

TITLE OF THE BOOK "Be My Witnesses"

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK Three purposes:

- 1) a record of selected events that show the spread of the gospel and the church;
- 2) a record of how Jesus Christ was building the early church; and
- 3) a record of defenses for the early Christians to use in their struggle to survive in a hostile world

PERSONAL REFLECTION — Acts 1:8 gives an outline for the book and for the spread of the gospel

— Acts 2:42-47 gives a great overview of what is to follow in the book. The early church devoted itself to teaching of the Word and to fellowship and to prayer — still a great model for church today!

— Luke followed a geographical outline that moves from: Jerusalem (2:42 — 6:7); to Samaria (6:8 — 9:31); to Palestine-Syria (9:32 — 12:24); to the Gentiles in the eastern part of the Roman Empire (12:25 — 19:20), and finally to Rome (19:21 — 28:31).

— Luke set up a number of parallels between Peter's ministry in the first half of Acts and Paul's ministry in the last half of Acts.

— Luke includes six progress reports — 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; and 28:31.

POINT OF ACTION Learn what was important to the early church and apply it in my own life.

PRAYER Father, thank you for the model of faith the early church provides for us even today. May I devote myself to the study of Your Word, to fellowship with other believers, and to prayer so that I can be Your witness to others who do not know Your Son in a way that brings honor to You.

Acts: The Church

- Jerusalem (1-7)
- Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- Ends of the Earth (13-28)

