

Week 1 (April 13-19)

Acts 1-4:31



Daily Breakdown of the Readings

Monday [Acts 1:1-11](#)

Tuesday [Acts 1:12-26](#)

Wednesday [Acts 2](#)

Thursday [Acts 3:1-10](#)

Friday [Acts 3:11-26](#)

Saturday [Acts 4:1-12](#)

Sunday [Acts 4:13-31](#)

Some Old Testament References

Acts 1:20 (Psalm 69:25)

Acts 2:26-21 (Joel 2:28-32)

Acts 2:25-28 (Psalm 16:8-11)

Acts 2:34 (Psalm 110:1)

Acts 3:22 (Deut. 18:15)

Acts 4:24-26 (Psalm 146:6)



Key Passages

Acts 1:6-8

Acts 2:4

Acts 2:38-39

Acts 4:12

Acts 4:29



Notes

- Theophilus can be translated as “friend of God” or “beloved by God.” The same Theophilus is addressed at the beginning of Luke. Thus, the debate on if Luke and Acts were written by the same person. There is also debate on if Theophilus was one person with significant standing in the community or if it was written to one specific community which the author called Theophilus.
- In Greek the verb βαπτίζω (baptizó), means to dip or to sink. In Greek texts it refers to ritual washing. As we read Acts it’s going to be important for us to not read Lutheran baptismal theology into the text. We need to remember that the early Christians were not Lutherans.
- Often times when the text reads “men” or “brothers” we can assume that women are present. In Greek, as in many languages, the masculine plural can refer to a group of men or a group of men and women. Don’t read the women of their stories.
- Throughout Acts, as in Luke, the Jewish Scriptures are either directly quoted or mentioned. It’s important to remember as we keep reading Acts, that many of these first Christians were still practicing Jews. Christianity had not yet been established as a separate religion.
- The apostles get their authority from the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 3:16 has a lot of textual commentary. It literally reads, “And by faith in his name has his name made this man strong, whom you behold and know” (Metzger 270). Scholars debate on how the text should read, modern translations have rendered it thus
- The idea of a cornerstone coming out of the nation of Israel is a common theme in the Hebrew Scriptures one example is [Zechariah 10:4](#). The idea of Jesus as the cornerstone is a common theme throughout the New Testament. A few examples are [Matt. 21:42](#), [Mark 12:10](#), [Luke 20:17](#), and [1 Peter 2:6](#).
- Originally the word Μάρτυς (martus) was someone who witnessed something. Jesus is not telling the

apostles that they will need to be executed, rather than they will witness/testify to what Jesus has done. As time passed Christians would add the connotation of being persecuted and executed to the idea of being a martyr.

Questions

1. Who do you think Theophilus was?
2. Why do you think it was important for the author of Acts to cite Jewish Scriptures?
3. What kind of role do you think baptism will play in the Book of Acts? And how might that role be different from the role that it plays in our Lutheran context?
4. If you read the text closely, what new details did you discover?
5. What role has the temple played in the readings for this week? Why is the temple important for the narrative of Acts?
6. Do we get authority from the Holy Spirit? And if we do, what does that authority allow us to do? How do you use your authority?