

ST. PAUL THE TRAVELLER AND ROMAN CITIZEN by Sir. William Ramsay is an older work that emphasizes the archaeological background of Acts. PAUL by John Drane, is a well-illustrated, issue-oriented biography of Paul--an excellent companion for any of the commentaries mentioned above.

2. Extended Notes on Acts:

It would not be hard to spend the rest of the quarter in the book of ACTs but we will try to overcome that temptation. Note that our chart on the Political Background of the New Testament age follows page 8 in this syllabus and provides historical materials for the book of Acts as well as the Gospels. Additional outline materials and chapter summaries are on our chart following page 47. The following summary concepts are useful, I think, hope, etc.

a. Plan and Purpose in Acts:

The plan is to show the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the world about. In some ways it is given to show the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14-16, et al.

The purpose is to show the outcome of the resurrection and the fulfillment of the life of the Lord in the lives of His disciples. Plan and Purpose are closely aligned and you will see how both are met through the pronouncements of:

- growth...2:47, etc.
- non-discriminatory nature, ch. 10
- acceptance of new by old order, ch. 16
- the movement away from dependence on the miraculous to the acceptance of everyday life and experience.

b. The transitional character:

Acts shows a transitional character as the Lord's company develops from the small body of disciples clustered about the Lord to the far flung ecclesiastical empire it will eventually become. Most of our New Testament is written during the Acts period and not before it therefore much of the operation in Acts is not a matter of revelation but a matter of adaptation. This means that many of the Acts situations are not "normal" in the life of the church and therefore do not necessarily develop precedent or constitute a "rule." We learn from all of them, of course. Particular aspects of this transitional character are seen in the following items (among others) in which the policy of the church, while certainly guided by the Spirit in institution, is not supported by the later pastoral letters and the epistles