



## ACTS INTRODUCTION:

### GREETINGS:

The book of Acts is where the seed of the Gospel of Yahshua, Jesus is first planted. It's where the "New Covenant" that was prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31 and Hebrews 10:16 really begins to take root.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR LUKE:

The Author of the book of acts is a man called Luke... who was a physician, or a doctor who traveled with Paul at least partially in his journeys setting up these new Christian Churches all over Asia Minor, and in Greece and Rome, and it is agreed by most biblical scholars that it was indeed the Doctor Luke who wrote both the book of Luke and the book of Acts.

In Colosians 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4, and in Philemon 24 Paul directly mentions Luke the Physician as traveling along with him, so we know that Luke did in fact travel with Paul at least in some of his travels. Some of Luke's writings came from eye witness reports, and documents kept by those who traveled with Paul as traveled around planting the first Christian churches.

The book of Luke, and the book of Acts were one book in the beginning, they were not two separate books. They were one book called "The History Of Christian Origins". The early church had one book containing two volumes called "The History Of Christian Origins" and it wasn't until later that the book was separated into two volumes, one being called "The Gospel Of Luke" and the other being called "The Acts Of The Apostles".

### WHEN ACTS WAS WRITEN:

The earliest date that the book of Acts was thought to have been written was about 65Ad and the latest date was around 115AD, but the late date of 115AD is accepted by very few biblical scholars. Most believe that the book of Acts was written closer to the 65AD estimate because we don't find anything in the book of Acts that points to the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.

### WHO WAS PAUL:

The book of Acts introduces the Apostle Paul, who is himself a Benjinite, and a Pharisee, who was raised in Tarsus the academic capitol of the world at that time. He was well versed in Plato,

Socrates, and Aristotle, he could speak at least 3 languages that we know of, he was himself a pharisee, and he had sat at the feet of Gamliel who was one of the most revered Jewish Rabbi's of that time... and Paul was also considered a Roman citizen.

It is in the book of Acts that we are given the foundational understanding of who Paul is, and the context of his Jewish background as a new believer in the Gospel.

It's important that we get to know Paul also known as Rabbi Shaule.. because it is believed by most biblical scholars that he wrote over two thirds of the Brit Hadashah also known as the new testament.

**WITH ALL OF PAULS DEGREE'S HE STILL NEEDED TO BE KNOCKED OFF OF HIS HORSE AND STRUCK BLIND IN ORDER TO KNOW THE TRUTH OF WHO THE MESSIAH WAS!**

## **E1**

Act 7:59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Act 7:60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Act 8:1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Act 8:2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

Act 8:3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Have you ever heard someone say, “No.. Ive done to many bad things, to be forgiven, I've done to many wretched things in my life to ever go to Heaven”?

My very next question is “well have you murdered any Christians lately”?

## **E2**

**Peter 3:16 WARNING FROM PETER ABOUT PAULS WRITINGS**

The Brit Hadasha, also known as the “New Testament” was not penned until around 200AD .. For the first 150 years after the death of the Messiah the only book they had was the Torah, and the Tannac.

## **THE FRACTURING OF THE CHURCH:**

Paul has been accused of single handedly fracturing the church into thousands of

denominational charters, with thousands of different teachings.... Why?

Because each of these denominational charters of men have decided to pick and choose which of Paul's statements to take as doctrine. And it's been said by more than one biblical scholar that the modern day version of Christianity that we have today is more **the Church of Paul**... than it is the Church of Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ.

Many Atheists and Eggnostics will proclaim that the writings of Paul are contradictory, and that Paul is dentifrice, and talking out of both sides of his mouth, and because they don't take the time to understand the context of Paul's writings, they're all to ready to toss the Bible in the trash can and walk away.

And many of our modern day Pastors, Priest, Bishops, and yes even Popes **have bloodied their hands, knees, and elbows from stumbling over the writings of Paul**. They are **for ever reading but never understanding** because of their fractured denominational teachings, and their bias man made theories, and miss-understandings.

Men with more degrees than a thermometer... have fallen, and continue to teach others how to fall because of their bought and paid for education, and their anointing of men, rather than reading the text for themselves and asking for the discernment to understand the text from Yahweh God the Father.

The problem with Paul's writings isn't that he's schizophrenic , or that he's teaching two different doctrines... the problem is that most Christians today don't take the time to understand the context of Paul's writings... what the times were like that he was living in, who was his audience, what he was up against, and so on.

Peter... who as far back as around 48AD who walked with Yeshua was even perplexed with the writings of Paul when he gave his warning in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3: 16... and we even see that some of his audience misunderstood what he was teaching... and we'll see that as well as we move into the book of acts... and this perplexity, and miss-understanding only grew worse through out the years as time progressed.

## **WHY WERE PAULS WRITINGS SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND:**

### **E3**

Mat 13:10 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

Mat 13:11 And he answered them, "**To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.**

**Mat 13:12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but**

from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

Mat 13:13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mat 13:14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ""You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."'

Mat 13:15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

Mat 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Mat 13:17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

### **MARCION OF SYNOPE:**

In 144AD Marcion proposes a new bible to the Bishop of Rome. Now this fellow Marcion felt... through his own understanding of the writings of Paul... that Yeshua had started a brand new religion, that had nothing to do with his Torah, or the Tanakh.

As far as Marcion was concerned that "Old Testament" that we now know today had no place in Christianity, or in the new Bible that he was proposing. Now for those of us who know better... we laugh at such a thought... but in reality... today's modern day version of Christianity feels exactly the way that Marcion of Synope felt... to the point that most congregations are even discouraged from even reading the "Old Testament".

Most modern day Christians today don't even know how many of each animal Noah was told to take into the Ark... or when the Laws of God were given exactly, or who they were given to or who "The Word" is that was robbed in flesh and came down to preach among men because they have no concept of God's Torah... also known as... "The Old Testament".

In Marcion's mind... he saw Yahweh God the Father of Abraham Isaac and Jacob as the old God. And Jesus was the new God. Marcion proclaimed that the Apostle Paul was the only real Apostle, and that Paul was the only one who really kept the Gospel of Yeshua, and that the others were just too Jewish to really understand his new God called Jesus.

So Marcion pens his version of the Bible without the "Old Testament" and in his new found Bible he leaves out the book of Acts, and the Apostles and only includes the writings of the Apostle Paul.

### **THE BISHOPS FIGHT BACK:**

Well the church Bishops took note of what Marcion had done and went to work to try and put together in their minds which of the Apostles, and Gospels to keep and which to toss... and they

decided not only that the book of Acts should be authoritative, but that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were also authoritative.

Now they were not trying to put together a Biblical cannon at that time, but rather they were giving the authority of the Apostles back to the Apostles, and to Luke, and they proclaimed that 10 of Paul's letters including the book of Acts was indeed authoritative and useful for instructing the church.

#### **TUTRULIAN:**

Now a Christian historian by the name of Turtulian who was born about 145AD wrote this about Marcion in a work that he appropriately entitled "Against Marcion" he wrote this... and I quote:

*" You must show us first of all who Paul was! What was he before he became an Apostle? How did he become an Apostle?"*

Who Paul is, and where he came from , and what his background is, is found primarily in the book of Acts. The book of Acts is profound, when trying to understand the identity of the Apostle Paul. You can not take the history of Paul away from Paul... or what you have is a very different Paul than the original.

#### **PIVITOL FOUNDATIONAL CONTEXT (That we must grasp in order to not be lead astray):**

#### **E4**

#### **MENTION MATTHEW 5:17**

#### **WHAT IS ACTS ABOUT?**

Acts is about Yahweh God the Father.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned 88 times in the New Testament writings. Now with this in mind... think about this... how many times was the "Holy Spirit" mentioned in each of the New Testament writings?

Matthew.....	5 times
Mark.....	4 times
Luke.....	13 times
John.....	3 times
In All of Paul's Apistles.....	16 times

Hebrews.....5 times

Peter..... 2 times

The Holy Spirit is not mentioned in the book of Revelation, but in the book of Acts we find the “Holy Spirit” mentioned... 40 TIMES!

Out of the 88 times that the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the New Testament, Luke mentions him in his two books... 53 times.

Do you suppose... that the “Holy Spirit” was at the forefront of Luke's mind as he watched the beginning of the Christian Faith, and the Gospel of our Messiah being proclaimed for the first time through out the world?

We'll also find that Luke equates the “Holy Spirit” and the “Spirit of Yahshua” as being the same, and we'll cover that more in Acts chapter 16.

And as we read through Luke's writings in the book of Acts, we'll find that there was no doubt in Luke's mind... that **the God of the Christian Church, is the God of Israel.**

And this is quite the opposite of how Marcion saw it, and it's also quite the opposite that much of today's modern day denominational charters of men see it today.... teaching and preaching replacement theology, and that the Gentile Christian Church has REPLACED, the House of Israel, and the terrible Jews that hung their Jesus on the cross.

And I think that with out a doubt... you'll find that there is no “Gentile Christian Church”, there is only the body of the Messiah... one Olive tree.

## **E5**

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

We'll also find out that everything our Messiah did, and who he was.... was all prophesied about by the Old Testament Prophets.

The central task of the book of Acts, is to reconcile both Jewish and Gentile believers together, as one body, and we'll also notice how **the book of Acts puts the epistles of both Peter and Paul on somewhat equal footing.**

We find in the book of Acts that the first healing of both Peter and Paul... was a crippled man.

We also find that Peter healed by merely casting his shadow, and Paul healed by a person simply touching a cloth that he had touched.

And both men, encountered and dealt with Witchcraft.

Both men were also supernaturally released from prison.

Something else we'll clearly see in the book of Act is that what happens on Earth is directly tied to what is happening, or has happened in Heaven.