

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-09383-5 - Acts of the Apostles  
J. W. Packer  
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**THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE COMMENTARY**  
**NEW ENGLISH BIBLE**

**GENERAL EDITORS**  
**P. R. ACKROYD, A. R. C. LEANEY, J. W. PACKER**

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# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

COMMENTARY BY

J. W. PACKER

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Canon Emeritus of Manchester Cathedral*



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## GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

The aim of this series is to provide the text of the New English Bible closely linked to a commentary in which the results of modern scholarship are made available to the general reader. Teachers and young people have been especially kept in mind. The commentators have been asked to assume no specialized theological knowledge, and no knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. Bare references to other literature and multiple references to other parts of the Bible have been avoided. Actual quotations have been given as often as possible.

Within these quite severe limits each commentator will attempt to set out the main findings of recent New Testament scholarship, and to describe the historical background to the text. The main theological content of the New Testament will also be critically discussed.

Much attention has been given to the form of the volumes. The aim is to produce books each of which will be read consecutively from first to last page. The introductory material leads naturally into the text, which itself leads into the alternating sections of commentary. By this means it is hoped that each book will be easily read and remain in the mind as a unity.

The series is prefaced by a volume—*Understanding the New Testament*—which outlines the larger historical background, says something about the growth and transmission of the text, and answers the question 'Why should we study the New Testament?' Another volume *New Testament Illustrations* contains maps, diagrams and photographs.

P.R.A.  
A.R.C.L.  
J.W.P.

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

My dependence upon the work of many scholars will be obvious from a reading of this commentary and I am glad to express at once my gratitude and indebtedness to them. Perhaps twenty-five years' teaching experience in schools, colleges of education and universities has enabled me to appreciate to some degree the problems of young people who are studying the scriptures in detail, and to suggest lines of thought that may help them in their work. The text has been freely used in the commentary to enable it to speak for itself and so to avoid the danger, ever present to the student, of learning much about the scriptures rather than of studying them.

I am most grateful to Professor P. R. Ackroyd and Professor A. R. C. Leaney for all their help and encouragement and to the Cambridge University Press for its careful direction. Finally I should like to thank my wife for typing the original script and for her help in many other ways, and my family for its unwearying interest in this series.

J.W.P.

The 1973 reprint incorporates the latest (1970) N.E.B. text.

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## ROMAN EMPERORS

- A.D. 14 Tiberius (Luke 3: 1-2)  
 37 Gaius, known as Caligula (Acts 9: 24 note, p. 74)  
 41 Claudius (Acts 18: 2)  
 54 Nero (Acts 25: 11-12)

## GOVERNORS OF JUDAEA

- A.D. 26 Pontius Pilate (Luke 23: 1-25)  
 36 Marcellus  
 37 Marullus  
 41 Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12: 1-23)  
 44 Cuspius Fadus  
 46 Tiberius Alexander  
 48 Ventidius Cumanus  
 52 Antonius Felix (Acts 23: 24 — 24: 27)  
 c. 59 Porcius Festus (Acts 25 and 26)  
 c. 61 Albinus  
 64 Gessius Florus



## THE FAMILY OF HEROD THE GREAT IN ACTS

