

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

300 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



© 2005

MY NAME

DATE

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES are written by Fred D. Whitelaw. They may be downloaded free of charge from our website: [www.tpbs.org](http://www.tpbs.org) Make as many copies as you desire. Use them freely. These lessons are designed to promote independent thought in classroom and individual studies. Hole punch and store in 3 Ring Binders. Copyright is to preserve integrity. Each lesson must be reproduced in its entirety. Changes or partial reproductions prohibited. For consistency, all quotes are from the KJV, unless otherwise noted.

## THE BOOK OF ACTS – LESSON 1

### Introduction & Observations

- Biographical Observations** Acts has correctly been called “*the book of conversions*” and “*the book of activities of the infant NT church.*” (a) To regress, the NT opens with what are commonly called “*the Four Gospels.*” Actually there is but *one gospel* of Christ so some prefer the “*gospel accounts.*” We call them the four biographies of Jesus. (b) The latter portion of Acts, beginning in chapter thirteen with the first evangelistic tour, is basically Luke’s biography of the Apostle Paul. (c) His name is found 156X-153V KJV NT and about 80% of the occurrences are in Acts. He is named about 150X in Acts when you add the 26X we find him referred to by his Jewish name Saul. What ethnicity embodies the name Paul? \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke’s Linkage** This inspired writer, a \_\_\_\_\_ by profession (Col 4:14), gave us his biography of Jesus, all \_\_\_\_\_ chapters of the Book of Luke. In a certain sense (Acts 1) could be thought of as (Luke 25). Luke begins Acts, chapter one, without breaking stride. The Book of Luke is addressed to \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3) and the writer states he would “*write unto thee \_\_\_\_\_.*” He begins (**Acts 1:1**) by saying, “*The \_\_\_\_\_ treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ began both to do and teach,*” revealing the biographical context of the Book of Luke. This writer’s style makes Acts easy to read and understand.
- Theophilus ISBE:** “The name Theophilus means *friend of God.* It has been suggested that Theophilus is merely a generic term for all Christians, but the epithet ‘most excellent’ implies it was applied by Luke to a definite person, probably a Roman official, whom he held in high respect.” This man, undoubtedly a faithful Christian, is only mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ times by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Luke** Only Paul names Luke (Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11; Phile 1:24). Luke does not mention his own name in either book attributed to him. Apparently he wasn’t (Lk 1:2) an \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. Paul merely calls him by name twice and refers to him once as “*the \_\_\_\_\_ physician.*”
- Time Frame** The chronology of events is difficult in some instances but it is generally agreed that Luke wrote Acts from Rome and likely during or after 63 AD. He mentions (Acts 28:16) “*And when we \_\_\_\_\_ Rome....*” This shows he was in Rome with Paul. He personally witnessed many of the events that he recorded as companion, fellow laborer, and physician to Paul.
- Beginning Period** Acts picks up where the Book of Luke leaves off. Jesus had commanded the Apostles (Lk 24:49), “*Tarry ye in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, until ye be endued with \_\_\_\_\_ from on high.*” Luke reiterates (**Acts 1:4**) that Jesus “*commanded them that they \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ from Jerusalem.*” This is how the narrative begins.

[BACK TO NUMERICAL INDEX](#)

[GO TO PAGE 2](#)