

R. J. ALLEN, *Acts of the Apostles*, Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013, paper \$22) xvii and 233 pp., 3 tables. Bibliography. ISBN: 978-0-8006-9872-0.

Allen, professor of Preaching, Gospels, and Letters at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, seeks to spark conversations with Acts that respect the otherness of the text—the

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differences in its world from the world of today—while exploring points at which this conversation continues to offer hope. After a fourteen-page introduction to Acts, he moves passage-by-passage through the text. Each discussion contains three elements: interpretation of the passage in the light of its historical, literary, and theological function in Acts; explanation of its place in the giant chiasmus of Luke-Acts; and suggestions for sermons. He divides Acts into four major parts: the coming of the realm of God—the main theme of Acts (1:1–2:13); you will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea (2:14–8:3); you will be my witnesses in Samaria (8:4–25); and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth (8:26–28:31). Also included are an index of passages from Acts in the Revised Common Lectionary, and four appendixes: the chiastic structure of Acts; a table correlating lectionary readings from Luke with chiastic parallels from Acts; sermon series from Acts—representative texts, characters, and themes; and suggestions for further study.