

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Acts of the Apostles

Course Lecturer: Darrell L. Bock, PhD

Course Description

The only thing better than a good story is a good sequel. The Book of Acts is the intended sequel to the gospel of Luke, showing how the new community of faith applied Christ's teachings to life and how they proclaimed His message throughout the world. In this course, learners complete an exegetical study of the Book of Acts by focusing on the biblical theology of the book, the historical background of events, and the theological emphasis of the speeches. The goal of the course is to enable learners to articulate the message of Acts in ways that are both textually accurate and contemporarily relevant, and to apply that message to life.

Course Objectives

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

- Exegete a piece of narrative material and isolate the key theological themes it teaches.
- Trace the argument of Acts through its units.
- Determine with appropriate support elements the background of a narrative account that contributes to the setting and argument of a text.
- Be prepared to communicate the message of a passage that is accurate with regard to the text and relevant to a contemporary audience.

Course Lecturer



Darrell L. Bock, PhD

Education:

- University of Tübingen, postgraduate work on the book of Luke
- University of Aberdeen, Scotland, PhD
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM
- University of Texas, BA

Teaching Career:

- Research Professor of New Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary since 1982 – special fields of study include the use of the Old Testament in the New and Luke-Acts
- Professor of Spiritual Development and Culture, Dallas Theological Seminary's Center for Christian Leadership

- Guest lecturer or adjunct professor at more than 50 institutions including Reformed Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Westminster Seminary in California, Southern Seminary, the University of Michigan, and the Seminario Teologico Centro Americano

Other Career Highlights:

- Editor at large for *Christianity Today*
- Board of Chosen People Ministries
- Offered theological background information for a variety of publications and TV shows including *Dateline*, *Good Morning America*, *20/20*, CNN, *Anderson Cooper 360*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, NPR, the BBC Network, the Australian Broadcasting Company, *Nightlight*, *Day of Discovery*, and the *Washington Post*
- Participant in the Lausanne Conference (2008)
- Speaker at the Lausanne Conference on Jewish Evangelism (2007)
- President of the Evangelical Theological Society (2001)
- *Bibliotheca Sacra* Editorial Advisory Board (1991-1993)
- Leader of seminars across Europe, specifically in Hungary and internationally has lectured across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East

Recommended Reading

Though not required, it is suggested that you have **two commentaries** on Acts for the course, selected from the following list. Williams, Longenecker and Marshall are more popular in approach, while Conzelmann and Haenchen are heavily critical.

J.B. Polhill, *Acts*, (*New American Commentary*). Nashville: Broadman, 1992.

D. Williams, *Acts*, (*New International Bible Commentary*). Peabody, MA: Hendricksen, 1990.

I.H. Marshall, *Acts*, (*Tyndale NT Commentary*). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

R. Longenecker, *Acts*, (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*). ed. F. Gaebelein, vol. 9. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

F.F. Bruce, *The Acts of the Apostles: The Greek Text With Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

H. Conzelmann, *Acts*, (*Hermenia*). Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

E. Haenchen, *Acts*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1971.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

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.