



NT002-512/712

The Early New Testament Church

Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **The Early New Testament Church**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

SEMESTER 2 2021

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.actheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the ACT's **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed **"Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units"** (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments should comply with these standards.

Students should be aware that the delivery of this unit and results awarded are moderated by the ACT. See the ACT "Moderation Policy" and "Moderation Procedure" at www.actheology.edu.au/documents/ for full details.

Information about this unit

Unit description

One writer has said that all Christians have within them something of a "restoration" mentality when it comes to "fixing" the church. i.e., we tend to feel that if we could just restore the church to the way that it used to be in NT days, everything would be all right. Well, I hope this unit helps you to understand that there were lots of problems within the early church and persecutions from without. I trust that you will find it exciting and interesting that despite these challenges the word continued to grow and spread.

I pray this will encourage you to trust God as he continues to spread the word today, in the face of problems within the church and pressures from outside the church.

The first section of the unit focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and investigates the history, theology and features of the early church as it grew, expanded, and matured.

In the second section, students will examine in outline several other New Testament Writings (various Epistles and Revelation) not covered elsewhere in their course.

ACT Census Date

20 August 2021

Students must confirm their enrolment in this unit with the QTC Registrar by Friday 20 August 2021. This is the last day on which you may withdraw from the unit without academic penalty (a Fail), or without being liable for the tuition fees. To make a change in your enrolment you must contact the QTC Registrar in writing at: registrar@qtc.edu.au.

Learning Outcomes

NT002-512 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the student should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Know and understand

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the contents, themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of major New Testament Epistles

Be able to:

1. Outline: a) the history, themes and theology presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles
2. Trace key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
3. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on the themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of the selected New Testament Epistles

Be in a position to:

1. Relate perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts

NT002-712 Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the student should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Know and understand

1. Demonstrate functional knowledge and understanding of the contents, themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of major New Testament Epistles

Be able to:

1. Discuss: a) the history, themes, theology and narrative presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles
2. Critically analyse key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
3. Present critical evidence-based perspectives on the themes and theology of the Book of Acts and of the selected New Testament Epistles

Be in a position to:

1. Apply perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The unit is a core unit in your degree. It is concerned not so much with critical issues as with enabling students to grasp a firm understanding of the development of the early church and of the contents, themes and theology of the various books of the New Testament.

This unit caters for students studying either of the following accredited units:

- NT002-512 The Early New Testament Church – a core module of the BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/DipTh/DipMin
- NT002-712 The Early New Testament Church – a core module of the MDiv/MTS/GradDipDiv/GradCertDiv

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This is a core unit and as such there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it. It is not permitted to enrol in this unit concurrently with NT003-512 or NT003-712.

How this unit is organised & what we expect of you

The unit is taught over a 13-week semester. There are three lectures each week, each of 50 minutes duration.

This unit is worth 12 credit points towards your degree. A 12cp unit is considered to require an average time commitment of around 10 hours per week across all of the teaching and assessment weeks. Please speak with the lecturer as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you need to consistently spend more time than this on NT002.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date, and if you require an extension for one of your assessments, please contact the QTC Registrar as early as possible.

Teaching staff

UNIT COORDINATOR AND LECTURER

P 07 3062 6939

E wredgen@qtc.edu.au

Please feel free to contact Wesley if you have any problems or concerns about the unit.

LECTURERS

Rev Dave Pitt (for the book of James)

From City Bible Forum

Dr Brandon Szerlip (for the books of Hebrews and Philippians)

E bszerlip@qtc.edu.au

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3062 6939

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle and Turnitin functions and queries

Contact the Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle or Turnitin.

P 07 3062 6939

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person. Also contact the library for any queries about audio recordings of your class on Moodle

P 07 3062 6939

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	AFTER LUNCH	READINGS
Week 1	Introduction to Acts Acts 1:1-6:7	Acts 1:1-6:7 (cont.)	Acts 1:1-6:7 Barnett, 13-26,195-217 Carson & Moo on Acts
Week 2	Acts 6:8-9:31	Background to Acts	Acts 6:8-9:31 Barnett, 217-230
Week 3	Acts 9:32-12:24	Background to Acts	Acts 9:32-12:24 Barnett, 231-246
Week 4	Acts 12:25-16:5	Background to Acts	Acts 12:25-16:5 Barnett 269-271, 276-296, 328-329
ESSAY WRITING WEEK: 9 August – 13 August			
Week 5	Acts 16:6-19:20	Themes in Acts	Acts 16:16-19:20 Barnett, 329-337
Week 6	Acts 19:21- 23:35	Themes in Acts	Acts 19:21-23:35 Barnett, 337-343
Week 7	Acts 24:1 -28:31	Summary of Acts	Acts 24:1-28:31 Barnett, 337-343
Week 8	Galatians	Galatians (cont.)	Book of Galatians + Carson & Moo on Galatians
Week 9	James (Dave Pitt)	James (cont.)	Book of James + Carson & Moo on James
MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 18 September – 4 October			
Week 10	Hebrews (Brandon Szerlip)	Hebrews (cont.)	Book of Hebrews + Carson & Moo on Hebrews
Week 11	Ephesians/ Colossians	Ephesians/Colossians (cont.)	Books of Ephesians & Colossians. + Carson Moo on Eph. & Col.
Week 12	Philippians (Brandon Szerlip)	Philippians (cont.)	Book of Philippians + Carson & Moo on Philippians
Week 13	Revelation	Revelation (cont.)	Books of Revelation + Carson & Moo on Revelation
ASSESSMENT WEEKS: 1 November – 19 November			

It is strongly advised that students read the set portions prior to the class, rather than after. The unit timetable above indicates chapters in the textbooks for pre-reading. In addition to the requirement to read Barnett and Carson & Moo, it is recommended that you access Schnabel's commentary on Acts and have it as a reference book to consult for the tricky bits when reading Acts. The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbook. The lectures will assume that the student has completed the pre-reading chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasized and explained, and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

NT002-512 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle by 11.55pm on the due date (with the exception of timed online quizzes and onsite exams). If you experience difficulty submitting due to internet issues close to 11.55pm, please email registrar@qtc.edu.au explaining the issue. Attach a copy of your assessment and a screen shot of the folder in which your document is saved to show that you have not made changes after the due time.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT **Late Penalties** Policy, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **3%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 14 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within **10% of the required word limit**, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of **10%** of the total possible mark being deducted. **See the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** Please also note that **footnotes** in their entirety **should not exceed 25% of the prescribed essay length.** A **10%** penalty of the final grade applies if footnotes are more than 25% of the prescribed essay length. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
<p>2000 word Essay 50% of final grade</p>	<p>A 2000 word essay, which will cover the topics of weeks 1-7 of the unit – The Book of Acts.</p> <p>Write a 2000 word essay on ONE of the following topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did Luke give such prominence to Stephen’s speech? 2. Explore the similarities and differences in the presentation of the gospel to Jewish and Gentile audiences presented in the Book of Acts. 3. “The Word of the Lord grew” (e.g., Acts 19:20). Discuss the message and the importance of Luke’s editorial summaries in Acts. 4. Explain how Luke’s record of Gamaliel’s words in Acts 5:34-39 is intended to serve as a paradigm for interpreting events in the book of Acts far beyond their context in Acts 5.

See over for next assessment item.

90 minute Exam
(approx. 2250 words)
50% of final grade

A **90 minute exam** which will assess the contents, context, themes and theology of Acts, James, Galatians, Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews and Revelation.

The Exam will include two sections:

Section A: Section A will consist of ten short answer questions in two sub-sections. Sub-section **i** will contain four questions on Acts; sub-section **ii** will consist of six questions on the remaining books listed above.

Of these ten questions, students must answer six, **three** from section **i** and **three** from section **ii**, with all questions weighted equally. This section will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks. Students are advised to spend about one hour answering Section A.

Section B: Students must answer **one** essay question out of three questions. All questions in this section are weighted equally. This section will count for one-third of the total examination marks. Students are advised to spend about half an hour answering Section B.

NT002-712 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle by 11.55pm on the due date (with the exception of timed online quizzes and onsite exams). If you experience difficulty submitting due to internet issues close to 11.55pm, please email registrar@qtc.edu.au explaining the issue. Attach a copy of your assessment and a screen shot of the folder in which your document is saved to show that you have not made changes after the due time.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, in accordance with the ACT **Late Penalties** Policy, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of **3%** of the total possible marks for the assessment item **per calendar day**, up to 14 days late, after which point the mark awarded shall be zero.

Your submitted assessment items must also be within **10% of the required word limit**, and failure to meet this requirement shall result in a penalty of **10%** of the total possible mark being deducted. **See the QTC Handbook for full details on what is included within your total word count.** Please also note that **footnotes** in their entirety **should not exceed 25% of the prescribed essay length.** A **10%** penalty of the final grade applies if footnotes are more than 25% of the prescribed essay length. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
3000 word Essay 50% of final grade	<p>A 3000 word essay, which will assess the historical, political and religious background to the New Testament church and will cover the topics for Weeks 1-7 of the unit – The Book of Acts.</p> <p>Write a 3000 word essay on ONE of the following topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the importance of the Jerusalem Council in Acts. In your essay include comments on both a) the evidences which help resolve the debate and b) the nature of the apostolic letter which issues from it. 2. Choosing either Peter's speech in Acts 2 or Paul's speech in Acts 13 discuss how, in their preaching, the apostles "display from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ" (Acts 18:28) 3. Explain the role of Paul's speech to the Ephesian elders in the development of the book of Acts. 4. Explain the role of Acts 19:21 for the development of the plot of the book of Acts.

See over for next assessment item.

<p>2 hour Exam (approx. 3000 words) 50% of final grade</p>	<p>A two hour Exam which will assess the contents, context, themes and theology of Acts, Galatians, James, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Hebrews and Revelation.</p> <p>The Exam will include two sections:</p> <p>Section A: Section A will comprise two sub-sections. Sub-section i will contain three questions on the book of Acts, of which students must answer one. Sub-section ii will contain four questions on the other books, of which students must answer two.</p> <p>All questions will be weighted equally. This section will count for one-third of the total examination marks. Students are advised to spend about 40 minutes answering Section A.</p> <p>Section B: Students must answer two essay questions out of five questions set. The student must select one question from those set which relate to Acts and one question which relates to the other books covered in the unit.</p> <p>All questions in this section are weighted equally. This section will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks. Students are advised to spend about one hour and twenty minutes answering Section B.</p>
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Guide to Assessments

What are we looking for?

General remarks

All students are expected to avail themselves of the guidelines for written assignments provided in the ACT Handbook (consult the table of contents) and in the QTC Student Handbook section 'Style Requirements for Written Assignments'.

All written work for this unit should conform to the guidelines of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (with the exception of Australian spelling conventions).

All assessments should be in Word Doc format, double-spaced.

Any Hebrew and Greek cited must be typed in a Unicode font; SBL BibLit is commended as one font covering Hebrew, Greek, and Roman Unicode ranges, but is not required. It is freely available from the SBL website: http://sbl-site.org/educational/BiblicalFonts_SBLBibLit.aspx

Do note carefully the number of words required for each assessment item, depending on whether you are enrolled for NT002-512 or NT002-712. For full information on what is included in the total word count, see the QTC Handbook section headed *Length of Assignments*.

The Learning Resources listed in this outline provide a beginning point for research for assessments for this unit; students are expected to engage with the works listed there but are not limited to these resources. The literature on the gospels is massive, and you are encouraged to consult widely.

Assessment 1: Essay

This essay is designed to assess your ability to research an aspect of Acts and in the process weigh up the differing views of the scholars in the light of scripture. Your primary task is answering the question from the scripture. Please ensure the essay answers the question.

The bibliography will include 10-20 entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible. Evidence of your reading should be present in your essay, even if only on the footnotes.

The essay must use the provided QTC coversheet as its first page and be submitted via Moodle.

Assessment 2: Exam

While the essay is designed to assess your ability to dig deeply into one topic, the exam is designed to assess your broad knowledge of the subject. Therefore, the questions will reflect this and your approach to study for the exam should reflect this. The best preparation is to know the lecture material, required reading, and the relevant scriptures. Previous exam papers are available in the library and on Moodle for you to see the type of questions asked.

Learning Resources

The unit timetable in this unit outline indicates chapters in the textbooks for reading each week. The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbooks. The lectures will assume that the student has completed the reading chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasised and explained and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

TEXTBOOK

Students must buy their own copies and can be purchased through QTC – see the QTC Textbook List on Moodle.

Barnett, Paul. *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity*. Leicester: IVP, 1999.

Carson, Don and Douglas Moo. *Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Students need access to a good Bible dictionary that contains articles on each of the New Testament Epistles.

IMPORTANT REFERENCE COMMENTARIES

Students are not required to purchase these, but they are recommended as the best commentaries for consultation. These would be good additions to students' personal libraries.

Peterson, David. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Pillar. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.

Schnabel, Eckhard. *Acts*. ZECNT. Zondervan Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

If you have extra money to buy another book, it would be best to buy:

Hawthorne, Gerald F. Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1993.

OR

Marshall, I. H. and David Peterson, eds. *Witness to the Gospel: a Theology of Acts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

OTHER REFERENCES

* See especially

* Bauckham, Richard, ed. *The Book of Acts in its Palestinian Setting*. Vol. 4 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Beale, G. K. and Carson, D. A. eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.

Capes, David, Rodney Reeves and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2011.

Crowe, Brandon. *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption: Wisdom from James, Peter, John and Jude*. Philadelphia, PA: P&R, 2015.

*Cunningham, S. *Through Many Tribulations': The theology of persecution in Luke Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997.

Fitzmyer, J. A. *The Acts of the Apostles*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998.

Gill, David W. J. and Conrad H. Gempf, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Graeco-Roman Setting*. Vol. 2 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

*Hengel, M. *Acts and the History of Earliest Christianity*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1979, Repr., Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Jobes, Karen H. *Letters to the Church: A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

*Keener, C.S. *Acts*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012-2015.

* Levinskaya, Irene. *The Book of Acts in its Diaspora Setting*. Vol. 5 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1997.

Rapske, Brian. *The Book of Acts and Paul in Roman Custody*. Vol. 3 of *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

*Schnabel, E. J., *Early Christian Mission*. Vol 2: of *Paul and the Early Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004.

*Witherington, B. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998.

Winter, B. W. ed. *The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting*. 6 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans; Carlisle: Paternoster, 1993-1999. (Which include the following)

* Winter, Bruce W. and Andrew D. Clarke, eds. *The Book of Acts in its Ancient Literary Setting*. Vol 1 of *The Book of Acts in Its First Century Setting*. Edited by Bruce W. Winter. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Woods, E. J. *The 'Finger of God' and Pneumatology in Luke-Acts*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 2001.

Classics

Goulder, M. *St Peter Verses St Paul: A Tale of Two Missions*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1995.

*Hemer, C. J. *The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History*. Edited by C.H. Gempf. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Spencer, F. S. *The Portrait of Philip in Acts: A Study of Roles and Relations*. JSOT Sup 67. Sheffield: JSOT, 1992.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In most of the units you study at QTC, you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the subject matter by writing a research paper, essay, take-home exam or the like. Your lecturers and the Moderators of the Australian College of Theology will expect to see that you have consulted current academic research in the form of journal articles.

Q: So how do you find good journal articles?

A: Search the online Journal Databases

QTC makes available the following Journal Databases which will be useful for finding information for your assessments:

- ATLASerials Plus – available via EBSCO

ATLASerials Plus is the full text version of the ATLA Religion Database (ATLA). This database is a collection of major religion and theology journals selected by some of the major religion scholars in the United States. Coverage of this database dates back to 1949.

- Religion and Philosophy Collection

This database provides extensive full-text coverage of such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology, political philosophy, and philosophy of language, moral philosophy and the history of philosophy.

- JSTOR

JSTOR provides full-text access to journal articles as well as eBooks. It includes theological journal titles such as the Harvard Theological Review and other titles not found in ATLASerials Plus or the Religion and Philosophy Collection.

Most journal articles will be available as a PDF which you can read, print or save.

Access the databases via the QTC Library Webpage

<https://www.qtc.edu.au/students/resources/library/databases/>

and login with the username and password provided on Moodle under the QTC Library unit.

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4