

Peter and Paul Acts

Some scholars have long contended that, against the misnomer “Acts of the Apostles,” Luke’s second volume instead contains something like “Acts of Peter” and “Acts of Paul” ... Scholars have offered a number of parallels between Peter and Paul in Acts ... Paul repeats most miracles cited for Peter earlier in Acts. Although sequence is not a necessary component for the parallels, the sequence is frequently close enough to reinforce the picture.

(Craig Keener, *Act: An Exegetical Commentary*, Vol. 1, 561-562)

Peter		Paul
¹⁴ But Peter ... lifted up his voice and addressed them ... ²² “Men of Israel ... ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him ... ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet ... ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up (2:22-39)	<i>Parallel sermon defending the resurrection of Jesus</i>	¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said ... ²⁶ “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham ... ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem ... carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead ... ³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way ... ‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’ ³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption ³⁷ but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. (13:26-41)

¹ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried ... ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him ... ⁶ But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” ... ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk ... ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God ... And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (3:1-10)	<i>Healing of paralytic</i>	⁸ Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked ... And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. ¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” ¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. (14:8-11)
¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus ... whom you delivered over ... whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.” (3:12-26)	<i>Sermon following healing, denying apostles’ power</i>	¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵ “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you... ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven” (14:15-17)
⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders ... Jesus ... whom you crucified, whom God	<i>Filled with the Spirit in ministry</i>	⁹ But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “You son of the devil ... you

raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.” (4:8)		will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” (13:9)
¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. (5:15)	Healings through apostles without direct consent	¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. (19:12)
³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel ... stood up ... ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel ... let them alone, for if this plan ... is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” (5:34-39)	Defended by a Pharisee in the Sanhedrin	Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees’ party stood up and contended sharply, “We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?” (23:9)
³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty ... ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. (6:1-6)	Appoints leaders through laying on hands	And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (14:23)
¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John ... ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (8:17)	People receive Spirit through his hands	Paul ... came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples ... ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism” ... ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them (19:6)
¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, “Give me this power also” ... ²⁰ But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!” (8:18-24)	Confronting and superseding false prophets	⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus ... ⁹ But Saul ... filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy” (13:6-11)
³⁶ Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha ... ³⁷ In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room ... ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise” ... Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. (9:36-41)	Raising the dead	⁹ And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep ... fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him” ... ¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted. (20:9-12)

¹ At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort ... ³⁰ And Cornelius said ... ³³ “So I sent for you at once ... Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” (10:24-48)	<i>Befriends centurion</i>	they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius ... ⁴² The soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. ⁴³ But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. (27:1-44)
²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” (10:26)	<i>Rejects Gentile worship</i>	¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” ... ¹³ And the priest ... wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴ But when the apostles ... crying out, ¹⁵ “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you” (14:15; cf. 28:6)
¹ About that time Herod ... proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ And when he had seized him, he put him in prison ... intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. (12:4-7)	<i>Imprisoned at a Jewish festival</i>	For Paul ... was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. (20:16) ²³ And as they were shouting ... ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks (22:24)
Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains ... ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him ... And the chains fell off his hands. (12:6-11) But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out (5:19)	<i>Miraculous release from prison</i>	²⁵ About midnight ... there was a great earthquake ... And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened. (16:25-34)