

**The Acts of the Apostles**  
**The Church's Journey from Jerusalem to Rome**  
**Session Two and Three**

Quick review: Form critical approach to the Bible. (Scripture, the Word, the Book, ...)

**“Every text has a context.” “text” = EVERY document, event, and person**

**The world of Saul of Tarsus**

The Roman Empire  
- the cultural influence of Greece

The four major Movements within the Judaism of Jesus' time (first century):

**Sadducees:**

**Pharisees:**

**Zealots:**

**Essenes:**

... four different hopes for the Messiah.

Saul of Tarsus is a tanner, an hellenistic Jew, a Pharisee, and a Roman citizen who, as Paul, comes to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. He gives himself the title of the **“Apostle to the Gentiles.”** He is often called the first Christian theologian.

**Luke**, the author (not sure exactly who he is.)

**“Dear Theophilus”**

**The Acts of the Apostles** - a **faith-history** of the first thirty years of the Church from its origins in Jerusalem to its establishment in Rome.

An unfinished work, Acts has 28 chapters, the second half is referred to as the “we” section.

**Acts records the Church's ever-evolving self-understanding.**

**Ascension/Pentecost**

**first community**

**Stephen: Deacon and martyr**

**Philip**

**Saul's conversion**

**Peter's vision**

**The Church at Antioch**

**The Council of Jerusalem (Chapter 15)**

**... the journey to Rome**