

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BNT 540**  
**Studies in the Synoptic Gospels/Acts: Speeches in Acts**

James D. Hernando

Fall 2007

***COURSE SYLLABUS***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An exegetical and theological examination of the speeches in the Book of Acts. Emphasis will be given to understanding how these speeches reveal the Christology of the early church in general and Lucan Christology and Pneumatology in particular. Special focus will be placed on isolating the essentials of the apostolic *kerygma* as well as points of theological divergence. Also to be explored are the theological and practical implications for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world today.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

*Knowledge*

1. Discuss briefly any of the main issues of New Testament introduction regarding Acts and outline the major scholarly options, their assumptions and impact on other introductory and/or theological issues.
2. Present an informed and cogent argument for the historical reliability of the speeches in Acts, addressing both the issues of the nature of ancient historiography and the relationship of *kerygma* to history.
3. Construct a simplified outline of the apostolic *kerygma* of the early Christian church as presented in the speeches in Acts. Be able to discuss
4. Explain how Luke's presentation of speeches in Acts serves to present the faith of the early church and his particular emphases and perspective regarding of God's salvation in Christ.

*Skills*

1. Read Acts with an integrated approach that is sensitive to literary, historical and theological concerns.
2. Judge critically the scholarly arguments that posit a theological discontinuity between the faith of earliest Christianity and Luke's portrayal of the same.

3. Interpret individual periscopes within Acts in relationship to the broader theological purpose(s) of its author.

### ***Attitudes***

1. Appreciate the unique role Acts played in relationship to the Gospel of Luke and in the development of the NT Canon.
2. Understand more fully how Acts can stand in literary continuity with certain marked characteristics of ancient historiography, without surrendering its distinctiveness, or historical reliability.
3. Gain a growing awareness of need to posit the Holy Spirit's abiding presence and power in the Church in order to fulfill Christ's redemptive work through the Church.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

#### ***Required:***

Kistemaker, Simon J. *Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles*. In the New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Soards, Marion L. *The Speeches in Acts: Their content, Context and Concerns*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

#### ***Recommended:***

Bruce, F. F. *Commentary on the Book of the Acts*. In the NICNT series. Edited by F. F. Bruce. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans, 1984, repr.

Longenecker, Richard N. *The Acts of the Apostles*. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 9. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelein. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.

Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

- I. Introductory Issues
- II. Speeches in Acts:
  - A. Genre Analysis
  - B. Historical Antecedents in Ancient Literature
  - C. Question of Historical Reliability vs. Theological Agenda
  - D. Issues of Context and Content

- III. Apostolic Speeches
  - A. The speeches of Peter
  - B. The Speeches of Paul
  
- IV. Speeches by Other Christian
  - A. Stephen's Speech
  - B. The Speeches of James
  
- V. Speeches by Select Unbelievers

## METHODOLOGY

1. Classroom lecture.
2. Guided classroom discussion of issues related to assigned
3. Individual reading, research, and writing.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Whenever possible absences should be announced beforehand to the professor. Excessive absenteeism is defined by the AGTS catalog and may result in a grade reduction.
2. Students should prepare themselves in advance for each class session by completing their required reading assignment and/or written assignments. Participation in classroom discussion through comments and questions are encouraged.
3. Completion of all reading assignments:
  - a. The Book of acts
  - b. Both textbooks in their entirety
  - c. Required reading from *Supplemental Reading List*.
2. Oral Reading Report on a chosen reading assignment. (See *Supplemental Readings List* hand-out)
3. (5) Content Analysis Outlines chosen from the first seven speeches covered in class. In addition to an exegetical outline (See hand out), the outlines should:
  - a. Contain the pertinent data related to the historical setting/*Sitz im Leben* of the speech (See Hand-out)
  - b. They are to accurately reflect the substance/subject matter of each speech
  - c. They should reproduce the propositional flow of thought contained in each speech.
4. A Theological Analysis Research Paper (10-15 pages excluding title page, table of contents, and bibliography)

*NOTE: See "Research Paper-Guidelines".*

5. Final Exam

*Note: Work turned in late without the prior permission of the professor will receive a grade reduction of ½ letter grade for every day late.*

**Chapel Attendance:** The seminary chapel schedule intersects with our class schedule on the following dates: September 11, and December 4. We will attend chapel as a class on one of those dates, to be decided corporately as a class. Attendance is required.

## GRADING PROCEDURE

### Grade Weights

1. Class Attendance	50 pts	5%
2. Class Participation	50 pts	5%
3. Reading Assignments	100 pts	10%
4. Oral Reading Report	150 pts	15%
5. Content Outlines	200 pts	20%
6. Theological Analysis Paper	250 pts	25%
7. Final Exam	200 pts	20%

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arrington, French L. The Acts of the Apostles: An Introduction and Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988.

Barclay, William. Turning to God: A study of Conversion in the Book of Acts and Today. London: Epworth, 1963.

Barrett, C. K. Luke the Historian in Recent Study. London: Epworth, 1961.

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Blaiklock, E. M. The Acts of the Apostles: An Historical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.

Blunt, A. W. F. The Acts of the Apostles. Oxford: Clarendon, 1922.

Bruce, F. F. The Book of the Acts: The English Text with Introduction, Exposition and Notes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1954.

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Burkitt, F. C. Christian Beginnings. London: University of London, 1924.

Cadbury, Henry J. The Style and Literary Method of Luke. 2 vols. Cambridge: Harvard University, 1919-20.

- \_\_\_\_\_. The Making of Luke-Acts. London: Macmillan, 1927; reprint London: S.P.C.K., 1958, 1961.
- Calvin, John. Commentary Upon the Acts of the Apostles. 2 vols. Edited by H. Beveridge. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949.
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- Conzelmann, Hans. The Theology of St. Luke. Translated by G. Buswell. New York: Harper & Row, 1961.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Acts of the Apostles. In the Hermeneia Series, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Dodd, C. H. The Apostolic Preaching and Its Developments. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1936.
- Ehrhardt, Arnold. The Acts of the Apostles: Ten Lectures. Manchester: Manchester University, 1970.
- Finlay, J. A. The Acts of the Apostles. London: SCM Press, 1936.
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- Gasque, W. Ward. A History of the Criticism of the Acts of the Apostles. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- Haenchen, Ernst. The acts of the Apostles. Translated by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1971.
- Harrison, Everett F. The Apostolic Church. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Hengel, Martin. Acts and the History of Earliest Christianity. Translated by John Bowden. Philadelphia: Fortress press, 1980.
- Horton, Stanley M. The Book of Acts. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1981.
- Keck L. E., and J. L. Martyn, eds. Studies in Luke-Acts. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968.
- Marshall, I. Howard. Luke: Historian and Theologian. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Acts of the Apostles: An Introduction and commentary. In the Tyndale New Testament Commentary series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Ridderbos, Herman N. The Speeches of Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. London: Tyndale, 1962.

Soards, Marion L. The Speeches in Acts: Their Content, Context and Concerns. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

Stanley, David M. Structural Developments of Early Christianity: Acts of the Apostles. Toronto: Jesuit Seminary, 1955.

Stronstad, Roger. The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.

Talbert, Charles H. Literary Patterns, Theological themes, and the Genre of Luke-Acts. Missoula, MT: Scholars, 1977.

Wilson, Stephen G. The Gentiles and the Gentile Mission in Luke-Acts. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1973.

#### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D., July 3, 2007