

# God's Masterwork, Volume Five God with Us — A Survey of Matthew – Acts

Acts: Like a Mighty Army

A SURVEY OF ACTS



## The Heart of the Matter

All too often Christians look upon their religious roots with much-too-low esteem. Intimidated by the giant boot-stomping of secular events that occupy the attention of most history books, we entertain the false idea that the church of Jesus Christ is little more than a piece of lint on the page . . . a tiny, fragile thread woven through the centuries. Not so! The church is rather like a mighty army marching through time deliberately, confidently, victoriously . . . spurred on by the promise of its Founder that the gates of Hades will not overpower it. No other book in the Bible underscores the richness and courage of our history better than the book of Acts. And no other book affirms more clearly our God-given power to persevere. We may be small in number, but no remnant was ever surer of its destiny.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Some Helpful Facts about Acts

In approaching the book of Acts, it is best if we understand some key contrasts between this book and the books of the Gospels. In addition, we should answer four key questions: Who wrote the book? Why do we have the book? What do we find in the book? And where did the events of the book take place?

### 2. An Easy Outline to Remember

We can divide the book into three sections based on its geography. The church was established in Jerusalem (1–7), the church was enlarged in Judea and Samaria (8–12), and the church expanded to the remotest part of the earth (13–28).

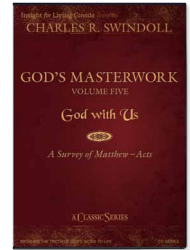


## Starting Your Journey

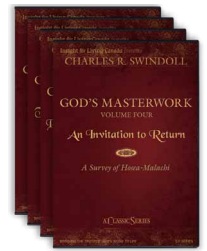
God works in our lives in three stages, the same way He did with the church in Acts: He establishes His place in our lives, He enlarges us through problems and trials, and He expands us so we can take in our own spiritual food.



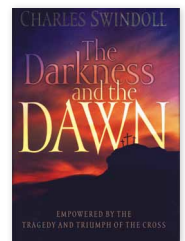
## Tools for Digging Deeper



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A SURVEY OF ACTS

# ACTS

	<b>The Church Established at "Jerusalem"</b>  The church is . . . born tested purified strengthened  CHAPTERS 1–7	<b>The Church Enlarged to "Judea and Samaria"</b>  The gospel is . . . spreading multiplying changing lives breaking traditions  CHAPTERS 8–12	<b>The Church Expanded to "the Ends of the Earth"</b>  The witness is . . . extended received and rejected changing lives unifying Jews and Gentiles  CHAPTERS 13–28
AD 30			AD 60
<b>Leaders</b>	The apostle Peter		The apostle Paul
<b>Emphasis</b>	Jewish evangelism	Transition	Gentile evangelism
<b>Time</b>	AD 33 (1:1–2:47)	AD 36 (8:1)	AD 40 (9:32)
<b>Scope</b>	City evangelism	National evangelism	AD 46 (13:1)      AD 57 (21:18) Cross-cultural evangelism
<b>Theme</b>	In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus's followers carry the good news of Christ to the world.		
<b>Key Verse</b>	1:8		
<b>Christ in Acts</b>	Jesus is the glorified, enthroned Savior, who continues His ministry in the world by means of the Holy Spirit working through His disciples until He returns (1:7–9).		

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