

VI. Application of theological narrative (or per Warfield, sacred narrative)

A. What is it about the book of Acts that makes it difficult to apply its teaching to our experience here and now? Hint: think especially about genre and uniqueness.

Genre – narrative (past events; thus Q of riveting there)

Uniqueness – apos foundation (but foundation shapes the building; for and applies to the superstructure built on it)

B. Even though Acts (Luke pt2) is difficult to apply, why can we be sure that it is applicable from the teaching of the following passages? (Note: we must read Acts within the framework of Scripture as a whole, as we must read any given text.)

1 Co 10.1-13: For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Note the explanation of OT events as under God's control and realizing His plans, v. 6;

And a particular purpose He has in these events is that they serve as examples for NT saints, v. 6

The further purpose is that we turn away from sin, seeing what they did and the consequences, 6;

It is written down for our instruction in the time of fulfillment, v. 11

So, do not be overconfident...thinking you stand, lest you fall, 12

Neither be under confident and lose hope because God is faithful and provides an escape, 13

Romans 15:1-4 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Scripture guides endurance that nourishes hope

Scripture gives encouragement that nourishes hope

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

All Scripture = NT and = Acts; this promises that we can discover how to apply Acts for profitable training in righteousness

Ephesians 2:19-22 ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Foundation is ultimately the NT and therefore Acts

OT Scripture is for us in many ways.

Scripture is for us including apostolic Scripture

Apostolic is foundation for the church today

History of that foundation-laying time, Acts, must be for us too; it is recorded (for us), but we have to apply it *mutatis mutandis* (with the necessary adjustments)