

## **Acts 1:1-2 - “Introduction to Acts” Outline and Notes**

- 1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Acts 1:1-2.**
- 2. Discuss the “Sent by Love: A Study of Acts, Part 1” basics.**
- 3. Share information about the author of Acts and its initial reader.**
- 4. Review the basic outline of our study; as you do so, highlight briefly some or all of the significant events noted.**

- I. Preparation for Witness, Acts 1:1-26 (“thesis statement” in 1:8)*
- II. The Spirit Empowers for Witness, Acts 2:1-47 (the coming of the Spirit)*
- III. Witness in Jerusalem, Acts 3:1—8:1a (Peter & John; Stephen’s martyrdom)*
- IV. Witness Beyond Jerusalem, Acts 8:1b—9:31 (Philip & Ethiopian; Saul/Paul)*
- V. Witness Among the Gentiles, Acts 9:32—12:25 (Peter & Cornelius)*
- VI. Witness Through Paul’s 1st Journey, Acts 13:1—14:28 (Antioch of Pisidia)*

### **5. Read the statement below and discuss the focus on witness.**

“The Book of Acts is more than first-century church history; it is a narrative about the Triune God on an unstoppable mission to the ends of the earth... The momentum of Acts is ever outward, not only geographically, as promised in Jesus’ final words (1:8), but also ethnically—from Jews to Samaritans to God fearers to pagan Gentiles. And that momentum extends beyond the book’s last verse, as it draws us, the evangelized, into the company of those on mission, who also evangelize boldly” (*Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*, 351).

- How is Acts more than history? How are we included in its “momentum”?
- What keeps most of us from being bold witnesses like the early Christians? How can we be transformed into those who “evangelize boldly”?
- What are examples of the witness to Jesus Christ we may communicate with others by word and deed today?

### **6. Close in prayer.**