

## Contents



<i>Acknowledgments and Explanatory Preface</i>	<i>page xvii</i>
I INTRODUCTION	1
Proposed Genres for Acts	1
Acts as Historical Monograph	3
What Does It Mean for Acts to Be Ancient Historiography?	4
Acts and History	14
Luke's Historical Preface	17
Comparing Luke with Other Sources	19
Comparisons with Paul	22
The Final Quarter of Acts: Paul in Roman Custody	27
Speeches in Acts	29
Signs Reports and Historiography	38
Acts' Date	46
Authorship	48
Acts' Audience	51
Purposes of Acts	53
Theology and Message of Acts	59
Unity of Luke-Acts	76
II ACTS BIBLIOGRAPHY	87
More Academic Commentaries	87
Less Technical Commentaries	88
Multiauthor Volumes (Listed by Editors)	89
Sample Acts Studies	90
Other Often-Cited Studies	95
III COMMENTARY	97
1:1–2: Preface	97
1:3–8: Promise of the Holy Spirit	101
	ix

1:9–11: Jesus’s Ascension and Promise to Return	109
1:12–14: Praying Together	112
1:15–26: Restoring the Leadership	115
2:1–4: Signs of Pentecost	121
2:5–13: The Crowd’s Responses to Signs	129
2:14–21: Prophecy of Pentecost	139
2:22–36: The Risen Lord	153
2:37–41: Response and Promise	162
2:42–47: The Life of the Empowered Community	169
3:1–10: Power of Jesus’s Name	179
3:12–26: Inviting Israel’s Repentance and Salvation	185
4:1–7: The Authorities Arrest God’s Servants	189
4:8–12: Salvation in Jesus’s Name	194
4:13–22: Confounding the Authorities	196
4:23–30: Prayer for More Boldness	198
4:31–35: Second Outpouring of the Spirit	200
4:36–5:11: Positive and Negative Examples of Sharing	203
5:12–16: Apostolic Signs and Honor	207
5:17–28: Arrest, Release, Rearrest	209
5:29–33: Obeying God Rather than the Elite	212
5:34–40a: Gamaliel’s Defense	213
5:40b–42: Continued Obedience	216
6:1–7: The Hellenist Leaders	217
6:8–7:1: Ministry and Opposition	228
7:2–8: Abraham the Alien	234
7:9–16: Joseph the Rejected, Alienated Deliverer	241
7:17–28: Moses the Rejected Deliverer	244
7:29–34: Moses the Alien	246
7:35–43: Moses, Prototype of the Rejected Deliverer	247
7:44–50: God Needs No Temple	250
7:51–53: Returning the Charge: Undermining the Law	251
7:54–8:1a: Stephen Follows His Martyred Lord	252
8:1b–4: Persecution Disperses Jerusalem’s Church	258
8:5–13: Philip’s versus Simon’s Signs	260
8:14–17: The Samaritans’ Conversion Confirmed	265
8:18–25: Confronting Simon’s Syncretism	266
8:26–33: Divinely Arranged Encounter	267
8:34–40: Eagerly Embracing the Message	273
9:1–9: Jesus’s Theophany to Saul	274
9:10–19a: Paired Visions Confirm Saul’s Call	280
9:19b–31: Saul’s First Ministry and Conflicts	282
9:32–43: Healings on the Coastal Plain	288

*Contents*

xi

10:1–8: A Roman Officer’s Vision	293
10:9–16: No Longer Unclean: Peter’s Vision	298
10:17–33: Apostle and Occupier Meet	300
10:34–43: Peter Recounts Jesus’s Story	302
10:44–48: The Spirit Confirms the Gentiles’ Acceptance	305
11:1–18: Peter Defends Welcoming Gentiles	306
11:19–30: Antioch Serves Gentiles and Jerusalem	309
12:1–5: Herod’s Persecution	314
12:6–11: God’s Angel Releases Peter	317
12:12–17: Visiting the Prayer Meeting	319
12:18–24: The Proud King’s Death	322
12:25–13:3: Consecrated for the New Mission	326
13:4–12: Mission in Cyprus	331
13:13–15: Journey and Setting	336
13:16b–22: <i>Proem</i> and <i>Biblical Narratio</i>	338
13:23–31: Narration about Jesus	340
13:32–41: Proofs and <i>Peroratio</i>	342
13:42–52: Response	344
14:1–7: Mixed Results in Iconium	349
14:8–13: Lystra Misunderstands a Healing	350
14:14–20: Rejected for Rejecting Deification	353
14:21–28: Completing This Mission Journey	357
15:1–5: Conflict over Circumcising Gentiles	358
15:6–12: Appealing to God’s Confirmations	364
15:13–21: James’s Biblical Proposal	366
15:22–29: The Consensus Decree	371
15:30–35: Delivering the Message in Antioch	374
15:36–41: Conflict with Barnabas over Mark	375
16:1–5: Revisiting Churches	377
16:6–10: God’s Leading to Macedonia	379
16:11–15: Lydia and Her House Church	385
16:16–18: Exorcism of a Powerful Spirit	394
16:19–24: Beaten and Imprisoned	402
16:25–34: Deliverance and Jailer’s Conversion	408
16:35–40: Paul and Silas Vindicated	413
17:1–9: Ministry in Thessalonica	418
17:10–14: Ministry in Berea	426
17:15–21: Beginning Ministry in Athens	427
17:22–31: Paul’s Philosophic Discourse	438
17:32–34: Response to Paul’s Speech	448
18:1–11: Ministry in Corinth	449
18:12–17: Gallio Refuses Paul’s Case	460

18:18–23: Prelude to Ephesus	464
18:24–28: Priscilla and Aquila Help Apollos	467
19:1–7: John’s Disciples Need the Spirit	469
19:8–12: Teaching and Signs in Ephesus	471
19:13–20: Magic Inferior to Paul’s Signs	473
19:21–22: Plans for Jerusalem and Rome	478
19:23–34: Riot in Ephesus	479
19:35–41: The City Clerk Defends Paul	488
20:1–6: On the Move Again	493
20:7–12: Eutychus Raised	497
20:13–16: Further Travel, Avoiding Ephesus	499
20:17–27: Farewell to Ephesian Elders	500
20:28–35: Beware of Greedy Preachers	504
20:36–38: Tearful Parting	508
21:1–14: Prophetic Warnings en Route to Jerusalem	510
21:15–26: The Jerusalem Church’s Concerns	514
21:27–30: Ephesian Jews Incite a Riot against Paul	519
21:31–40: Paul Enters Roman Custody	522
22:1–21: Paul’s Defense in the Temple	530
22:22–29: Discovering Paul’s Citizenship	539
22:30–23:10: The Divided Council	543
23:11–22: Leaking a Plot	548
23:23–30: Sending Paul to Felix	551
23:31–35: Military Escort	554
24:1–9: Charges against Paul	556
24:10–21: Impressive Defense	561
24:22–27: Felix’s Procrastination	566
25:1–5: Jerusalem Authorities Denounce Paul	570
25:6–9: Defense before Festus	573
25:10–12: Appeal to Caesar	574
25:13–22: Discussing Paul with Agrippa	576
25:23–26:1: Paul’s Royal Audience	579
26:2–23: Paul Recounts His Experience	581
26:24–29: Prophetic versus Manic Inspiration	587
26:30–32: Royal Verdict	591
27:1–8: The Voyage Begins	592
27:9–13: Ignoring Paul’s Warning	598
27:14–20: Disaster at Sea	601
27:21–26: The Angel’s Promise	604
27:27–38: Paul’s Leadership Approaching Land	605
27:39–44: Reaching Land Safely	609
28:1–6: Snakebite in Malta	611

<i>Contents</i>	xiii
28:7–10: Healings and Hospitality in Malta	614
28:11–15: Final Voyage, to Rome	616
28:16–22: Paul Meets Jewish Leaders in Rome	620
28:23–28: Recalcitrance Prophesied	627
28:30–31: Ministry Bold and Unhindered	630
<i>Index of Authors</i>	637
<i>Index of Ancient Sources</i>	647