Acts we find the "birth of the church" at Pentecost (Chapter 2), and the coming of the promised Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers. It would be fair to alternately title this book "The Acts of the Holy Spirit".
- The story of the first Christian martyr, Stephen, is found in Acts 7:54-60 (killed for his faith in Christ).
- Acts reveals the first crisis of the early church: How are gentiles (non-Jews) to be incorporated into the church? Do they have to convert to Judaism and obey all the Jewish purity and dietary laws? (Chpt. 15)
- In Acts we meet the apostle Paul, and hear about his former life as a Jewish Pharisee (Saul), persecutor of the early followers of Jesus (8:1-3, 9:1-2), his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus (9:3-30), his early ministry in Antioch (11:25-30), his missionary journeys throughout Asia (chapters 13-20), and his arrest and trial, leading to his eventual imprisonment in Rome (chapters 21-28).
- Speeches and preaching the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is central in Acts. The Greek verb for "preach the gospel" (euangelizo) occurs more in this book than in any other in the New Testament.
 - ⇒ **Peter's** speeches to the crowd at Pentecost (2:14-39), to Jewish onlookers in the Temple (3:11-26), before the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem (4:8-20), to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem (15:7-21)
 - ⇒ **Stephen's** speech to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem (7:1-53)
 - ⇒ **Paul's** speeches in Pisidian Antioch (13:13-41), in Athens (17:22-31), to the Ephesian elders (20:17-35), to the angry crowd in Jerusalem (21:37-22:21), before governor Felix (24:10-21), before King Agrippa (26:1-23)