

Introduction to the New Testament

Acts of the Apostles

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The Canon of Scripture pp 31-33

What Was Considered "Scripture" in the First Century AD?

To the People of Israel

- The Hebrew Scriptures
2 Tim 3:15-17



Qumran

- The Greek Septuagint (LXX)
Used by the NT writers

"Scripture" in the First Century AD

To Followers of Christ

- 2 Peter 3:16 - Peter associated Paul's writings with Scripture
- Revelation 22:6-9, 18-19 The words of the Revelation are faithful and true. The church is instructed to not add or take away from the Scriptures

"Scripture" in the Early Christian Church

Determined as canon by the early church fathers and "finalized" through church councils in the 4th and 5th centuries:

1. What was written by Jesus' disciples or someone associated with one of His disciples
2. Orthodox writing in agreement with other Scriptures (the church confronted heresy)
3. Writings accepted by church leaders and read in church gatherings



The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

"No new revelation (as distinct from Spirit-given understanding of existing revelation) will be given until Christ comes again. The canon was created in principle by divine inspiration. The Church's part was to discern the canon which God created, not to devise one of its own."

The Canon of Scripture

Scripture in 1st – 2nd Century AD

To the Jewish people

- The Hebrew Scriptures
- The Septuagint (LXX)

To Followers of Christ

- The Hebrew Scriptures
- 2 Peter 3:16
- Revelation 22:6-9, 18-19

Scripture for the Early Church

- Writings associated with Jesus or one of the disciples
- Orthodox writing in agreement with other Scriptures
- Writings accepted by church leaders



The Book of Acts

Jesus' Commissioning of His Disciples:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth," Acts 1:8

The Great Commission in Matthew:

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age," Matthew 28:18-20

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, pp 33-34

- To Jerusalem
- To Samaria
- To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth

Who was the spokesperson?

Who was the audience?

What was the message?

What were the results?

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

In Jerusalem: Acts 2:14-41

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Apostle Peter	Men of Judea All who live in Jerusalem Men of Israel	An explanation of the miracle on the Day of Pentecost, and a testimony about Jesus Christ	About 3000 believed and were baptized, 2:41

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

In Jerusalem: Acts 3:12-4:4

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Apostle Peter	Men of Israel, the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, the Sadducees	A call to repentance and belief in Jesus	Jewish leaders put Peter and John in jail. About 5000 believed.

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

In Jerusalem: Acts 7:1-54

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Deacon, Stephen	The Council The high priest Saul of Tarsus People of Israel called stiff necked and uncircumcised	A sermon with a historical record of Israel from Abraham. Stephen's view of heaven	Jewish leaders authorized Stephen's stoning

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

In Samaria: Acts 8:5-25

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Apostle Philip, in Samaria	People of Samaria	Proclaiming Christ Preaching the good news	People were healed. Unclean spirits came out. The people rejoiced. People were baptized. Peter and John came.

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth: Acts 8:26-40

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Apostle Philip, on the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza	The Ethiopian, a eunuch of Queen Candice's court	Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy	The Ethiopian believed and was baptized. The gospel went to Ethiopia.

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth: Acts 10:34-48

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Apostle Peter, after seeing a vision while in Joppa	Cornelius, the Roman centurion, his relatives, his close friends in Caesarea	The gospel of Jesus Christ. An invitation for Gentiles to follow Christ.	The Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles. The Gentiles spoke in tongues and were baptized

The Apostles Took the Gospel

Question 1, p 34

To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth: Acts 13:14-50

Spokesperson:	The Audience:	The Message:	The Results:
The Apostle Paul, in Pisidian Antioch	The Jewish people and god-fearing proselytes in the synagogue	A historical record of God's faithfulness to Israel, and His sending of Jesus	Jews and god-fearing proselytes asked Paul to speak the next Sabbath. Gentiles were rejoicing. The leading Jews started a persecution to drive out Paul and Barnabas.

Members of the Christian Church

Question 3, pp 35-36

Stephen	James
The Ethiopian	Timothy
Paul	Lydia
Barnabas	Aquila and Priscilla
Cornelius	Apollos

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church

Question 4, pp 36-37

- To make known His power, Acts 2:2-3; 19:5-6
- To equip believers to testify and speak boldly, Acts 4:8, 23, 31
- The Holy Spirit was tested and grieved over sin, Acts 5:1-11
- Testified of Jesus, Acts 5:32

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church

Question 4, pp 36-37

- Guided believers, Acts 8:29, 39; 10:19; 13:2; 15:28; 21:4, 11
- Comforted believers, Acts 9:31
- Prepared believers for ministry, Acts 6:5; 10:38; 13:4; 20:28; 28:25
- The gospel was extended to the Gentiles, Acts 11:15; 15: 8

Description of the Church

from Acts 2:42-47 Question 6, p 38

- Devoted to the apostles' teaching
- Gathering for fellowship
- "Breaking" bread from house to house
- Faithful in prayer
- Having all things in common
- Sharing with each other, as someone had a need
- Of one mind in the temple day by day
- Praising God with gladness and sincerity of heart

Paul's Instructions for the

Elders in Ephesus Question 6, p 38

Acts 20:19-37

- Be on guard against false teachers
- Stay alert as some will try to drive you away



The Acts of the Apostles

Author:	
Recipient/s:	
Occasion:	

The Acts of the Apostles

How is God described?	How is Jesus described?	How is the Holy Spirit described?
Personal Impact	Personal Impact	Personal Impact

The Acts of the Apostles

Sin and Its Consequences:	The Gospel and Salvation:	Discipleship & the Church:
Personal Impact	Personal Impact	Personal Impact