

Lecture 1 – The Old Testament Background to Luke – Acts & the Pauline Epistles

“For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and **without hindrance** he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.” Acts 28:31 (NIV)

“...preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, **unhindered.**” Acts 28: 31 (NASB)

Key Terms

Unhindered, context, history, salvation, anticipation, Gospel

Objectives

- *Summarize the context in which the book of Acts was written.
- *Explain the way in which the book of Acts is part of the Gospel.
- *State the purpose of Acts.
- *Defend the statement that the teachings of the book of Acts are applicable for today.

Note: Handouts A & B are mentioned. Handout A is incorporated in Lesson 2. Handout B is Appendix A in this course. The page numbers Dr. Bayer references are not applicable to this study guide.

Lead Question

Why is salvation necessary?

The OT Background to Luke – Acts & the Pauline Epistles

I. Introduction: Old Testament Background

- A. We tend to think:
 1. Contextless
 2. A-historical

II. Worldview

- A. Three elements:
 1. Creation
 2. Fall
 3. Redemption
- B. Only Christianity does justice to all three.
- C. We must understand life in terms of those three elements.

III. Salvation

- A. Symbol of salvation
 1. The grace of God as reflected in the history of Israel
- B. Examples of the anticipation of Messianic salvation
 1. In the OT
 - a. The Exodus
 - b. 2 Sam. 7
 - c. Ps. 2
 2. In the NT
 - a. Luke 2:25-35
- C. Feeling you need to get before you start the first word in Acts:
 1. An existential sense of yearning for _____
 2. That’s what sparks the spread of the Gospel in such an amazing way.

IV. Ways the First Century Jews Anticipated God's Intervention

- A. The apocalyptic approach
- B. The nomistic approach
- C. The zealotic approach
- D. John the Baptist

V. Jesus' Intervention

- A. Jesus is the king over hearts.
- B. Jesus' analysis of the social and human condition goes to the root of the dilemma: the dichotomy between man's glory and man's misery (see B. Pascal).
- C. Jesus knows that the dilemma of man's glory and man's misery is only solved by overcoming the power of sin and self-centeredness.

VI. The Book of Acts

- A. The message of Jesus takes.
- B. The book of Acts is part of the Gospel. It demonstrates that the message and work of Jesus reaches its purpose.
- C. The Gospel is the message of the rule of God, with Jesus as its _____; it hits home to the heart.
- D. It is true **and** it works; we have to _____ and _____ it.

VII. Paul

- A. Summary of Paul's concern:
 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17)
- B. "In the name of Jesus" means: _____
 We need to live and think in relation to God.
 However, our natural disposition is to _____.
- C. Purpose of the Pauline epistles: _____

There is no way that you can manipulate God's purposes. They have been anticipated for so long, they are related to creation and the fall and they will surely reach their final goal unhindered. **HOWEVER**, the mercy of God is so great that He nevertheless involves us!