

## ***How to Read the Book of Acts Well (NT Narrative)***

### **Application Exercise**

Outline of Acts via Fee and Stuart in *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*:

**1:1-6:7** // "A description of the primitive church in Jerusalem, its early preaching, its common life, its spread, and its initial opposition Notice how Jewish everything is, including the sermons, the opposition, and the fact that the early believers continue associations with the temple and the synagogues The panel concludes with a narrative indicating that a division had begun between Greek-speaking and Aramaic-speaking believers."

**6:8-9:31** // "A description of the first geographical expansion, carried out by the "Hellenists" (Greek-speaking Jewish Christians), to Greek-speaking Jews in the Diaspora or 'nearly Jews' (Samaritans and a proselyte). Luke also includes the conversion of Paul, who was (1) a Hellenist, (2) a Jewish opponent of the gospel, and (3) the one who was to lead the specifically Gentile expansion. Stephen's martyrdom is the key to this initial experience."

**9:32-12:24** // "A description of the first expansion to the Gentiles. The key moment is the conversion of Cornelius, whose story is told twice. The significance of Cornelius is that his conversion was a direct act from God, who carried it out through Peter, the acknowledged leader of the *Jewish-Christian* mission (had God used the Hellenists, the event would have been even more suspect in Jerusalem). Also included is the story of the church in Antioch, where Gentile conversion is now carried out by the Hellenists in a purposeful way."

**12:25-16:5** // "A description of the first geographical expansion into the Gentile world, with Paul in the leadership. Jews now regularly reject the gospel because it includes Gentiles. The church meets in council and does not reject its Gentile brothers and sisters, nor does it lay Jewish religious requirements on them. The latter serves as the key to full expansion into the Gentile world."

**16:6-19:20** // "A description of the further, ever westward, expansion into the Gentile world, now into Europe. Repeatedly the Jews reject and the Gentiles welcome the gospel."

**19:21-28:30** // "A description of the events that move Paul and the gospel on to Rome, with a great deal of interest in Paul's trials in which three times he is declared innocent of any wrongdoing."

### **Read Acts 8**

What are the main narratives within Acts 8?

Who are the key people? What are the key places?

What observations come to mind in light of this chapter?

What questions come to mind?