

Lecture 3 – Theological Characteristics of Acts & Flow of Thought in Acts 1-9

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Key Terms

Flow of thought, internal growth and tension, external growth and opposition

Objectives

- *Identify three examples in Acts that show internal growth and tension.
- *Identify three examples in Acts that show external growth and opposition.
- *Evaluate how the book of Acts influences your life.
- *List the main issues in each of the first nine chapters of Acts.

Theological Characteristics of Acts & Flow of Thought in Acts 1-9

I. The flow of thought in Acts 1-9

- A. Definition of flow of thought
- B. Read the text and ask yourself:
 1. Why is this section/event placed here?
 2. What is happening in the text?
 - a. Internal growth and tension
 - 1) Internal growth =
 - 2) Tension =
 - b. External growth and opposition
 - 1) External growth =
 - 2) External opposition =

II. Acts 1

- A. A long awaited event: _____
- B. Seal of the Spirit: familiarity, closeness, intimacy, purity
- C. Christ’s atonement pre-condition for intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit
- D. Spirit also in OT, but now deep, lasting, powerful, all people
- E. Fulfillment of promises in Luke 3: Sermon of John the Baptist
- F. Promise is fruit of Jesus’ work
- G. Promise and fulfillment pattern in Luke-Acts

III. Acts 2

- A. Spirit of God rests on first fruit of Messianic people
- B. Peter in speech links OT prophecy with present event
- C. Connection between Jesus and this event: Jesus is the _____ of the Spirit.
- D. Continues to show what Jesus does
- E. Outpouring of the Spirit is an end-time event
- F. We look at time sequence; Bible focuses on events, deeds of God
- G. Speech leads to call to repentance
- H. Fruit of repentance call: _____
- I. Restoration of covenant fellowship

IV. Acts 3

- A. Spirit of God touches people
 1. Healing of the lame beggar
 2. Second Petrine speech
 3. Faith = trusting, believing

4. God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob stands behind Jesus

- B. Explanation of crucial factor Jesus plays in total equation of God's salvific work
- C. To reject this Jesus is to reject the God you worship!

V. Acts 4

- A. Testimony of chapter 3 leads to opposition
 - 1. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin
- B. External persecution
- C. Internal fellowship and encouragement

VI. Acts 5

- A. Internal tensions:
 - 1. The dishonesty of Ananias and Sapphira
 - 2. Jealousy of the Sanhedrin
- B. Purpose of God: Move people from jealousy to _____ and bring the fellowship together

VII. Acts 6

- A. Internal tensions:
 - 1. Hellenistic ↔ Palestinian Jews
 - 2. Issue: sociological discrepancy (ministry to widows)

VIII. Acts 7

- A. Stephen's speech
 - 1. Salvation-historical line
 - 2. Rebellion-historical line

IX. Acts 8

- A. Scattering of the believers
- B. Opposition as the cradle of _____
- C. Persecution as the cradle of _____
- D. Descriptions of North and South

X. Acts 9

- A. One of the chief opposition leaders crosses lines.