

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Book of Acts

Course Lecturer: Wendell K. Babcock, PhD
Former Department Chairman of English Department at Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music

Course Description

The book of Acts of the Apostles is the exciting narrative of the church's formative years. Acts begins with the ascension of Jesus and takes readers through the activities of early believers seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. Throughout the course, students examine the difficulties faced in the decades following Pentecost as the church sought to formulate doctrine and send missionaries throughout the Roman Empire. Learners will benefit from Babcock's academic and pastoral background as he teaches the text's historical and theological insights as well as noting spiritual applications for ministry today.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Grasp the message of the book of Acts.
- Understand the historical and contextual setting of the book.
- Appreciate the struggles of the early church.
- Identify the key characters in the book's narrative.
- Apply the book's message to life and ministry.
- Recognize God's faithfulness in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Course Lecturer



Wendell K. Babcock, PhD

Education:

- World Literary Academy, literary doctorate
- World University, PhD in Sacred Culture
- Columbia Pacific College, MA and PhD
- Bob Jones University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Music and Bible, Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music (now Cornerstone University) (1955-1996) – taught more than 50 different courses
- Department Chairman, Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music (English, Bible, and Music departments)
- Alumnus of the Year Award, Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music (1975)
- Adjunct Professor, Reformed Bible College
- Taught courses at Free Will Baptist College (1953-1954)

Other Career Highlights:

- Nominated for a Nobel Prize in Literature in 2001
- Named one of the 500 Greatest Geniuses of the 21st Century by the American Biographical Institute
- Writer of church hymns, organ player, and provider of piano lessons at Wealthy Park Baptist Church
- Ordained minister who pastored several churches in South Carolina, Tennessee, and Michigan
- Ministered in 49 states, as well as internationally in Africa, Canada, Honduras, Israel, Mexico, Tanzania, various Caribbean islands, and the United Kingdom
- Recording artist for Zondervan
- Traveled with music groups on more than 75 tours around the world
- Listed in *Who's Who in Education*
- Participated in various poetry readings across the globe including prestigious events in India and at St. John's College's Convention Center for World Arts and Culture at Cambridge University
- Fluent in six languages (English, French, Greek, Latin, Navajo, and Spanish), with extensive work among the Navajo Indians

Publications:

- Wrote more than 400 songs, 1,700 poems, and over a dozen books
- Books include *The Church in Crisis*, *Senior Moments*, and *A Contemporary Analysis of the Book of Acts*
- In 1995 the International Poets Academy dedicated a volume to Dr. Babcock's life-long achievement and contributions to poetry.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course

and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.