

## REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website [www.baylor.edu/tutoring](http://www.baylor.edu/tutoring) or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

### Acts of the Apostles



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#### Fast Facts

- Part 2 of a 2-part book (Luke is part 1)
- Addressed to 'Theophilus'
- Events of the book take place from 30's-60's CE

#### Summary

- Chapter 1
  - o Picks off where the Gospel of Luke ended, with Jesus ascending into heaven.
  - o After Jesus ascends, messengers come down from heaven promising his return.
  - o Jesus' followers begin a time of waiting and praying.
- Chapter 2: Pentecost
  - o Occurs 50 days after Passover.
  - o The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to share the message of Jesus by helping them speak in tongues (meaning speaking in other languages).
  - o 3,000 people joined the church at Pentecost.
  - o Peter assumes a place of authority in the church.
- Chapter 6

- Stephen, a member of the church, was stoned for blasphemy because of his belief in Jesus.
  - Saul, a Pharisee, watched Stephen's stoning approvingly.
  - Stephen died and became the first Christian martyr.
- Chapter 8
  - Saul persecutes the church and kills those who are members of it.
- Chapter 9: the conversion of Saul
  - While on the road to Damascus, Jesus appears to Paul as a vision of bright light, blinding him.
  - Saul finds a man named Ananias, who helped him reclaim his sight.
  - Saul repented for persecuting Christians and began to preach the teachings of Jesus.
- Chapter 10: Cornelius' Conversion & Peter's Change of Heart
  - Cornelius, a Roman, wanted to join the church and be baptized.
  - Peter initially did not want to baptize him since he wasn't Jewish.
  - The Lord appeared to Peter in a vision, telling him to eat unclean foods, since Jesus had made all things clean. Peter understood that this vision was telling him that anyone can be in the church, even Gentiles, who Jews had historically viewed as 'unclean.' Peter then baptized Cornelius.
- Chapters 13-14: Paul's First Missionary Journey
  - Saul changed his name to Paul and began his first missionary journey.
  - Paul travels with Barnabas.
  - Paul preaches first to Jews then to Gentiles.
  - He proclaims to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah and tells the Gentiles to turn away from their multiple gods to follow Jesus.
  - Some people listen to them, but most don't like their message, so they run them out of town.
- Chapter 15: Jerusalem Council
  - Debate over how Gentiles will become part of the church
  - Peter argued that Gentiles should observe Jewish practices, such as the circumcision of males, while Paul argued they didn't have to. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit led them to decide that a following of Jewish ritual practice is not necessary to follow Jesus.
- Chapters 15-18: Paul's second Missionary Journey
  - Paul traveled with Timothy and Silas.
  - Lydia, a seller of purple cloth, heard Paul speak, and had her household convert to follow Jesus. She then showed hospitality to Paul and his companions.
- Chapters 19-28: Paul's Third Missionary Journey
  - Paul set off hoping to go to Jerusalem, even when he knew going there would probably land him in prison.
  - Paul arrives in Jerusalem and is welcomed at first, but once he starts preaching, he is beaten.
  - He is arrested in Jerusalem.
  - The Lord appears to Paul and tells him that he must witness to Rome.
  - Paul was transferred to Caesarea for two years and then was transferred to Rome to stand trial before the emperor.

- The book ends with Paul in prison in Rome awaiting trial.

## **Test your knowledge!**

Answers are at the bottom of the document.

- 1) Who was the first Christian martyr?
  - a. Peter
  - b. Paul
  - c. Timothy
  - d. Stephen
- 2) What happened to Saul when Jesus appeared to him?
  - a. He became blind.
  - b. He became deaf.
  - c. He became mute.
  - d. He died.
- 3) What changed Peter's mind and stopped him from excluding Gentiles into the Church?
  - a. Jesus appeared to him and directly told him that he needed to include Gentiles.
  - b. Jesus appeared to him and told him to eat clean and unclean foods.
  - c. Mary told him that Jesus would want him to include Gentiles.
  - d. He wanted to marry Gentile woman.
- 4) What was Pentecost?
  - a. The name for Jesus' resurrection
  - b. The name of the church in Antioch
  - c. The day when the apostles shared the Gospel in foreign languages
  - d. The day Paul was arrested
- 5) Where is Paul at the end of the book of Acts?
  - a. In prison in Rome
  - b. At the church in Jerusalem
  - c. In a tent he built in Galilee
  - d. At the church in Antioch

Answers: 1) d. 2) a. 3) b. 4) c. 5) a.