

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BGR 624
Studies in the Synoptic Gospels/Acts: Speeches in Acts

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Fall 2003

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 the distinctive elements or contributions of the various spokesmen examined.
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 pericopes 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. *The Acts of the Apostles: The Greek Text with Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Longenecker, Richard N. *The Acts of the Apostles*. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 9. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelin. 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. Issue 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*.
4. Translation (according to prescribed format) of 3 main speeches in Acts
 - a. One from Peter
 - b. One from Paul
 - c. One from either James or Stephen

5. Students are to construct a grammatical analysis or syntactical layout in Greek and English of a minimum of six of the speeches in Acts.
6. A Theological Analysis Research Paper (15-20) pages excluding title page, table of contents, and bibliography). *An exegesis of a selected speech (to be approved by the professor) in Acts.*

NOTE: See "Research Paper-Guidelines".

7. Final Exam

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

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grade Weights

1. Class Attendance	50 pts	5%
2. Class Participation	50 pts	5%
3. Reading Assignments	100 pts	10%
4. Translation of Speeches	150 pts	15%
5. 6 Syntactical Layouts	180 pts	18%
6. Theological Analysis Paper	270 pts	27%
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.

Black, Matthew. An Aramaic Approach to the Gospels and Acts. 3rd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1967.

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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.
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- Conzelmann, Hans. The Theology of St. Luke. Translated by G. Buswell. New York: Harper & Row, 1961.
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- Harrison, Everett F. The Apostolic Church. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.
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- 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.
- Larkin, William J. Acts. In the IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Edited by Grant R. Osborne. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1995.
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- Wilson, Stephen G. The Gentiles and the Gentile Mission in Luke-Acts. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1973.

Witherington, Ben. The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co. 1998.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D., May, 2003.