



# themes in acts

Acts 1:8

# from **jerusalem** to **rome**

- Acts 1:8 is often given as a key verse that gives an outline of the book.
- The cities of Jerusalem and Rome represent two kingdoms in the world.
- The expansion happens no matter what the enemies do (Acts 5:40-41; 8:4; 12:23-24).
- Paul's journeys show a purposeful expanding of the reach of the gospel (Acts 16:6-9).
- Finally, we see Paul going from Jerusalem to Rome in chains (Acts 27:1-3).



# the faithful remnant restored

- The first sermon points to the fulfillment of restoration promises (Acts 2:17-20, 34).
- Allusions are made to an even greater restoration even before the sermon (Acts 2:1-11).
- The church began to fulfill the Law right in the face of unfaithful Israel (Acts 2:44-46; cf. Deut. 15:7-8).
- The Divided Kingdom is restored in this New Kingdom (Acts 8:5).
- The prophets of this New Jerusalem succeeded where the old had failed (Acts 9:43).
- It becomes more and more clear that this was God's plan all along (Acts 15:16).
- God moves from reluctant Peter to recruiting an outright enemy to continue this work (Acts 9:15).

# the captive set free

- The picture of captive and prison come up throughout the book (Acts 4:17-21; 5:18; 7:58; 8:3; 12:2-3; 16:23; 19:29; 21:33).
- Notice the differences in demeanor of the captors and the captives (Acts 4:18-20; 5:29, 40-42; 12:18-19).
- The captors end up being the ones who learn from the captives (Acts 16:29-31; 24:25).
- As Paul goes to Rome in chains, he is going exactly where God means for him to go (Acts 28:30-31).
- Perhaps the most striking example is in the comparison of Stephen and Saul (Acts 7:58-60).