

Acts 1–2

The Start of Church History

Key Word

56
39

Sovereignty II

Acts

Theme

23

**Universal Savior Proclaimed in
Sovereign Kingdom Progress**

Acts

Key Verse

56

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8).

Acts

Summary Statement

The reason to witness everywhere is because God has directed the progress of the kingdom message to all people since early church history

Application

How is God extending his kingdom message through you?

How are you fitting into His overall purpose to spread the gospel throughout the entire earth?

Kingdom Statement

27b

The kingdom message expands from its reception by Jews in Jerusalem (1:1–6:7) to Judeans and Samaritans (6:8–8:40) to Gentiles in Rome (chaps. 9–28) in many “progress reports” (2:47; 6:7; 8:40; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31; also possibly 2:41; 4:31; 5:42; 8:25, etc.) to show believers that God will grow his church, not man.

Acts

Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to form the church (1:8; 2:14-18, 33, 38-39; 10:44-47), so believers should repent and be baptized to join this new covenant community called the church (2:21, 38; 3:19; 10:43, 47-48; 17:30; 26:20).

Redemption

27b

The universal appeal for salvation through the gospel is stressed (1:8; 28:30-31) in this book that records over 80 geographical locations—more than any other New Testament book.

Acts

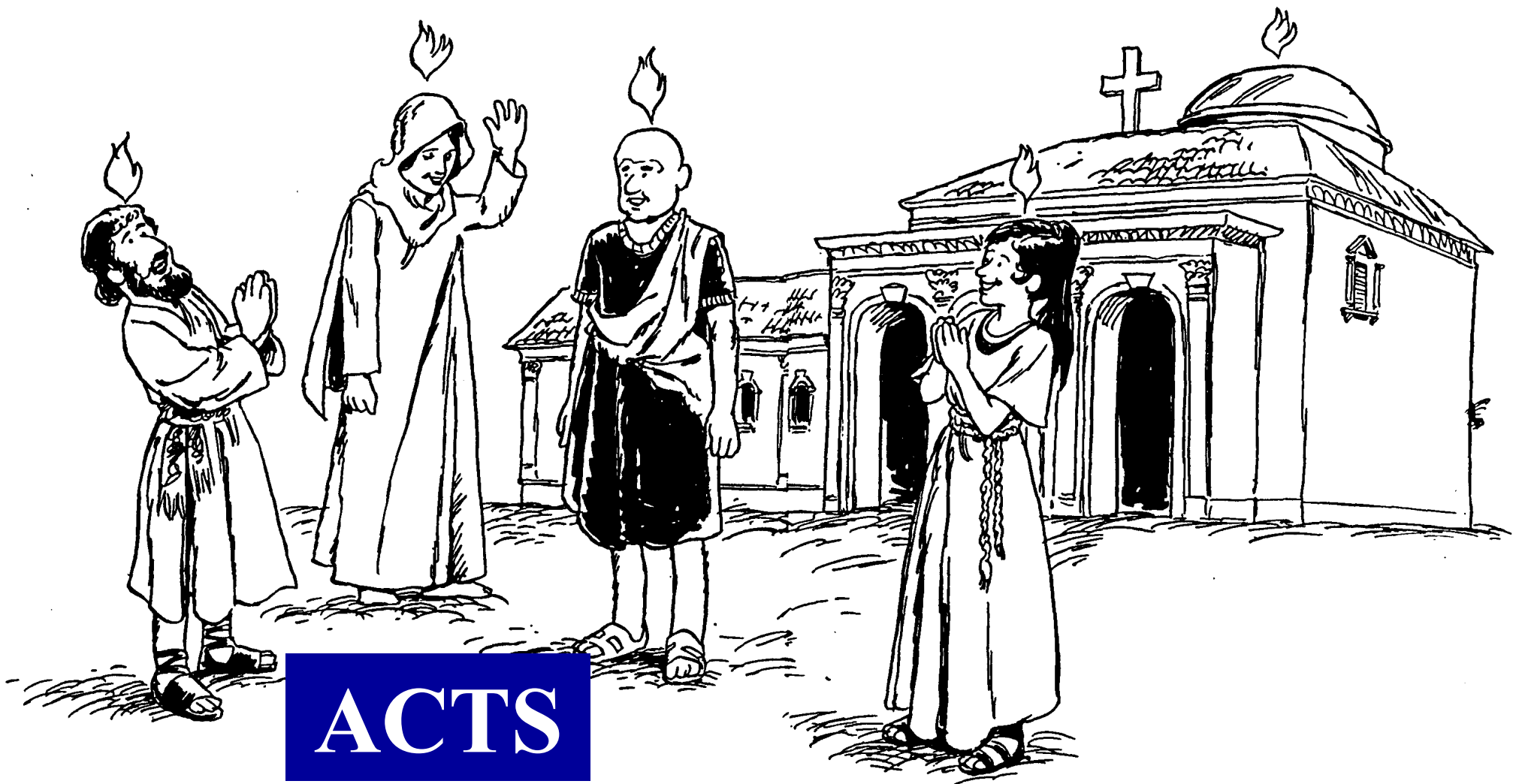
Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

Jesus fulfilled the OT prophecies (2:30; 3:19, 24; 10:43; 26:6-7, 22), especially in his miracles (2:22; 10:38), death according to God's purposes (2:23; 3:13-15, 18; 4:11; 10:39; 26:23), resurrection (2:24, 31-32; 3:15, 26; 10:40-41; 17:31; 26:23), and exaltation to God's throne as Lord (2:25-29, 33-36; 3:13; 10:36) until he returns (3:20-21; 10:42; 17:31; cf. NTS, 137).

Acts

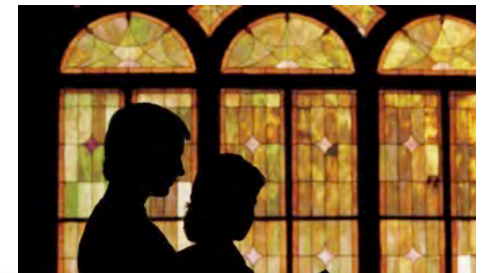
Universal Savior Proclaimed in Sovereign Kingdom Progress

Jerusalem	Judea and Samaria	Uttermost Part
1:1–6:7	6:8–8:40	Chapters 9–28
Jews	Samaritans (mixed breeds)	Gentiles
AD 33-35 (2 years)	AD 35 (a few months)	AD 35-62 (27 years)



ACTS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 H eavenly ascension of Christ | 11 W orship with Gentiles defended | 20 T ouching farewell from Ephesians |
| 2 O utpouring of Holy Spirit | 12 O utbreak from the prison | 21 H oly Spirit warns Paul |
| 3 L ame man is healed | 13 R elaying gospel to Antioch | 22 E ffect of Paul's testimony |
| 4 Y ield from public preaching | 14 K indness mixed with confusion | |
| | 15 I nvestigation by Jerusalem Council | |
| 5 S apphira and Ananias judged | 16 N eed for Timothy's circumcision | 23 C ouncil of the Sanhedrin |
| 6 P roviding deacons ends injustice | 17 G ospel presentation in Athens | 24 H earing held by Felix |
| 7 I ntensive defense by Stephen | | 25 U rgent appeal to Caesar |
| 8 R ising persecution scatters church | 18 I nterview with Aquila, Priscilla | 26 R easoning with King Agrippa |
| 9 I ntroducing Saul to gospel | 19 N ew believers in Ephesus | 27 C aesarea to Malta Island |
| 10 T aking gospel to Cornelius | | 28 H eralding gospel in chains |



Barry Huddleston, *The Acrostic Bible*

A row of matches with one lit, set against a dark red background. The lit match is on the left, with a bright yellow and orange flame. The other matches are unlit and have red tips. The word "Be Witnessing" is written in large, white, bold letters with a black outline, and the word "Acts" is written in smaller, white, italicized letters with a black outline.

Be Witnessing

Acts

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Witness Stand



Acts

Why should we be **witnessing?**

3 reasons

Acts



I. God has gone ahead of us so
we can begin where we **are**
(1:1–6:7).



Acts

II. God gets the glory when we witness outside our **comfort** zone (6:8–8:40).



Acts

III. God will use us to spread the kingdom to the last **unreached place (9–28).**



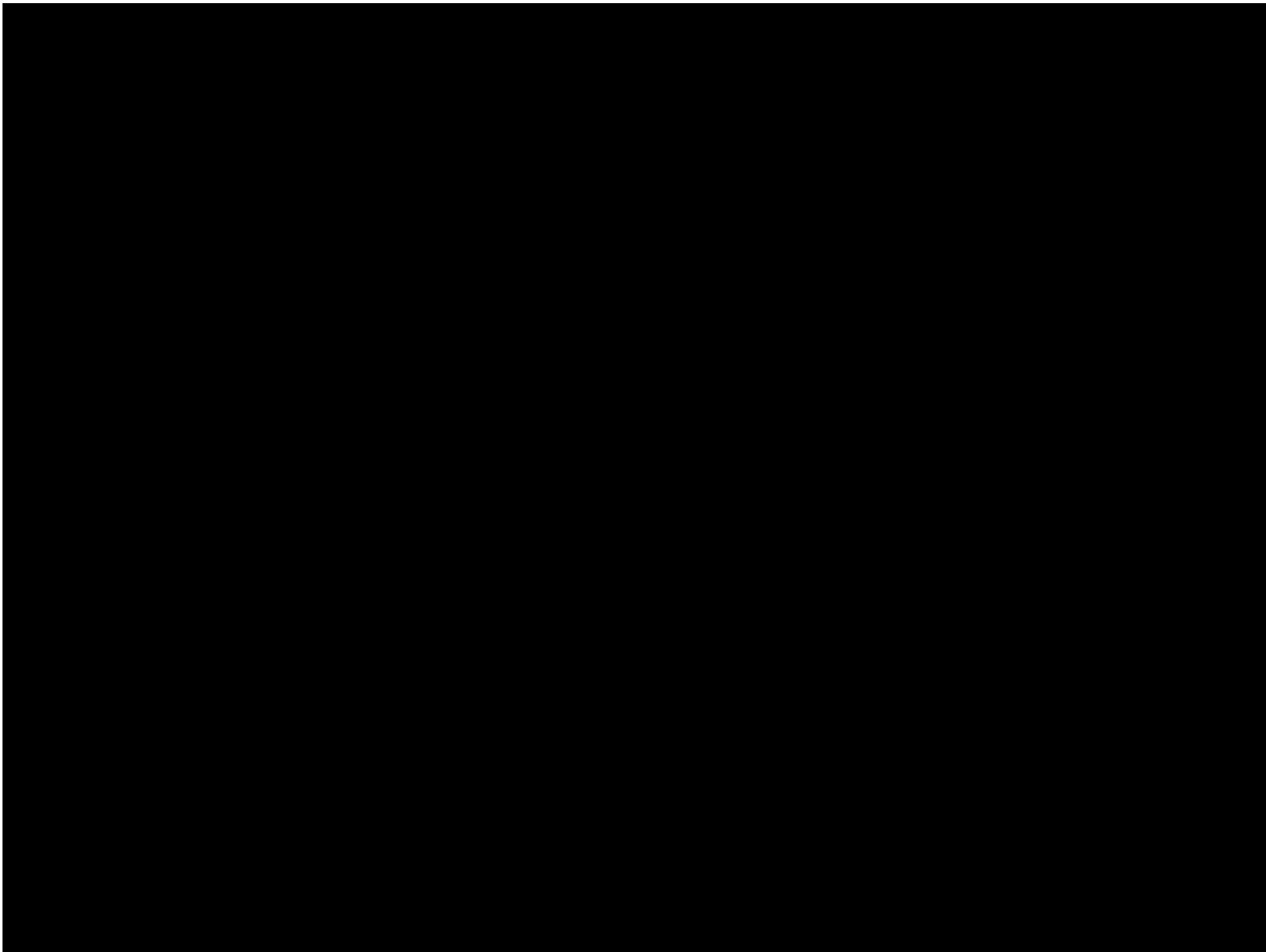
Main Idea of the Book

Be part of **God's plan** to
bring the kingdom message
to all people.

Acts

**What is your role in God's
plan that he started in
early church history?**

Acts



What to Do?

1. Which practices in Acts and the rest of the NT should we do today? Please take the quiz.



PERMANENT or temporary?

131e

131e

New Testament Survey: Acts

Permanent or Temporary?

Ralph Covell & Marshall Shelly, *Wherever* magazine (Spring 1982)

Which of the specific practices and commands that appear in the New Testament are to apply to all times in all places? Which are merely temporary, needed at one particular time in one particular place, but not necessarily applicable at other times and in other places?

To get a handle on the problem, try this self-think exercise we've adapted from some material put together by Mont Smith, a former missionary in Ethiopia. We've listed 50 practices and commands that appear in the New Testament. In a sense, all are "scriptural." The question is: Which are meant to be permanent (P)? Which are merely temporary (T)? Think about each one, then circle the appropriate response.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|---|-----|
| 1. Greet one another with a holy kiss (Rom. 16:16). | P T | 25. Drink communion from a single cup (Mark 14:23). | P T |
| 2. Abstain from meat that has been sacrificed to idols (Acts 15:29). | P T | 26. Take formal religious vows (Acts 18:18). | P T |
| 3. Be baptized (Acts 2:38). | P T | 27. Avoid praying in public (Mt. 6:5, 6). | P T |
| 4. A woman ought to have a veil on her head (1 Cor. 11:10). | P T | 28. Speak in tongues and prophesy (1 Cor. 14:5). | P T |
| 5. Wash one another's feet (John 13:14). | P T | 29. Meet in homes for church (Col. 4:15). | P T |
| 6. Extend the right hand (left hand?) of fellowship (Gal. 2:9). | P T | 30. Work with your hands (1 Thess. 4:11). | P T |
| 7. Ordain by the "laying on of hands" (Acts 13:3). | P T | 31. Lift your hands when praying (1 Tim. 2:8). | P T |
| 8. "It is indecent for a woman to speak in an assembly" (1 Cor. 14:35). | P T | 32. Give to those who beg from you (Mt. 5:42). | P T |
| 9. Have fixed hours of prayer (Acts 3:1). | P T | 33. Pray before meals (Lk. 24:30). | P T |
| 10. Sing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16). | P T | 34. Support no widow under 60 years old (1 Tim. 5:9). | P T |
| 11. Abstain from eating blood (Acts 15:29). | P T | 35. Say "Amen" at the end of prayers (1 Cor. 14:16). | P T |
| 11. Slaves, obey your earthly masters (Eph. 6:5). | P T | 36. Fast in connection with ordination (Acts 13:3). | P T |
| 13. Observe the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:24). | P T | 37. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic (Mark 6:9). | P T |
| 14. Do not make any oaths (James 5:12). | P T | 38. Wives, submit to your husbands (Col. 3:18). | P T |
| 15. Anoint the sick with oil (James 5:14). | P T | 39. Show no favoritism to the rich (James 2:1-7). | P T |
| 16. Permit no woman to teach men (1 Tim. 2:12). | P T | 40. Use unleavened bread for communion (Lk. 22:13, 19). | P T |
| 17. Preach two by two (Mark 6:7). | P T | 41. Cast lots for church officers (Acts 1:26). | P T |
| 18. Go into Jewish synagogues to preach (Acts 14:1). | P T | 42. Owe no man anything (Rom. 13:8). | P T |
| 19. Eat what is set before you asking no questions of conscience (1 Cor. 10:27). | P T | 43. Have seven deacons in the church (Acts 6:3). | P T |
| 20. Prohibit women from wearing braided hair, gold, or pearls (1 Tim. 2:9). | P T | 44. Don't eat meat from animals killed by strangulation (Acts 15:29). | P T |
| 21. Abstain from fornication (Acts 15:29). | P T | 45. If anyone will not work, don't let him eat (2 Thess. 3:10). | P T |
| 22. Do not seek marriage (1 Cor. 7:27). | P T | 46. Worship on Saturday (Acts 13:14, 42, 44). | P T |
| 23. Be circumcised (Acts 15:5). | P T | 47. Give up personal property (Acts 2:44, 45). | P T |
| 24. Women should pray with their heads covered (1 Cor. 11:5). | P T | 48. Have self-employed clergy (2 Thess. 3:7, 8). | P T |
| | | 49. Take collections in church for the poor (1 Cor. 16:1). | P T |
| | | 50. Long hair on a man is a disgrace (1 Cor. 11:14). | P T |

Now for the
hard part...

When you're finished, get ready for the hard part. What principle did you use to decide which were permanent and which were temporary and cultural? Since you made a separation, you must have used some standard. What was it? Remember that your principle must be one that can apply to every example in the above list.

Write your principles here. Then, just to keep yourself honest, have a friend examine your categories for a moment on how well you held to your principles.

_____'s Principles of Biblical Interpretation.

(your name)

Rick



For example...

1. Which practices in Acts should we expect today? For example...

- **Elders?**
- **Tongues?**
- **Give property to the church?**

2. Why or why not do these things?

What to Do?

- 1. Which practices in Acts and the rest of the NT should we do today? Please take the quiz.**
- 2. Why or why not do these things? (In other words, what principle did you follow to make sure you are consistent in application?)**



My Interpretation Principle

The practice must be:

- *universally applied to all NT churches* the best we can tell
- *but not tied to the cultural context* so closely that its underlying principle is lost in another culture



Hermeneutical Considerations: **Normative or Descriptive?**

1. Author's intent

- Is the author trying to teach something, or is he only describing an event (e.g., drawing lots in Acts 1)?

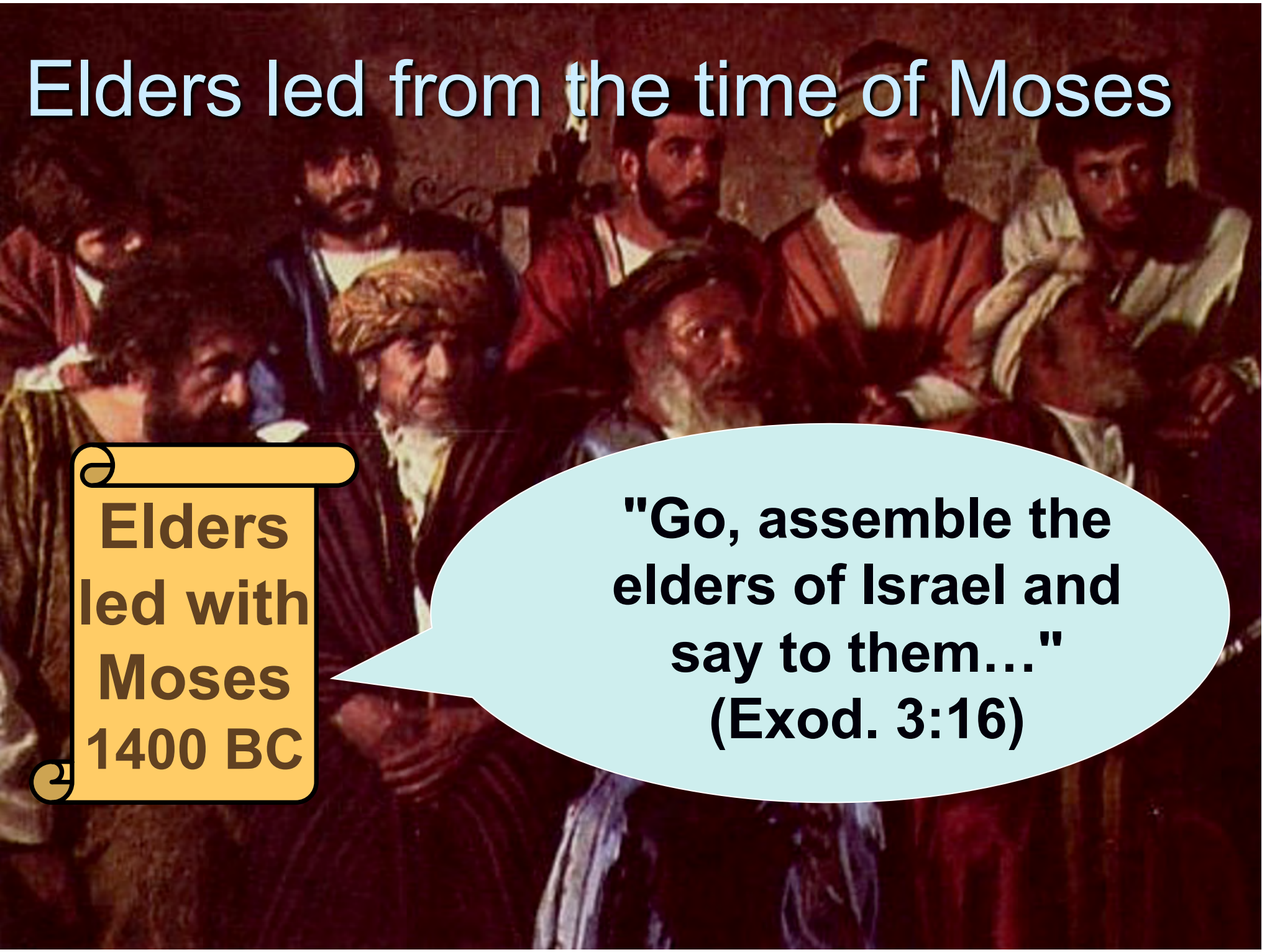
2. Support from other clearer biblical passages

- Is the underlying principle clearly taught elsewhere (when the Spirit comes in Acts 2, 8, 10, and 19)?

3. Repeatable "patterns"

- Although it may not have been the author's intent to teach, some things should be repeated (e.g., elders).
- However, we must also consider cultural norms when trying to reproduce such "patterns."

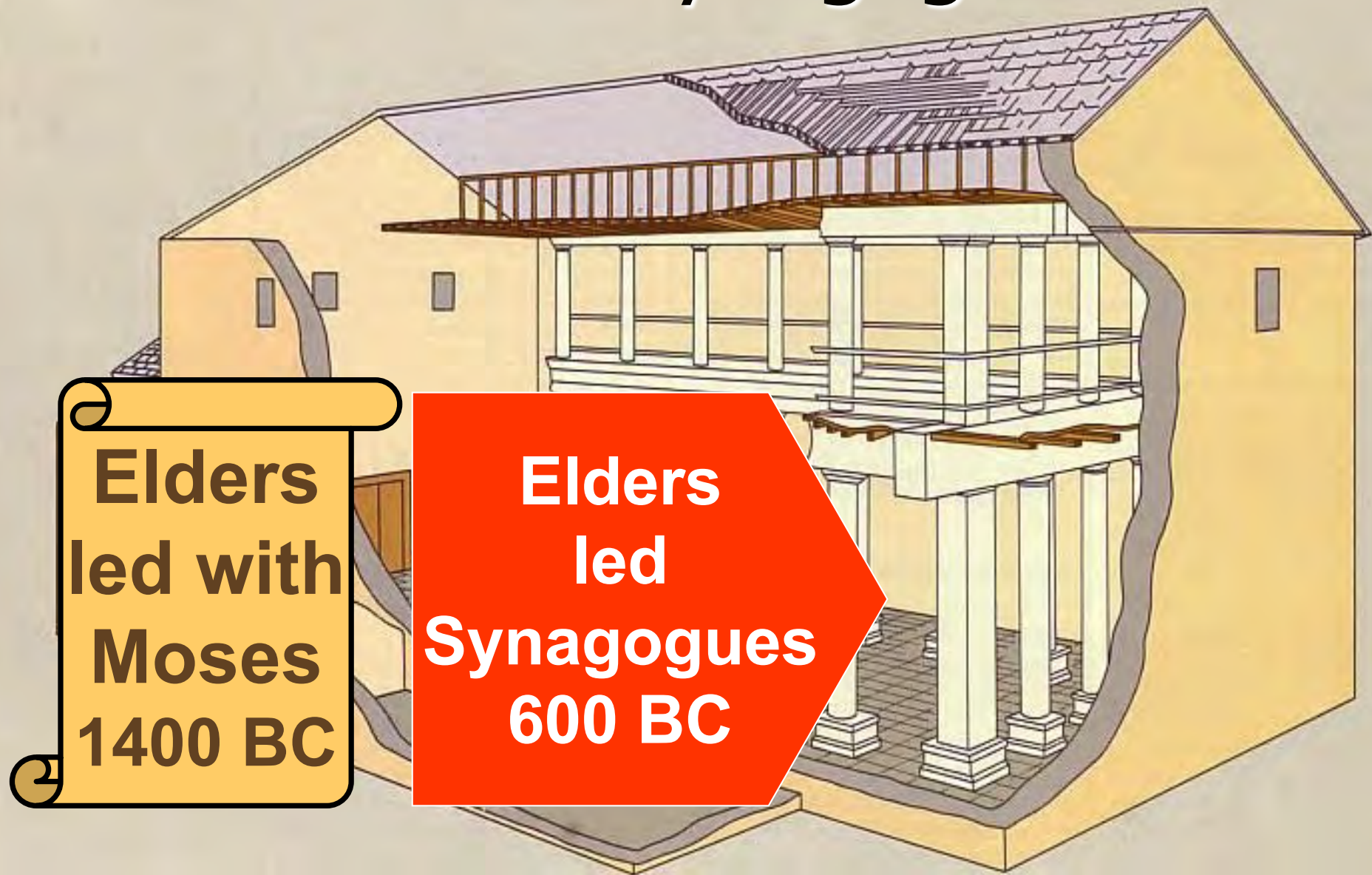
Elders led from the time of Moses

A group of men in traditional Middle Eastern attire, likely representing the elders of Israel. They are wearing long robes and head coverings, and some have beards. The background is dark and textured.

**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

**"Go, assemble the
elders of Israel and
say to them..."
(Exod. 3:16)**

Who Led the Synagogue?

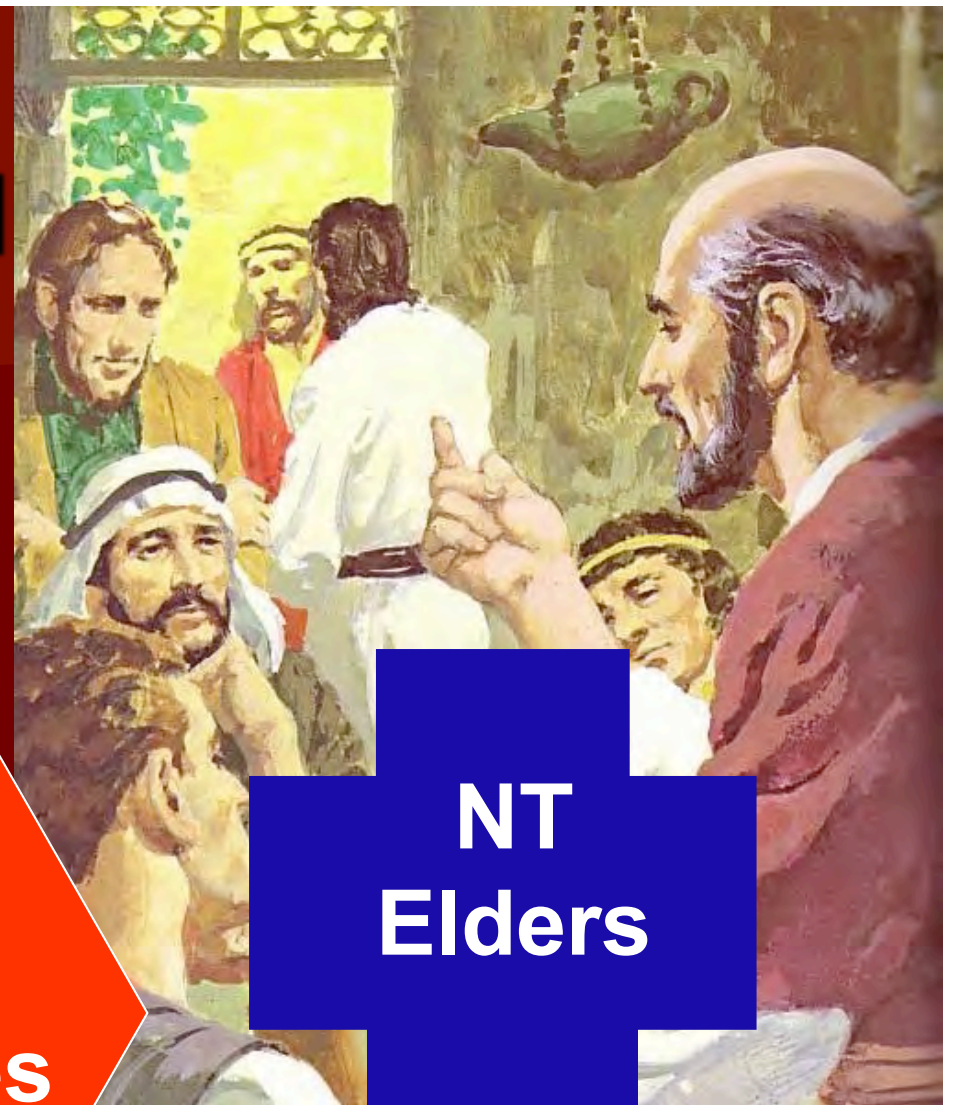


God has advocated group leadership through the ages

Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC

Elders
led
Synagogues
600 BC

NT
Elders



elders = overseers = bishops = pastors

Places Mentioning Elders

Jerusalem (AD 47):

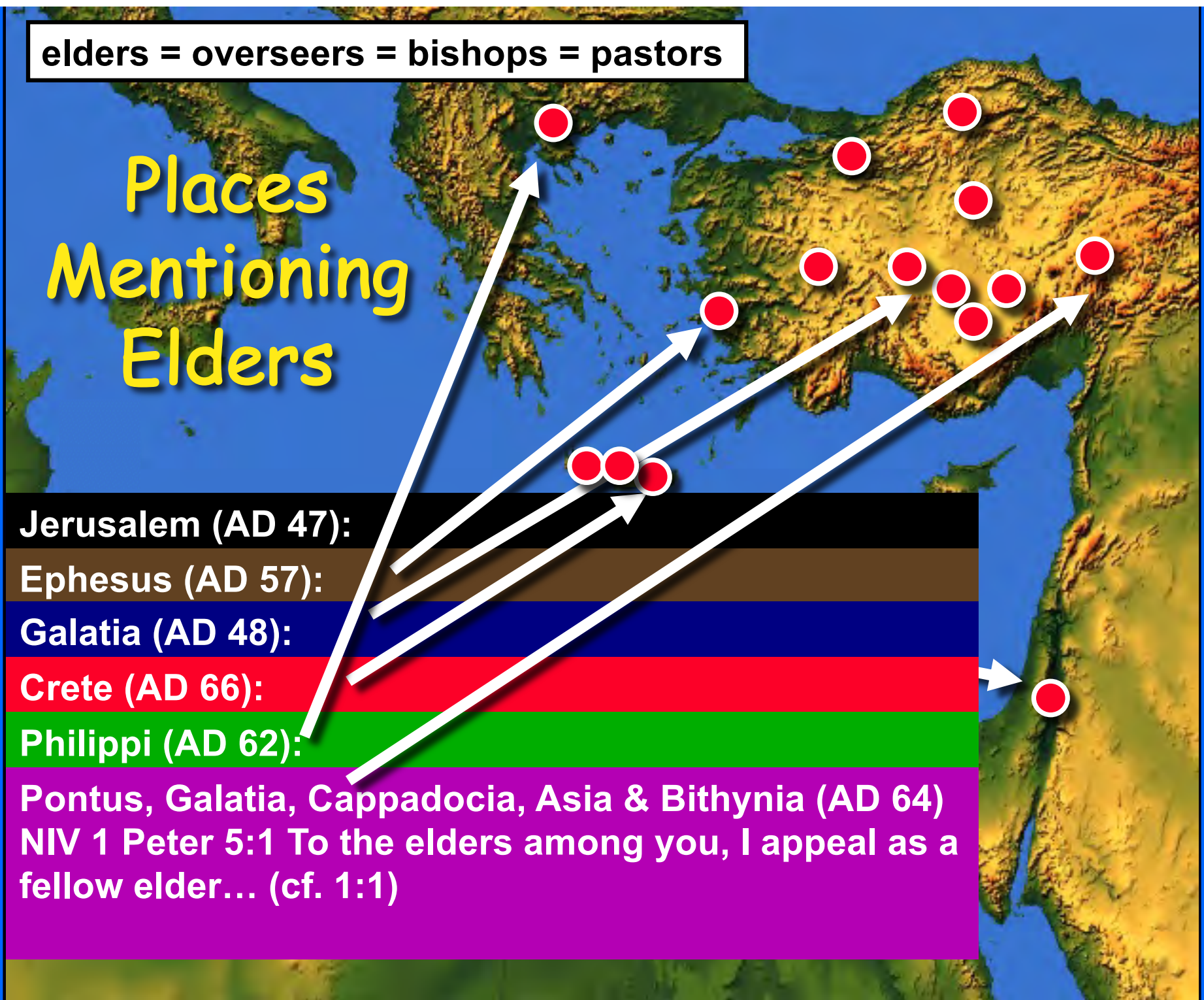
Ephesus (AD 57):

Galatia (AD 48):

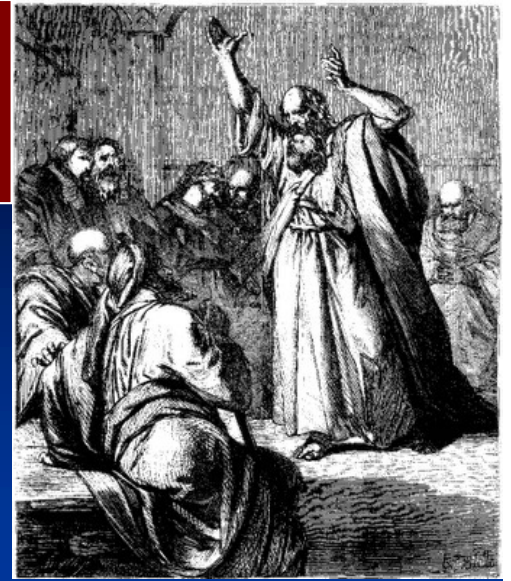
Crete (AD 66):

Philippi (AD 62):

Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia (AD 64)
NIV 1 Peter 5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a
fellow elder... (cf. 1:1)

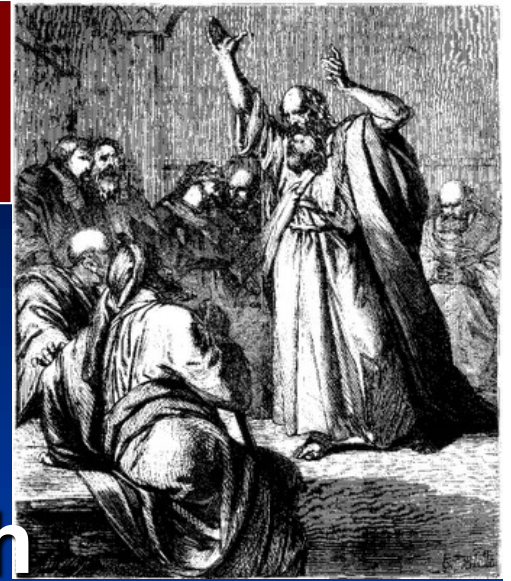


The Elders of Israel



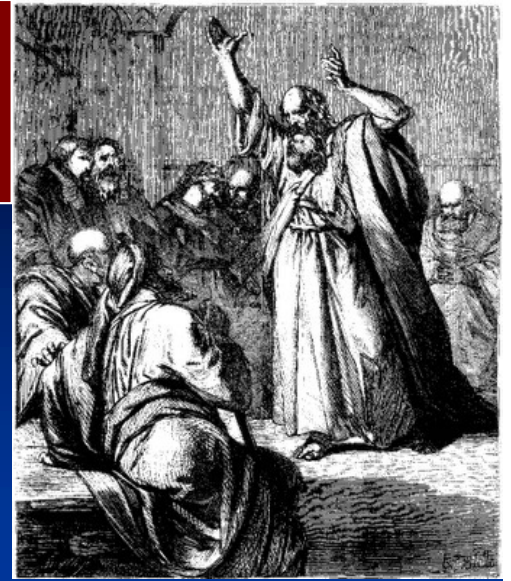
1. Elders are found **throughout** the nation's history
2. Elders were prominent **even when God spoke revelation through a single man** such as Moses (Exod. 3:16, 18; 4:29, etc.) or a prophet like Elijah (2 Kings 6:32)
3. There was always a **plurality** of elders in the OT—only once does the word appear in the singular ("elder" in Isa. 3:2)

The Elders of Israel



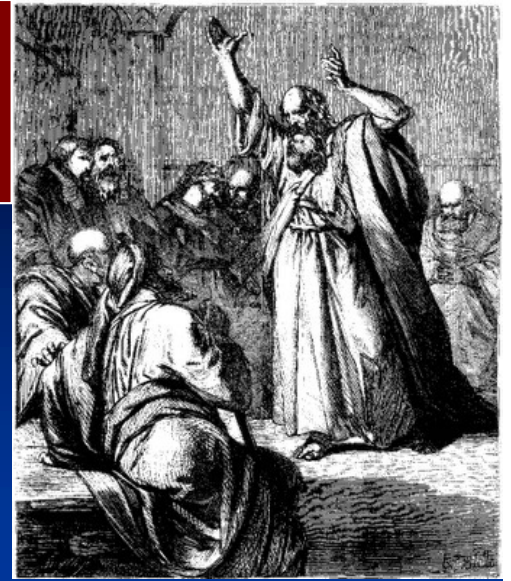
4. Elders led at **various levels**: national, regional, city, house
5. Elders **ruled other nations**, such as Midian (Num. 22:4), Moab (Num. 22:7), and Gibeon (Josh. 9:11).
6. Once Israel's elders **prophesied** (Num. 11:25-26).
7. Elders were **commanded to teach** the people God's laws every seven years (Deut. 27:1-8; 31:9-10), which they did under Josiah (2 Kings 23:1-2).

The Elders of Israel



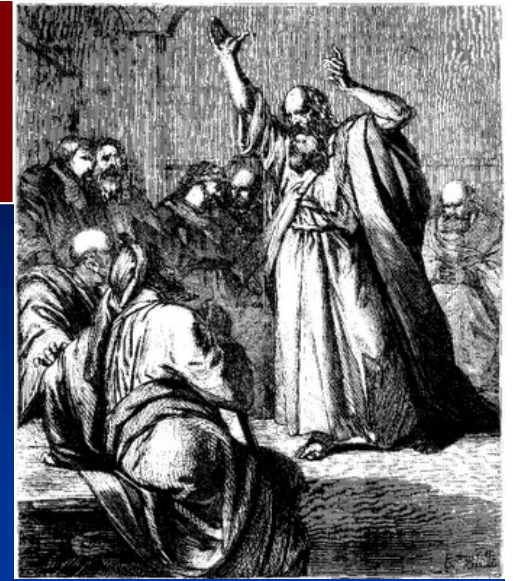
8. Elders were respected for their **wisdom** (Ps. 107:32; Prov. 31:23; Lam. 4:16; 5:12)
9. Elders **counseled kings** in their ruling (1 Kings 12:6-8, 13; 20:7-8; Jer. 26:17) and anointed kings to power (1 Chron. 11:3)
10. Elders **submitted to prophets'** instructions (Elijah in 2 Kings 6:32; Ezekiel in Ezek. 14:1)

The Elders of Israel



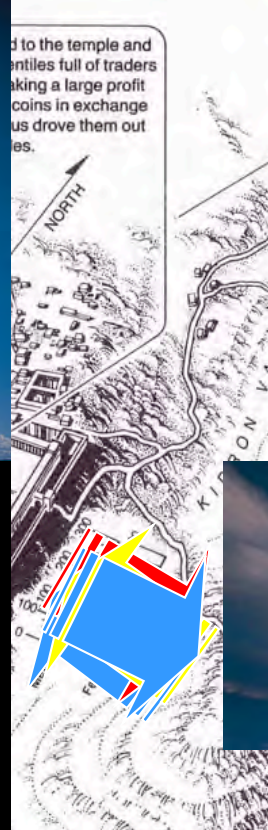
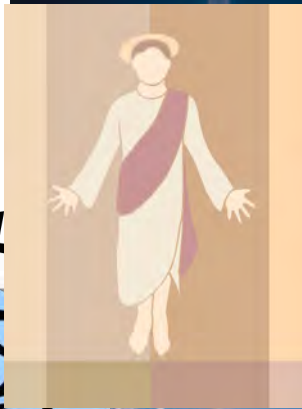
11. Elders **ruled alongside other administrators**: a palace administrator, the city governor, and officials (2 Kings 10:1, 5). Their decision was especially binding in postexilic times (Ezra 10:8, 14).
12. OT elders often **failed to lead** the people biblically
13. Elders **will rule over Israel in the future** millennial reign of Christ (Isa. 24:23)

The Elders of Israel



14. Unfortunately, the OT gives **no explicit instructions** on who they were or how to select them. Yet the term itself implies that each group of elders was composed of **older, mature men**.

Passion Week

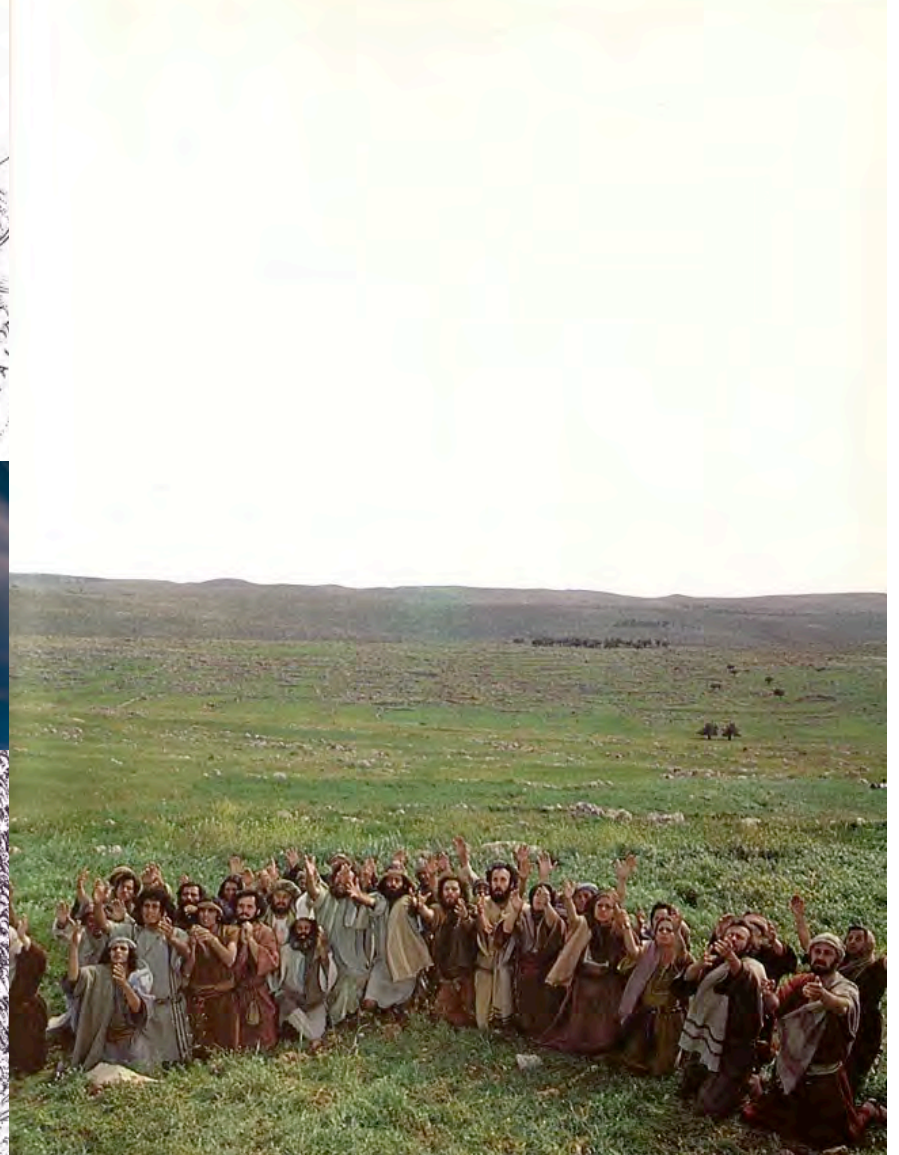


7. Passover

Ezek. 8:4; 9:3; 10:4; 10:18-19; 11:23

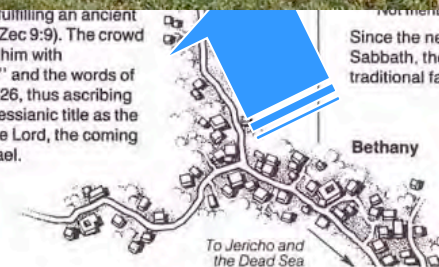
Luke 19:37; 24:50; Acts 1:10

Acts 1:11; Zech. 14:4; Ezek. 43:1-5



a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Zec 9:9). The crowd welcomed him with "Hosanna" and the words of Ps 118:25-26, thus ascribing to him a Messianic title as the agent of the Lord, the coming King of Israel.

Not mentioned in the Gospels. Since the next day was the Sabbath, the Lord spent the day in traditional fashion with his friends.



To Jericho and the Dead Sea

© Hugh Claycombe 1982

Two Angels (Acts 1:11)



Key Word
Sovereignty II

Key Verse

"But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).**

The Book of Acts in 3 Minutes
(TheChurchatBrookHills.mp4)

Occasion

122

Luke probably wrote at Theophilus' request:

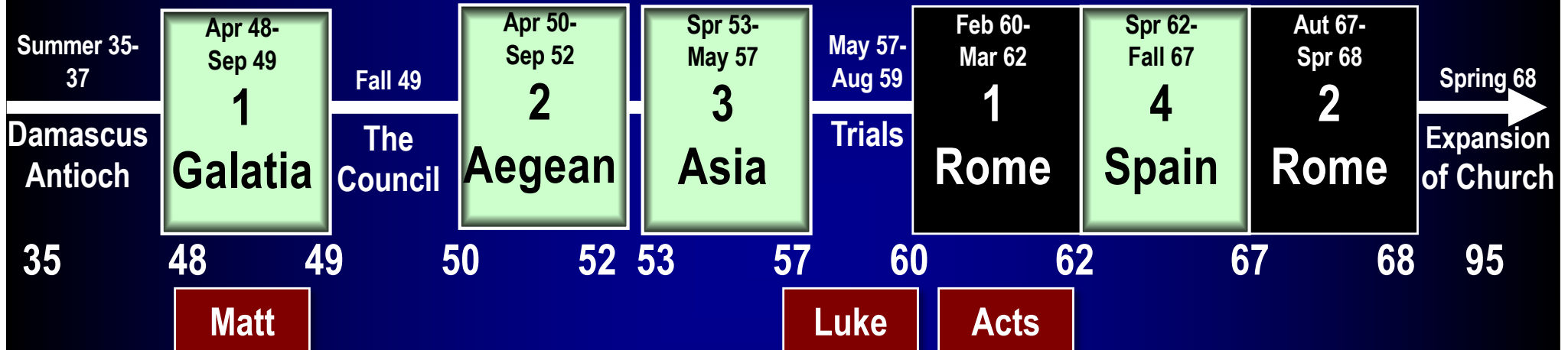
- To provide an **orderly account** of the life of Christ and the early history of the Church
- To **strengthen the wealthy Christian's faith** by showing that his faith rested on firm historical fact (Luke 1:3-4; cf. Acts 1:3)
- To explain to his wider Gentile audience that the **progress of the kingdom message was divinely directed**, not of human ingenuity and skill.

NT Overview (History)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Gospels & Acts

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

Gospels & Acts

Key Characteristics of Acts

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A. Kingdom



Start

"So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and **restore our kingdom**?" (Acts 1:6 NLT)



End

"For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹**boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him" (Acts 28:30-31 NLT).



Kingdom:

An All-Encompassing Theme

Genesis 1:26-28

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish ... birds ... livestock ... all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground...' God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"

Revelation 22:5

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."

The Bible's Theme: God extends His rule to man

Command

Covenants

Fulfillment

The Kingdom in Genesis 1

- **Uncreated God (1:1)**
- **Creation by Word alone (1:4)**
- **Creation with ease**
- **Sun and moon [gods] created (1:16)**
- **Shared rule with man (1:26)**



Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



22

Dr. Rick Griffith • BibleStudyDownloads.org

Kingdom Teaching...

Adam rules with God (Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:19)

Satan begins rule as god of this world (Gen. 3:15; 2 Cor. 4:4)

God covenants with Abraham to reestablish man's rule via Israel as a "kingdom of priests" (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:6)

Israel's failure to witness to nations as a kingdom of priests is judged via exile under foreign rule

Israel rejects Messiah's offer of kingdom (Matt. 12:41-42; 23:37-39)

Jesus extends His kingdom in mystery form to the Church (Matt. 13)

Christ subdues Israel's enemies and nation believes (Rom. 11:26-27)

Christ rules over everything with saints (Eph. 1:9-10; Rev. 20:1-6; 22:5b)

Fall of Man (Gen. 3)

Noahic Covenant

Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3

land

Land Covenant

Genesis 15:18 (cf. Deut. 30:1-10) promises:
•Land from Wadi of Egypt to Euphrates River (Isa. 27:12)
•Eternal possession of land (Gen. 17:8) after exile/restoration
•Whole world blessed via the land (Isa. 14:1-2)

ISRAEL
(National Focus)

CHURCH

The "New Man" (Eph. 2:15)

Israel judged for rejecting Messiah by dispersion away from land for 19 centuries (AD 70–AD 1948) but now partially restored (Ezek. 37:1-7)

MESSIANIC Millennial

Full restoration (Ezek. 37:8-28)
Jerusalem world capital (Isa. 2:1-5)

KINGDOM Eternal

New Jerusalem (Rev. 21–22)

seed

Davidic Covenant

2 Samuel 7:12-16 promises:
•Sons ("house" never wiped out)
•Kingdom (political dynasty)
•Throne (right to rule by descendants)
•Temple (son to build it)

Christ is Head over His Church, which is a spiritual temple (Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Cor. 6:16)

Christ reigns over the world (Isa. 11) with saints (Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6)

Christ hands kingdom over to Father (1 Cor. 15:24)

blessing

New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34 promises:
•Forgiveness
•Indwelling Spirit
•New heart, nature, mind
•Reunification of Israel and Judah
•No need for evangelism

Mosaic Law replaced with first three elements of the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; 2 Cor. 3:6)

All 5 elements fulfilled in national restoration (Zech. 8)

All things made new! (Rev. 21:5)

Mosaic Covenant

Temporary (Gal. 3:19) and conditional (Deut. 28) to reveal sin (Rom. 7:7) and regulate Israel (Gal. 3:23-25)

Law abolished, fulfilled, and replaced at the cross (Rom. 7:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:19-21; Heb. 8:13)

10th Edition
10 Nov 2020

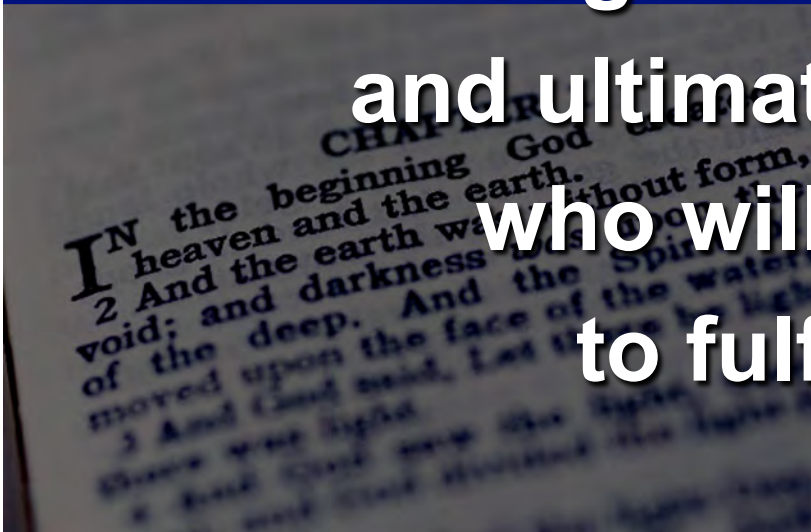
Scripture has a dual kingdom-covenant theme. Israel's role from Abraham to Christ expands to include the Church (continuity) yet the Church never replaces the nation as the "new Israel" (discontinuity). Israel will enjoy world prominence after trusting Christ at His second coming.

My View of the Bible's Theme

The Bible narrates

God's restoring man to participate in His kingdom rule for His own glory

mandated in Eden but lost in the Fall
and accomplished by redeeming man
through Israel as a kingdom of priests
and ultimately through the Messiah,
who will reign as Saviour and King
to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant



Kingdom in the NT

Unit One: The Kingdom is Introduced

Matthew: The Kingdom Presented and Rejected

Mark: Kingdom Life is Shown in Discipleship

Luke: The Universal Savior Advances the Kingdom

John: Deity Became Man to Bring Eternal Life

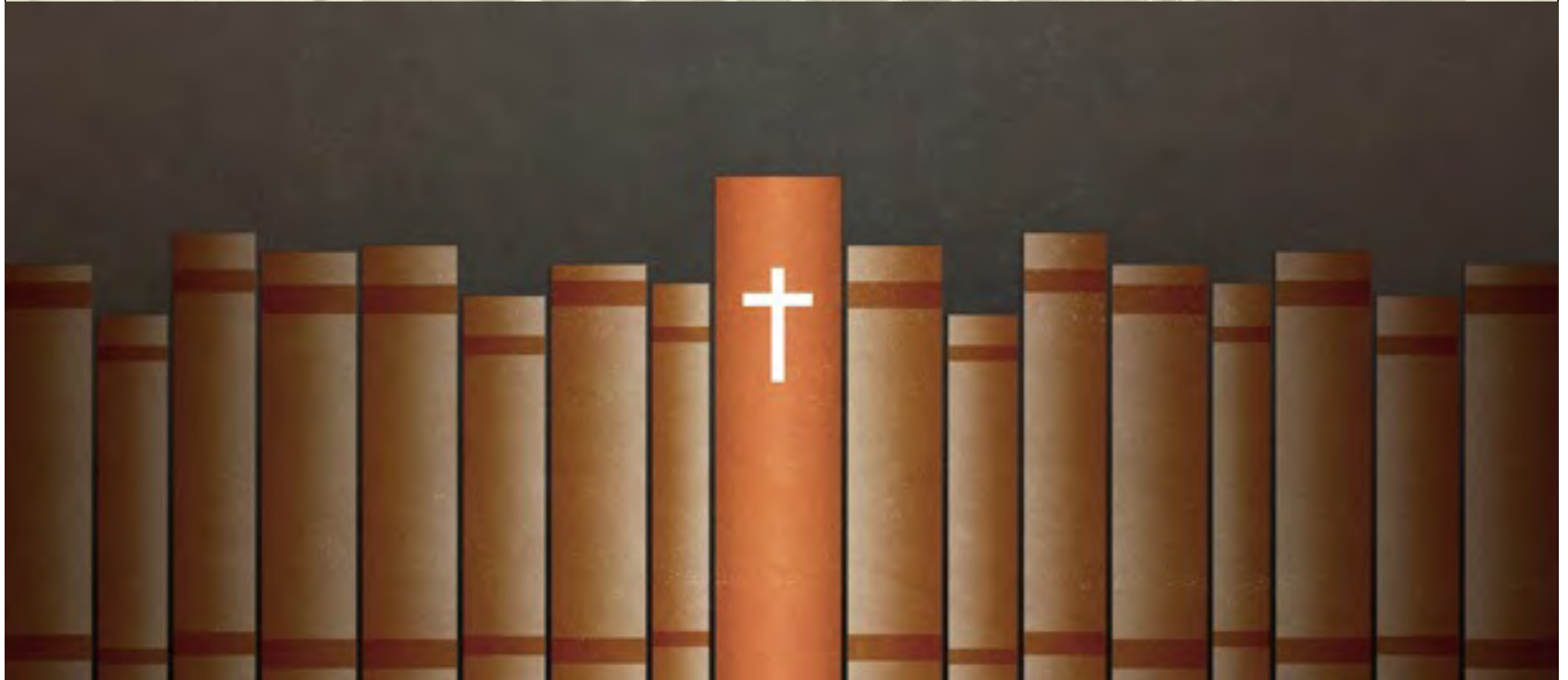
Unit Two: The Kingdom is Expanded

***Acts: The Universal Savior is Proclaimed in
Sovereign Kingdom Progress***



Key Characteristics of Acts

- A. Kingdom**
- B. Significance**
- C. Interpretation**



Interpreting Acts as a Narrative

1. Movement of (and between) scenes

- Plot—how does it build on the previous scene(s), and how does it move the story forward?
- Cause and effect—what causes a particular action, or what is the result of it?
- Conflicts—what are the tensions and resolutions?

2. Time

- Not necessarily chronological
- Frequency—repetition for emphasis
- Pace—length of description

3. Author

- "Omniscience" of narrator—represents God's view
- Gives "inside" information about characters
- Makes judgments of what is right and wrong
- Gives additional information to the story

Speaking in Tongues in Acts 123

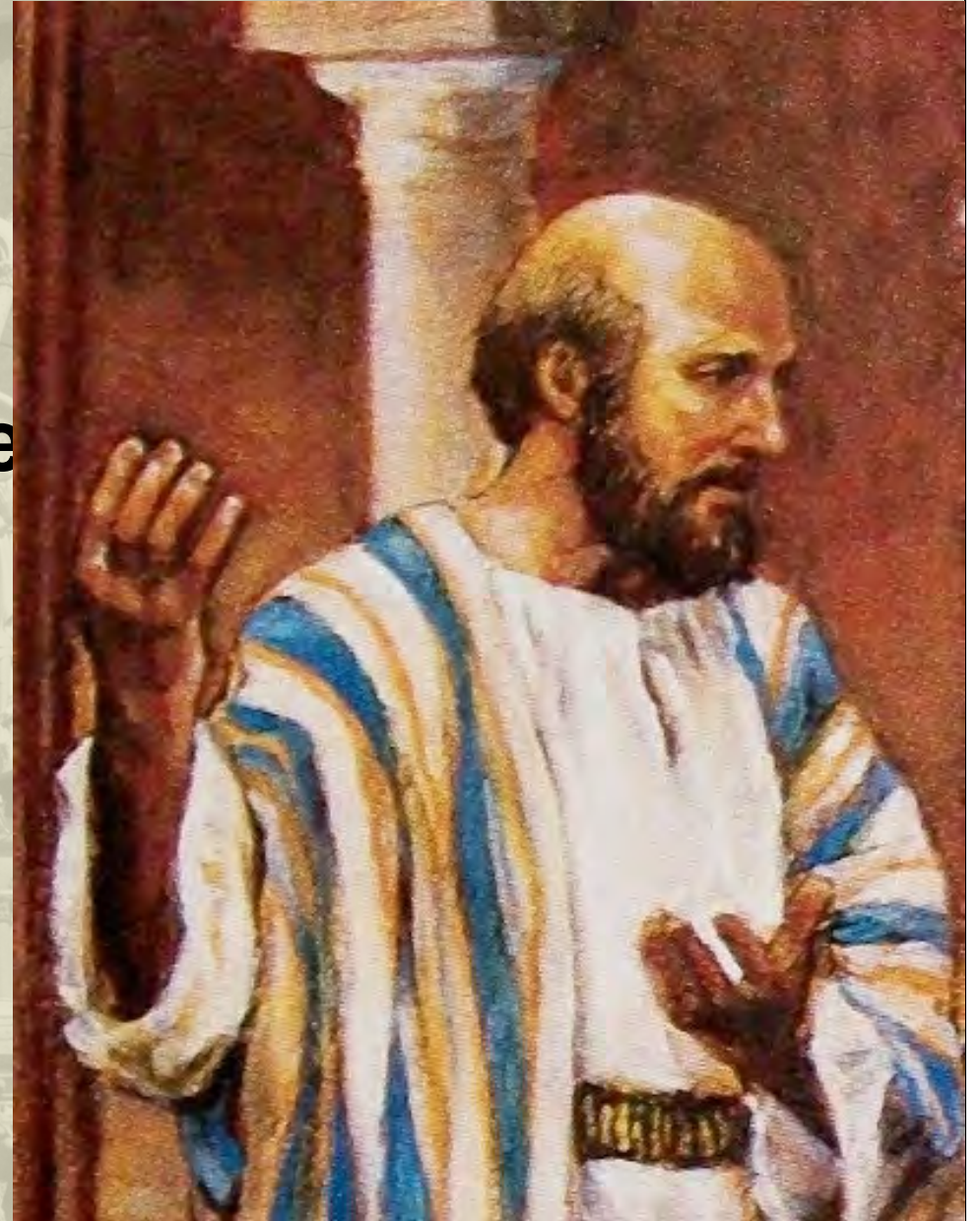
(Toussaint, *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2:408, adapted)



	Speakers	Audience	Related to Salvation	Purpose
2:1-4	Apostles+	Unsaved Jews at Pentecost	After salvation	Validate for Jews the fulfillment of Joel 2
8:14-17	Samaritans	Saved Jews doubting God's plan (Peter+)	After salvation	Validate for Jews God's acceptance of Samaritans
10:44-47	Gentiles (Cornelius+ others)	Saved Jews doubting God's plan (Peter+)	At salvation	Validate for Jews God's acceptance of Gentiles
19:1-7	OT believers in Messiah	Jews needing gospel message confirmed	At salvation	Validate for Jews God's message through Paul

Key Characteristics of Acts

- A. Kingdom**
- B. Significance**
- C. Interpretation**
- D. Superb Style**
- E. Universal message**
- F. Holy Spirit**
- G. Gentile**
- H. Comprehensive**
- I. Sermons**



Sermons in the Book of Acts

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	Acts 2:14-39	Acts 13:16-41	Acts 17:21-31
Speaker	Peter	Paul	Paul
Audience	Jews	Jews and God-fearing Gentiles	Pagan Gentiles
City	Jerusalem	Antioch	Athens
Place	House (v. 2) at the Temple (Luke 24:53)?	Synagogue	Aeropause Meeting
Type of Place	Religious	Religious	Secular
Time	Day of Pentecost	1st Missionary Journey	2nd Missionary Journey
Subject (theme)	Why do some miraculously speak unknown languages?	The fulfillment of Israel's national history	The reason idolatry is unreasonable
Complement	The Spirit indwells them through Jesus, their living Messiah	is in Jesus as our risen Savior who is worthy of our trust	is because the unknown God is Creator & Judge

Sermons in the Book of Acts

136

Short Idea	Jesus is Messiah (36)	Believe in Jesus (39)	Flee idolatry (30)
Application Structure	Simple—application at the end (38-39)	Cyclical—application in centre (26) & end (38-41)	Simple—application at the end (30-31)
Main Idea Structure	Inductive (36)	Inductive (23)-Deductive (24-37)	Deductive (24)
Type	Topical-Biblical	Expositional	Topical-Secular
Style	Extemporaneous	Narrative	Reasoned polemic
Introduction "Ho Hum!" (How he gets attention)	Cites a recent event: Spirit baptism (14-15)	Tells a familiar story: This identifies with listeners (16-22)	Notes local interest item: altar to an unknown god (22-23)
Thrust of Introduction	"Why do you think these people appear drunk?"	"I'm an informed Jew who also has longed for the Messiah"	"I have been observing your town"
How the Speaker Draws in His Listeners	Raises curiosity re: miraculous speaking in other languages	Raises curiosity re: how his Judaism differs from theirs	Raises curiosity about who the unknown God is

Sermons in the Book of Acts

136

Body	"The Spirit descended from the risen Messiah Jesus" (16-36)	"Jesus is Israel's risen Messiah" (23-37)	"Idolatry is incompatible with the living creator God" (24-28)
Illustration Sources	Scripture (Joel 2:28-32; Ps. 16:8-11; 110:1)	Scripture (Ps. 2:7; 16:10; Isa. 55:3; Hab. 1:5)	Secular (v. 28: poets Epimenides & Aratus)
Resurrection of Christ Noted	Extensive with scriptural support (24-32)	Extensive with scriptural support (30-37)	Brief & no mention of Jesus' name (31)
Conclusion	Main Idea: Jesus is the Messiah (36)	Scripture: Habakkuk 1:5 quoted: "I will do something that you won't believe" (41)	Burning questions: "Who will judge us?" and "Who is it who was raised?" (31)
Application	Indirect: Implications left to them: "How can we be saved?" (37)	Direct: "You can be forgiven" so "don't scoff" (38, 40)	Direct: God "commands all... everywhere to repent [of idolatry]" (30)
Result	3000 saved (41)	Invited again, some believed, he turned to Gentiles (42-48)	Many believed but others sneered (32-34)

The Kerygma ("Proclamation") of the Early Church

Resurrection!

H. Wayne House,
Chronological Charts of the NT

1. The promises by God made in the Old Testament have now been fulfilled with the coming of Jesus the Messiah (Acts 2:30; 3:19, 24; 10:43; 26:6-7, 22; Rom. 1:2-4; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:18-19).
2. Jesus was anointed by God at His baptism as Messiah (Acts 10:38).
3. Jesus began His ministry in Galilee after His baptism (Acts 10:37).
4. He conducted a beneficent ministry, doing good and performing mighty works by the power of God (Mark 10:45; Acts 2:22; 10:38).
5. The Messiah was crucified according to the purpose of God (Mark 10:45; John 3:16; Acts 2:23; 3:13-15, 18; 4:11; 10:39; 26:23; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:3; Gal. 1:4; Heb. 1:3; 1 Peter 1:2, 19; 3:18; 1 John 4:10).
6. He was raised from the dead and appeared to His disciples (Acts 2:24, 31-32; 3:15, 26; 10:40-41; 17:31; 26:23; Rom. 8:34; 10:9; 1 Cor. 15:4-7, 12ff.; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Peter 1:2, 21; 3:18, 21).
7. Jesus was exalted by God and given the name "Lord" (Acts 2:25-29, 33-36; 3:13; 10:36; Rom. 8:34; 10:9; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22).
8. He gave the Holy Spirit to form the new community of God (Acts 1:8; 2:14-18, 33, 38-39; 10:44-47; 1 Peter 1:12).
9. He will come again for judgment and the restoration of all things (Acts 3:20-21; 10:42; 17:31; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; 1 Thess. 1:10).
10. All who hear the message should repent and be baptized (Acts 2:21, 38; 3:19; 10:43, 47-48; 17:30; 26:20; Rom. 1:17; 10:9; 1 Peter 3:21).

This schema served as the essential proclamation of the early church, though different authors of the New Testament may leave out a portion or vary in emphasis on particulars in the kerygma. Compare the entire Gospel of Mark, which closely follows the Petrine aspect of the kerygma.

Key Characteristics of Acts

- A. Kingdom**
- B. Significance**
- C. Interpretation**
- D. Superb Style**
- E. Universal message**
- F. Holy Spirit**
- G. Gentile**
- H. Comprehensive**
- I. Sermons**
- J. Contrasts with Luke**



Comparing Luke & Acts

Chapters

Verses

Verses per Chapter

Time Period Covered

Content

*Kingdom Message
from...*

Luke

24

1150

48

**5 BC-AD 33
(37 yrs.)**

**Life of the
Christ**

**Jews to
Gentiles**

Acts

28

988

35

**AD 33-62
(30 yrs.)**

**Life of the
Church**

**Jews to
Gentiles**



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K. Journeys



Paul's Missionary Journeys

124

(Furloughs in parentheses)

	<i>Area</i>	<i>Acts Reference</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Yrs</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Men with Paul</i>
1	Galatia	12:25–14:28	April 48- Sept. 49	1.5	Galatians	Barnabas, Mark
				(.5)		
2	Aegean	15:36–18:22	April 50- Sept. 52	2.5	1, 2 Thess.	Silas, Timothy, Luke
				(.5)		
3	Ephesus & Aegean	18:23–21:16	Spring 53- May 57	4	1, 2 Cor., Romans	Timothy, Luke, Titus, Erastus, Aristarchus, Sopater, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, Trophimus, Sosthenes
				(0)		
*	Jerusalem, Caesarea	21:26–26:13	May 57- Feb. 60	2.8	None	Timothy, Luke
				(0)		
*	Rome	27:1–28:31	Feb 60- Spring 62	2.2	Eph., Col., Phil., Philem.	Timothy, Luke

Key Characteristics of Acts

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- H. Comprehensive
- I. Sermons
- J. Contrasts with Luke
- K. Journeys
- L. Gospel Progress



***GOOD NEWS
ON THE MOVE***

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

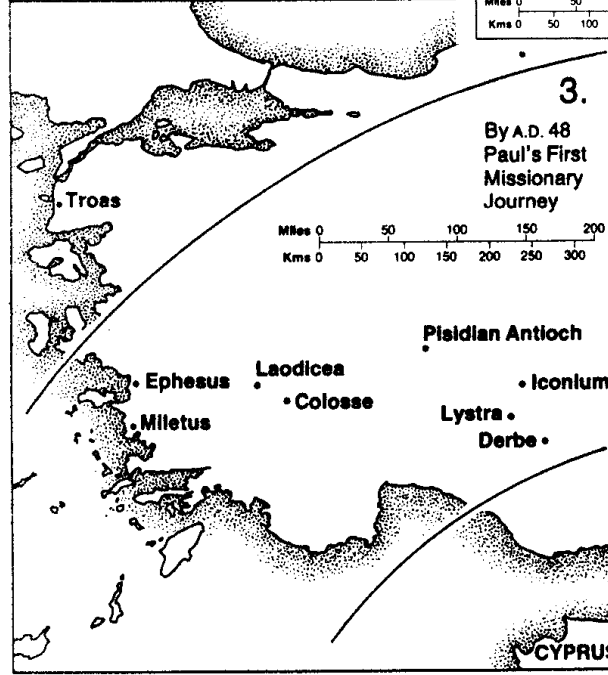
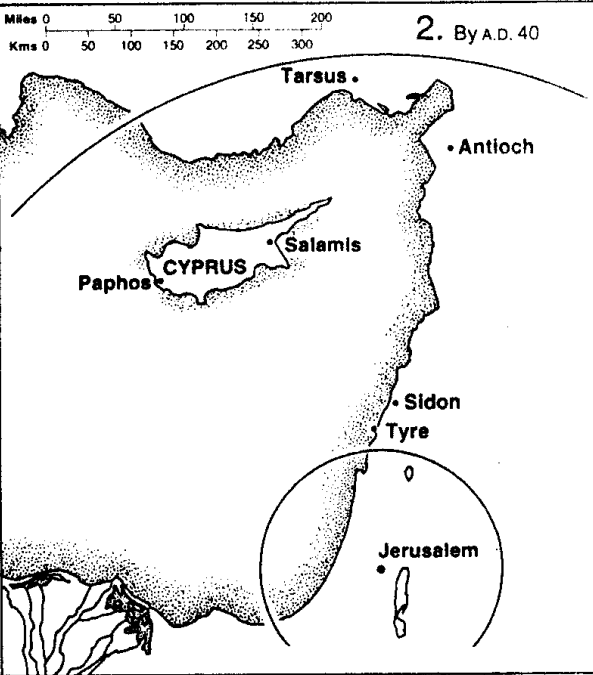
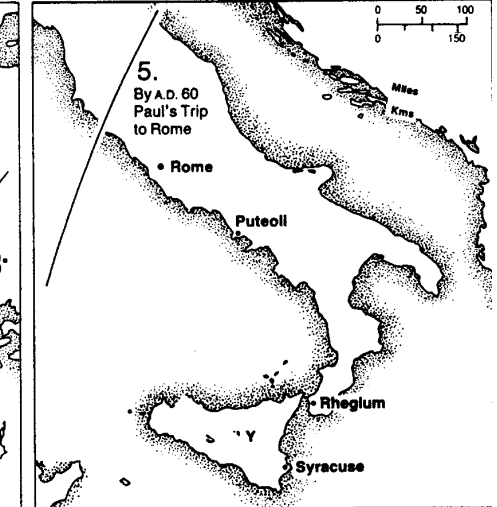
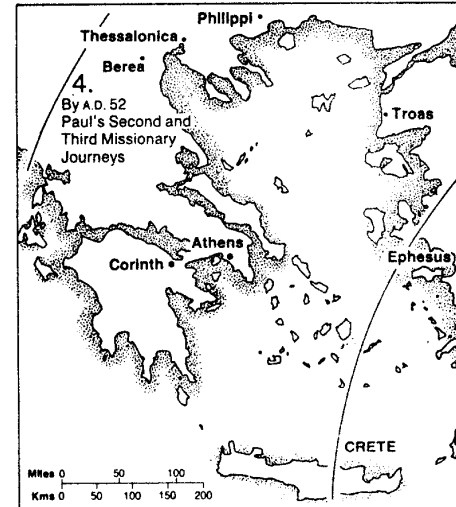
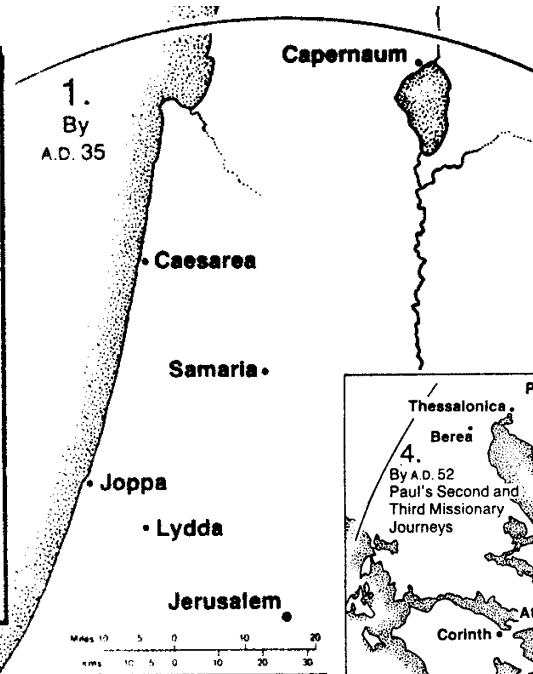
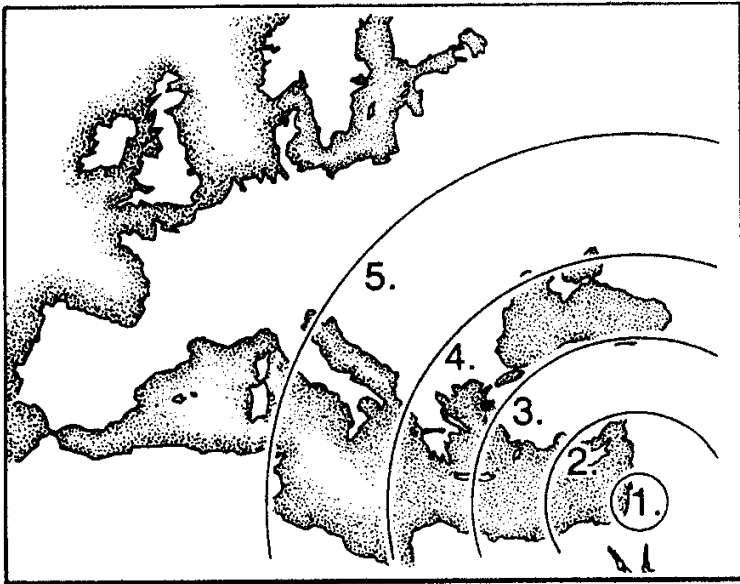
The progress of the gospel in Acts is seen by contrasting the beginning and the end:

	Acts 1	Acts 28
AD	33	62
Church	Non-existent	Thriving
Composition of believers	100% Jewish	Mostly Gentiles
Location	Jerusalem	Rome
Central Figure	Peter (narrow ministry)	Paul (broad ministry)

Acts 1:8 NAU

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and ***even to the remotest part of the earth.***"





The Spread of the Gospel



Progress Reports

125

Key Verse: 1:8

1. 2:47b

2. 6:7

3. 8:40

4. 9:31

5. 12:24

6. 16:5

7. 19:20

8. 28:30-31

Why end this way?

1:1–6:7

6:8–8:40

Acts 9–28



End of the
Earth

Adapted from Stanley D. Toussaint, *BKC*; Jeremy Chew, *EAST*

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- J. Contrasts with Luke**
- K. Journeys**
- L. Gospel Progress**
- M. Witnessing**



Universal Savior Proclaimed in Sovereign Kingdom Progress

Jerusalem	Judea and Samaria	Uttermost Part
1:1–6:7	6:8–8:40	Chapters 9–28
Jews	Samaritans (mixed breeds)	Gentiles
AD 33-35 (2 years)	AD 35 (a few months)	AD 35-62 (27 years)

Peter		Stephen & Philip		Paul	
Establishing Home Base		Nearby Outreach		Missionary Journeys	
Established 1–2	Expands 3:1–6:7	Stephen 6:8–8:3	Philip 8:4-40	Damascus 9:1-31	to Rome 28:30-31
Rome					
AD 62 (completed after Paul's house arrest)					

Summary Statement

God's ***sovereignly directed progress of the kingdom message*** from Jerusalem Jews to Roman Gentiles in early church history proves ***God as responsible*** for His Church and exhorts believers to ***witness everywhere.***

Application

How is God extending his kingdom message through you?

How are you fitting into His overall purpose to spread the gospel throughout the entire earth?

The Structure of Acts

125

1:1–6:7

Jerusalem

1:1–2:47

The beginning of the church

3:1–6:7

The church and the Jewish authorities

6:8–8:40

Judea and Samaria

6:8–8:3

Stephen—cause

8:4–40

Philip—effect

9–28

Uttermost Part

9:1–31

Damascus

9:32–12:24

Antioch

12:25–16:5

Galatia

16:6–19:20

Aegean Area

19:21–28:31

Rome: Aegean & Captivities



Key Characteristics of Acts

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- J. Contrasts with Luke**
- K. Journeys**
- L. Gospel Progress**
- M. Witnessing**
- N. Opposition**



God's Plan: The church didn't follow...

Acts 1:8 so God caused... **Acts 8:1**

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and *even to the remotest part of the earth*."

"Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of **Judea and Samaria**."

The Counter Story

1. Imprisonment

- 4:1-4; 12:3-5; 16:16-40; 24:24-27

2. Persecution

- 5:17-42; 8:1-3

3. Arrest

- 6:8-15; 21:27-36

4. Death

- 7:54-60; 12:1-2

5. Shipwreck

- 27:13-44

6. Opposition

- 9:23-25; 13:4-12; 17:1-9; 19:21-41;
23:12-22; 25:1-3



CHURCH CRISES: DANGEROUS OPPORTUNITIES!

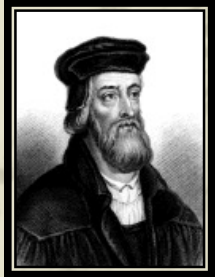
The Chinese word for "crisis" consists of two characters: one for "danger" and the other for "opportunity." Indeed, every church crisis involves a dangerous opportunity to bring either great glory or great shame to the name of Christ.

危机

Danger

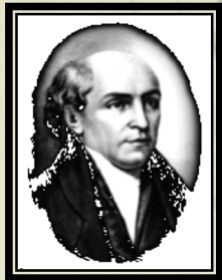
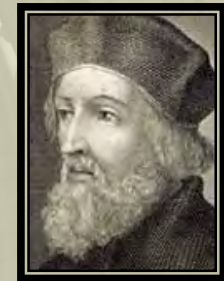
Opportunity

DANGEROUS OPPORTUNITIES!



John Wycliffe (1329-1384) translated the Bible until the day he died despite the church's disapproval.

The martyrdom of John Hus (1373-1415) caused a revival in Bohemia, which became a mission-active church.



William Carey (1761-1834) was opposed in England and in India, but he launched the modern missions movement.

The Chinese Church went underground during the Cultural Revolution killings (1966-1976), but it grew even faster.



Who was Luke?

Medical doctor

Traveling companion of Paul

Articulate historian & writer



Common Authorship of Luke-Acts

121

Both dedicated to Theophilus

Acts 1:1 refers to "the first account"

Similar language (medical terms)

Same theme (sovereignty)

Chronological orientation

External (Outside Acts)

Earliest Evidence in Canons:

Anti-Marcionite Prologue (AD 150-180)

Muratorian Canon (AD 160-200)

Church Fathers (late 2nd cent.):

Irenaeus (AD 185)

Clement of Alexandria (AD 155-216)

Internal (Compared to Gospel)

Both dedicated to Theophilus

Acts 1:1 refers to "the first account"

Similar language (medical terms)

Same theme (sovereignty)

Chronological orientation

Internal (Within Acts)

Four "we-sections" (traveled with Paul)

The only traveling companions not named in these sections are Titus and Luke

But Titus has never been seriously considered as the author of Acts

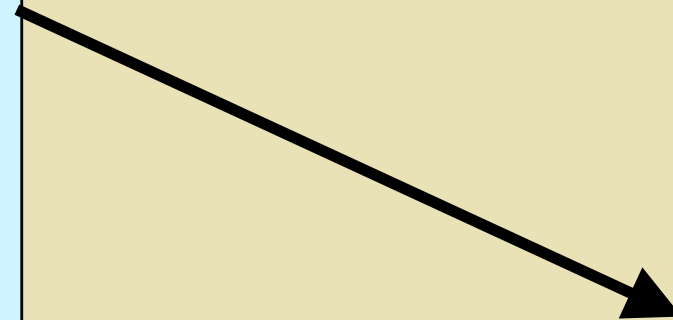
Date

Most likely date of composition is AD 62

Origin

No one knows for certain where Luke wrote this account.

Suggestions include Rome, Antioch, Ephesus, Asia Minor, and Achaia.



Recipients

Theophilus (1:1), a man whose name means "lover of God."

Occasion

Luke probably wrote at Theophilus' request, but in any event he purposed to strengthen the wealthy Christian's faith by showing that his faith rested on firm historical fact (Luke 1:3-4). Perhaps even more significantly Luke sought to explain to his wider Gentile audience that the progress of the kingdom message was divinely directed, not of human ingenuity and skill.

Luke's Purpose in Writing

122

Conciliation

Ecclesiastical

Soteriological / Evangelistic

Instructional/Edification

Historical Narrative

Apologetic

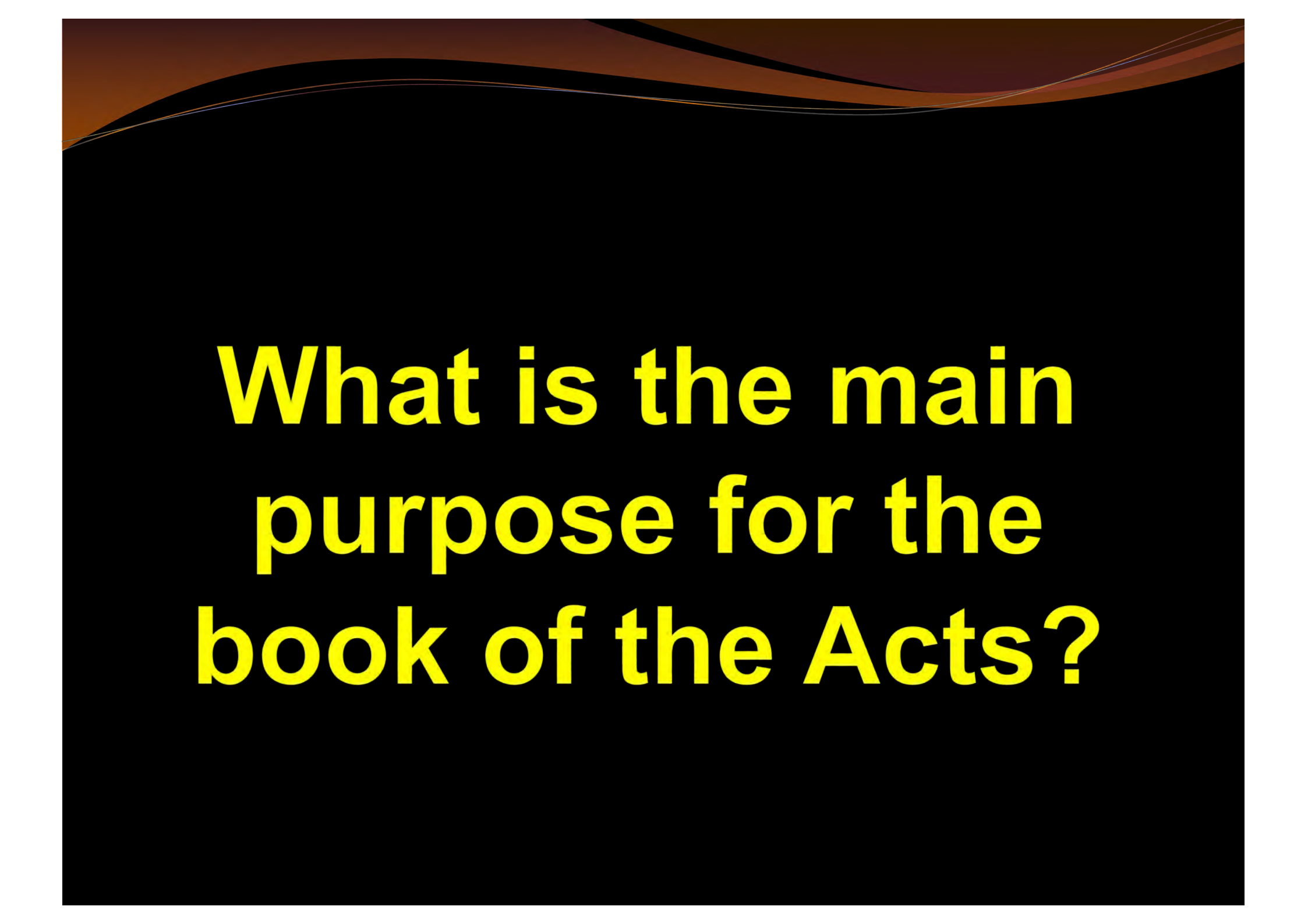
Kingdom



Ken Hornok, ThM

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The
Book of
ACTS



**What is the main
purpose for the
book of the Acts?**

**What if we did not
have the book of
the Acts??**

**What if we did not
have the book of
the Acts??**

**The Canon would be
incomplete and confusing if it
went from the Apostle John to
Romans (Apostle Paul)
without historical
background.**

“But it is Luke that we have to thank for the coherent record of Paul’s apostolic activity. Without [Acts], we should be incalculably poorer. Even with it, there is much in Paul’s letters that we have difficulty in understanding; how much more there would be if we had no book of Acts.”

F. F. Bruce , *The Book of the Acts*, NICNT, 27

**What was Luke's
purpose in writing the
book of the Acts?**

POSSIBLE REASONS:

Historical Reasons

1. Report on the **establishment** and expansion of the Church.



Church begins in Jerusalem

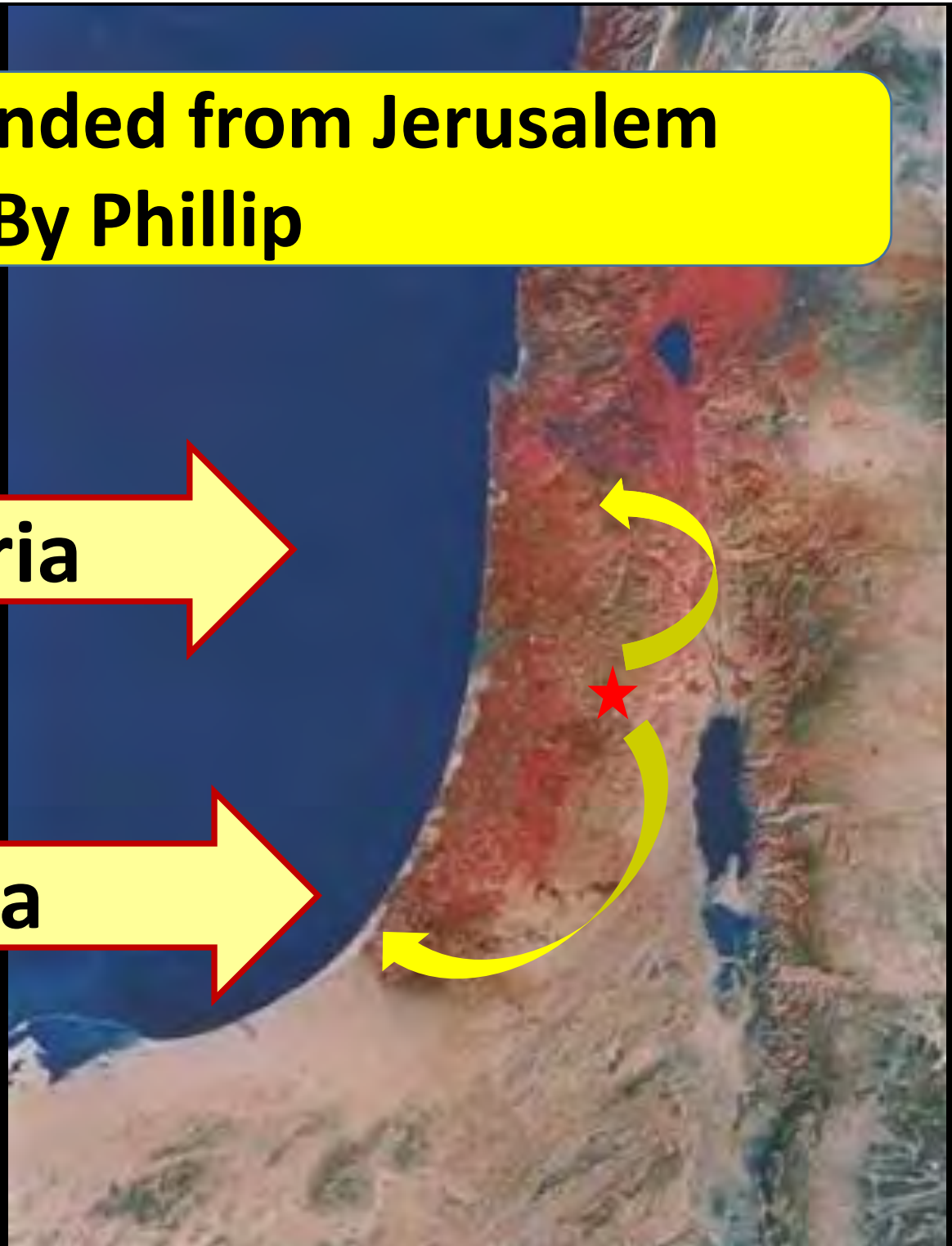
Church expanded from Jerusalem By Phillip

1

Samaria

2

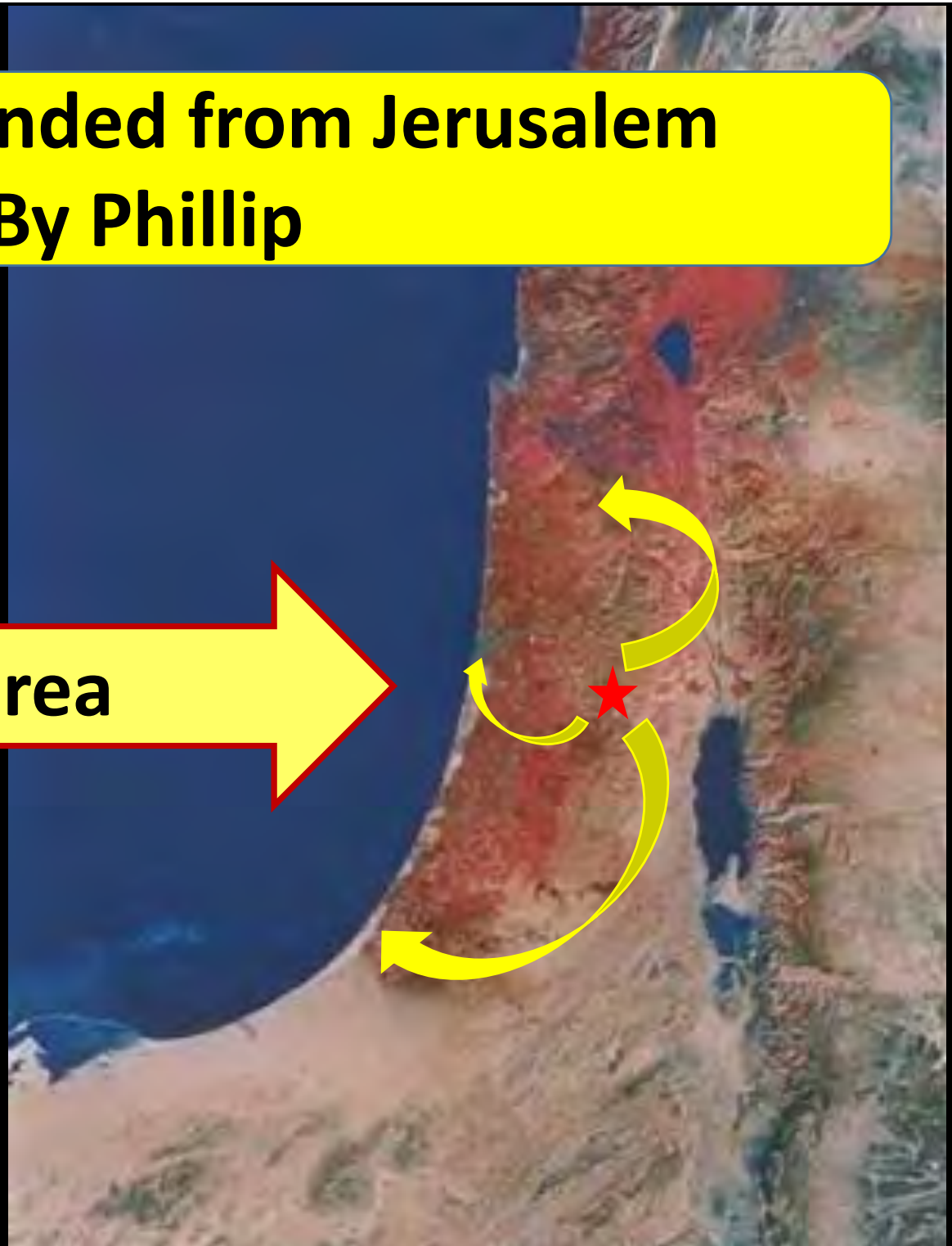
Gaza



Church expanded from Jerusalem By Phillip

3

Caesarea



A satellite map of the Mediterranean Sea and surrounding landmasses, including Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. A blue circle highlights the region of the Levant, specifically the area around modern-day Syria and Lebanon. A dark blue rounded rectangle is overlaid on the bottom right of the map, containing white and yellow text.

First Missions Trip
Acts 13–14
Spring 48 - Fall 49



Second Missions Trip

Acts 16–18

Spring 50 – Fall 52

Third Missions Trip
Acts 19–20
Spring 53 – Spring 57

Historical Reasons

1. Report on the **establishment** and expansion of the Church.
2. Report on the increasing political and religious **opposition** to the Church.
3. Explain the growing rejection of the Jews and the growing **acceptance** of the Gentiles toward the gospel.

Theological Reasons

1. Report on the Sovereignly directed **progression** of the message regarding the risen Lord and the Kingdom of God.
2. Show the **shifts** regarding Soteriology and Pneumatology.

Transitional Reasons

- 1. Provide rationale for a total move from Jewish emphasis to Gentile emphasis.**

Chapter 2

*"What shall
we do?"*

Jews respond
to Peter's
message

Jerusalem

Had a great
dispute among
themselves

Jews depart

Rome

Chapter 28

Chapter 2

*"What shall
we do?"*

Jews respond
to Peter's
message

Jerusalem

*"and they
will hear it"*

Gentiles
respond to
Paul's message

Rome

Chapter 28

Transitional Reasons:

- 1. Provide rationale for a total **move** from Jewish emphasis to Gentile emphasis.**
- 2. Explain why the Church begins with the Twelve in Jerusalem with **Peter** and ends with **Paul** in Rome.**

Practical Reasons

- 1. Show how **God worked** through the lives of people in the early days of the Church.**
- 2. Show the **victories and setbacks** of the early proclamation of the gospel.**

Other Possible Reasons:

- 1. Principles for church growth.**
- 2. Guidelines for decision making.**
{{not reliable}}
- 3. Instructions how to solve doctrinal differences.**
- 4. Insights as a missions manual.**

**Most preaching is done in these areas
(regrettably).**

These are applications, not purposes for Acts.

Potential Outlines of the Book of Acts:

- I. Witness in Jerusalem (1:1–6:7)**
- II. Witness in all Judea and Samaria (6:8–9:31)**
- III. Witness to the Ends of the Earth (9:32–28:31)**
-BKC/Nelson SB/MacArthur SB/Ryrie SB

- I. Peter and the Beginnings of the Church in Palestine (1-12)**
- II. Paul and the Expansion of the Church from Antioch to Rome (13-28)**
-NIV SB

Intro: Constitutive Events of the Christian Mission

- I. The Christian Mission to the Jewish World (2:42-12:24)**
- II. The Christian Mission to the Gentile World (12:25–28:31)**
- The EBC

Suggested Outline of the Acts

**Panel I – Church founded in Jerusalem
1:1–6:7**

**Panel II – Church expanded from
Jerusalem – 6:8–9:31**

**Panel III – Climax of Peter's apostleship
9:32–12:24**

**Panel IV – Establishment of Paul's
apostleship – 12:25–16:5**

**Panel V – Jesus Christ glorified among
the Gentiles – 16:6–19:20**

**Panel IV – Testimony of Christ carried to
Rome – 19:21–28:31**

Progress Reports in the Acts

6:7 – *"The word of God increased
...disciples multiplied greatly..."*

9:31 – *"Church....was multiplied"*

12:24 – *"The word of God grew and
multiplied"*

16:5 – *Churches were strengthened...and
increased"*

19:20 – *"The word of the Lord grew and
prevailed"*

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the Gentiles – 16:6–19:20**

**Panel IV – Testimony of Christ carried to
Rome – 19:21–28:31**

What could be
Luke's *Primary* purpose
in writing the book of
the Acts under God's
guidance?

Apologetic Reasons:

- 1. Luke explains and defends the expansion of a new movement as being the work of God.**
- 2. Luke, writing to Theophilus, is defending the ministry of Paul.**
- 3. Luke shows that Paul's credentials as an Apostle are in the tradition of the Twelve, especially Peter.**
- 4. Luke points out the strong parallel between Christ and Paul.**

Luke seeks to show Paul's credentials—that he is continuing the ministry of the risen Lord and that (like Peter) Paul's ministry and writings as an Apostle can be trusted.

The Acts

1:1-3 *The former account I made, O Theophilus of all that Jesus began both to do and teach... He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many unmistakable proofs...* (NKJV)

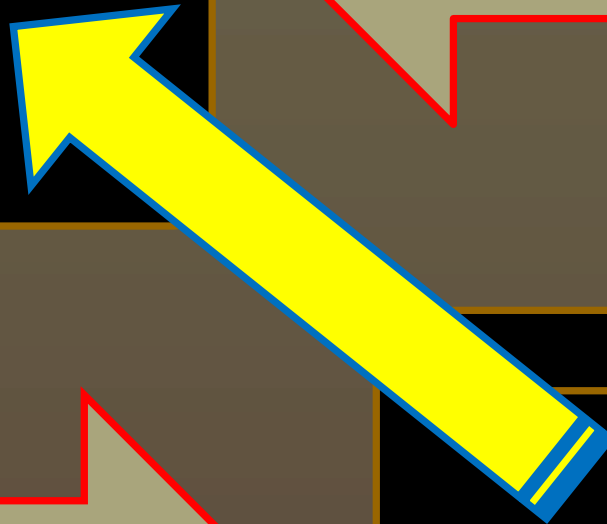
Acts is Volume 2 of a Two-Volume set

Luke

Volume I

Volume II

The Acts



Luke

1:3-4 *...having investigated everything carefully...so that you might know the exact truth (certainty) about the things you have been taught.* (NASB)

Luke is volume 1 of a Two-Volume set

**The writings of Luke
(Luke/Acts) comprise almost
30% of the material in the New
Testament, exceeding both
Paul's and John's
writings in size**

Possible revised title to the book:

Certain Acts of *Certain* Apostles

Certain Acts of Certain Apostles

Chapter 1 - 11 are mentioned + replacement

Chapter 2 - Peter + 11

Chapter 3 - Peter & John

Chapter 4 - Peter

Chapter 5 - Peter + Apostles

Chapter 6 - The 12

Chapter 8 - Peter & John + Apostles

Chapter 9 - Peter

Chapter 10 - Peter

Chapter 11 - Apostles + Peter

Chapter 12 - James & Peter

Chapter 15 - Peter + Apostles

Certain Acts of Certain Apostles

Chapter 1 - 11 are mentioned + replacement

Chapter 2 – Peter + 11

Chapter 3 – Peter & John

Chapter 4 – Peter

Chapter 5 – Peter + Apostles

Chapter 6 – The 12

Chapter 9 – Peter

Chapter 10 – Peter

Chapter 11 – Apostles + Peter

Chapter 12 – James & Peter

“And he departed and went to another place” 12:17

Chapter 15 – Peter + Apostles



*Significance of
Peter:*

**He breaks
through the
Gentile barrier**

Certain Acts of Certain Apostles

Chapter 8 – Saul

Chapter 9 – Saul

Chapter 11 – Saul

Chapter 12 – Saul

Chapter 13–28 – Paul and his activities are mentioned in every chapter in great detail.

“Then Paul...received all who came to him...preaching ...and teaching...no one forbidding him” 28:30-31

1

Peter

15

Certain Acts of Certain Apostles

8

Paul

28

The “*we/us*” sections of the book

16:10-12 – Troas & Philippi

20:5–28:16 – Philippi – Rome

**Luke has direct contact with
Paul on the first part of his 2nd
MJ and from end of his 3rd MJ
until he arrives in Rome**

**Luke is Paul’s most loyal
companion**

Paul's Mission Trips
Chapters 13–20
10 years

Paul's Arrest & Imprisonment
Chapters 13–20
5 years

Luke seeks to show Paul's credentials—that he is continuing the ministry of the risen Lord and that his ministry and writings as an Apostle can be trusted.

**How does Luke
demonstrate the legitimacy
of Paul's apostleship?**

**18 parallels to
Peter**

Parallels between Peter and Paul

Peter

4:8

8:14-17

10:25-26

Paul

13:9

19:6

14:11-15

Filled with
the Spirit

Conferred
the HS

Refused
worship

Parallels between Peter and Paul

Peter

4:3,5:18,12:3

12:6-11

10:10-16

Paul

16:23,21:27

16:25-34

16:6-10

Jailed
frequently

Delivered
from prison

Experienced
Visions

Parallels between Peter and Paul

Peter

5:15-16

Gospels

4:5, 5:29

Paul

16:18, 19:12

13:9

22:30, 26:1

Cast out
demons

Name
changed

Defense before
religious leaders

Parallels between Peter and Paul

Peter

3:1-10

Healed lame
man

Paul

14:8-10

5:15-16

Extraordinary
miracles

19:11-12

15:7-11

Spoke at the
Jerusalem Council

15:12

Parallels between Peter and Paul

Peter

8:9-24

9:36-41

2:14-41

Confronted
Sorcerer

Raised a
dead person

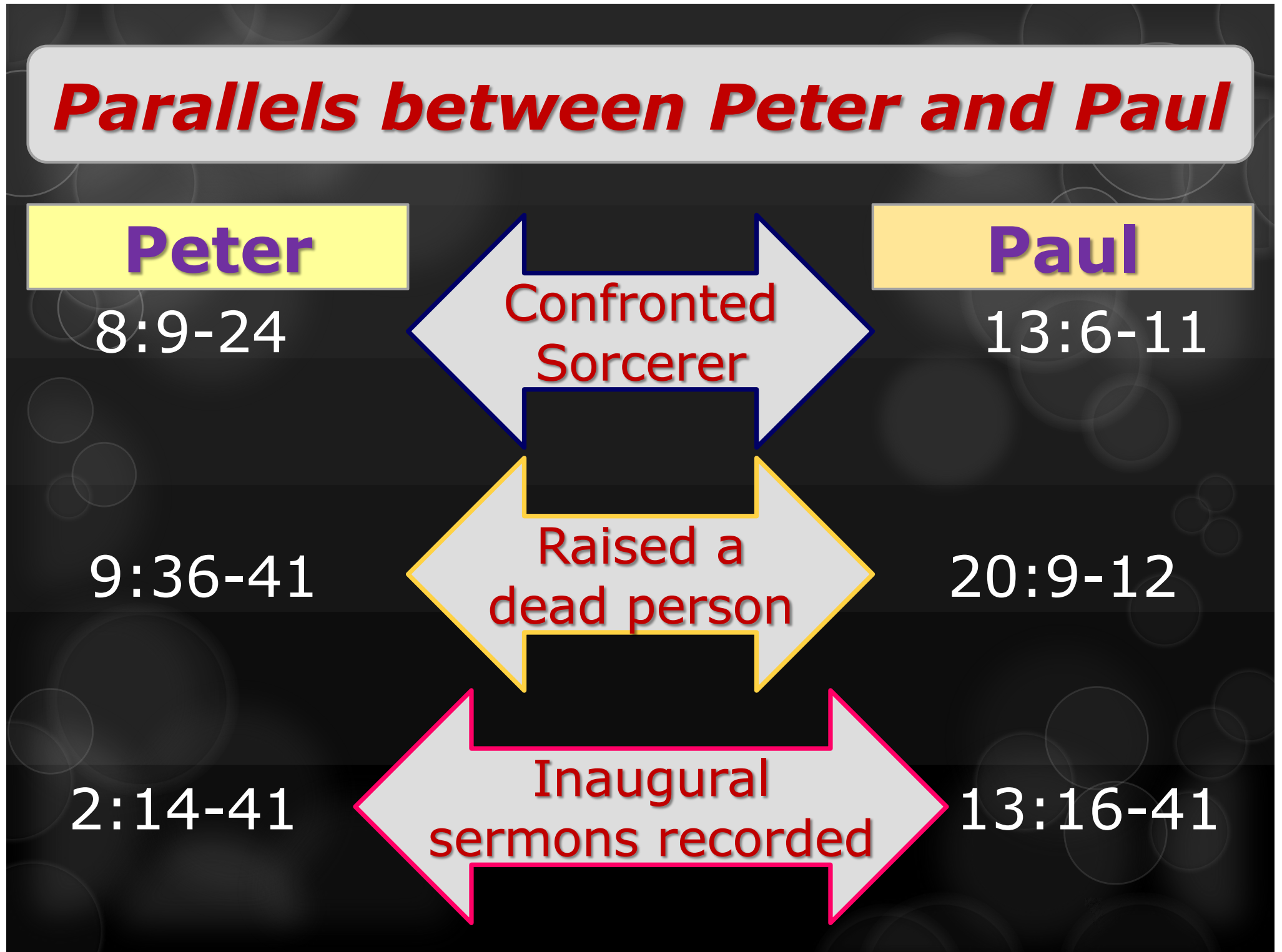
Inaugural
sermons recorded

Paul

13:6-11

20:9-12

13:16-41



Parallels between Peter and Paul

Peter

5:33

Plots to kill
them

5:40-41

Beaten and
Rejoiced

5:17

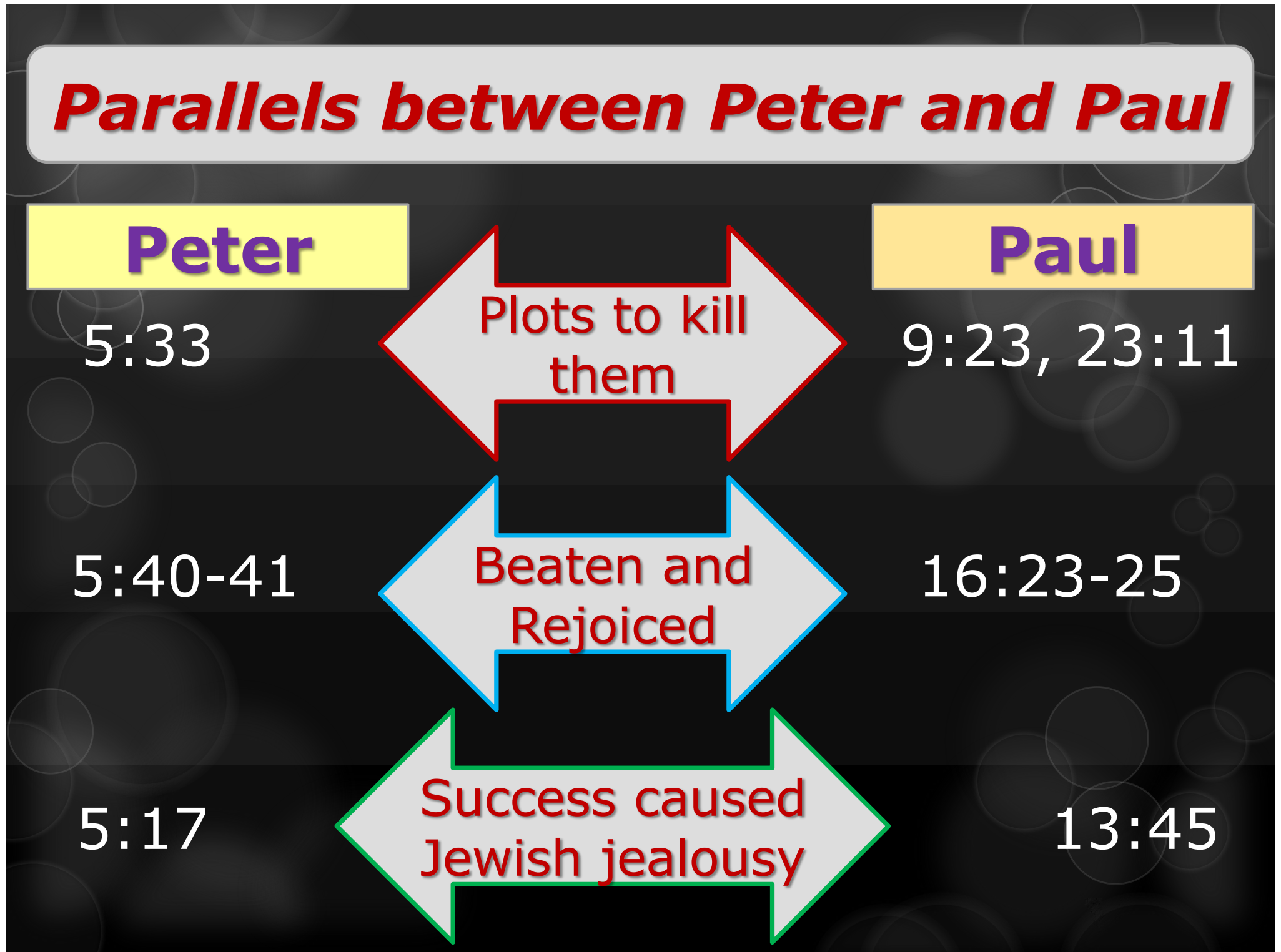
Success caused
Jewish jealousy

Paul

9:23, 23:11

16:23-25

13:45



1

Peter

15

Certain Acts of Certain Apostles

8

Paul

28

Life & Letters of the Apostle Paul

**Paul's
Conversion**
c. AD 34-35



9

**Paul's
Mission Trips**
c. AD 47-57



13–20

ACTS

**Paul's Arrest &
Imprisonment**
c. AD 58-61



21–28

Galatians
1 & 2 Thessalonians
1 & 2 Corinthians
Romans



Ephesians
Colossians
Philemon
Philippians



**By the time the events of Acts conclude,
the Apostle will have written a total of 10
letters that will be collected as inspired
Scripture.**

Luke and Paul are responsible for between 55-60% of the New Testament literature. During the time they spent together, one wonders if they talked about what it was like to write Scripture?

Paul is Christ-like following the same path

He steadfastly set
His face to go to
Jerusalem 9:51

They cried out...
“Away with this man”
23:18

Christ in Luke's Gospel

Paul in the Acts

“I go bound in the
spirit to Jerusalem”
20:22

Multitude cried out
“Away with Him”
21:35

Paul's Mission Trips
Chapters 13–20

Paul's Confinement & Defense
Chapters 21–28

Paul is Christ-like following the same path

**Christ's
Arrest**

**Before religious
leaders**

**Before Political
Leaders**
Herod/Pilate

Luke 22:63-71

23:1-25

**Paul's
Arrest**

**Before religious
leaders**

**Before Political
Leaders**
Felix/Festus/Agrippa

Acts 22:1-23:10

24:1-26:32

**Luke seeks to show that Paul's
determination to fulfill the will of God by testifying in
Jerusalem
parallels that of Christ in fulfilling
the will of God as a
Sacrifice for sin in Jerusalem.**

In both cases they are rejected by the Jews

**Luke stops short of making a
full comparison of Christ
and Paul by not recording
Paul's death**

*What is the
purpose of
Acts 27?*

Ken Hornok, ThM

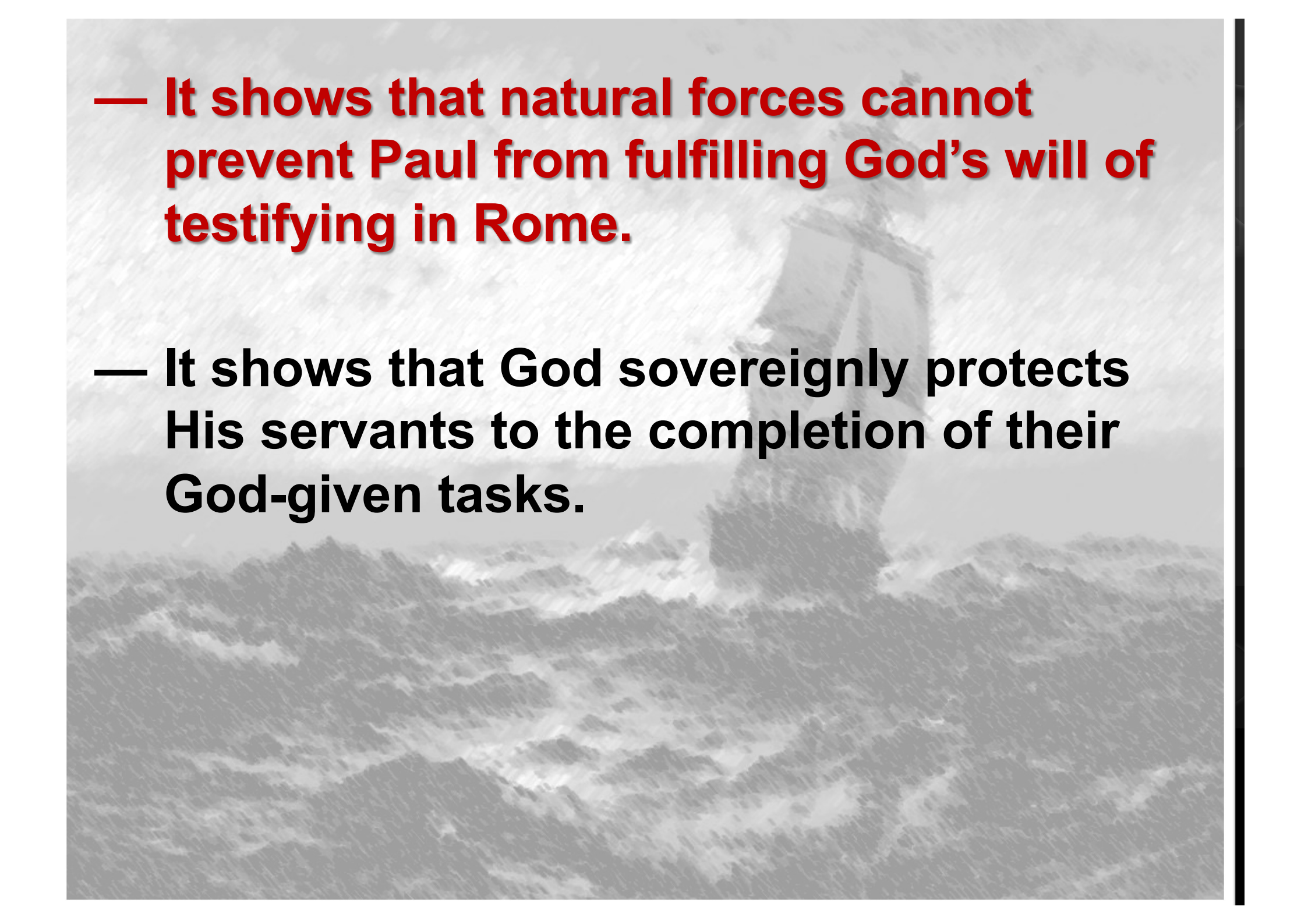
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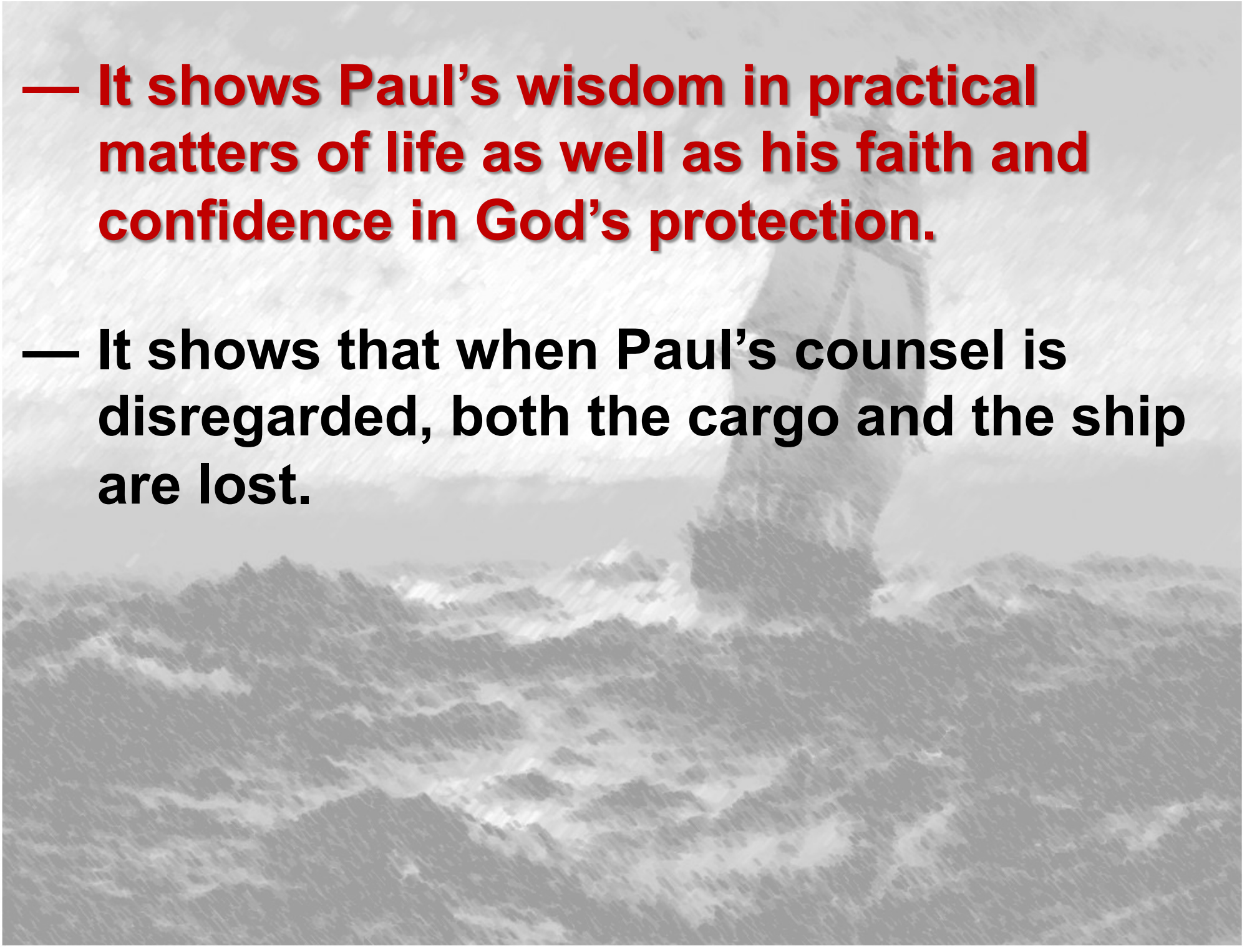


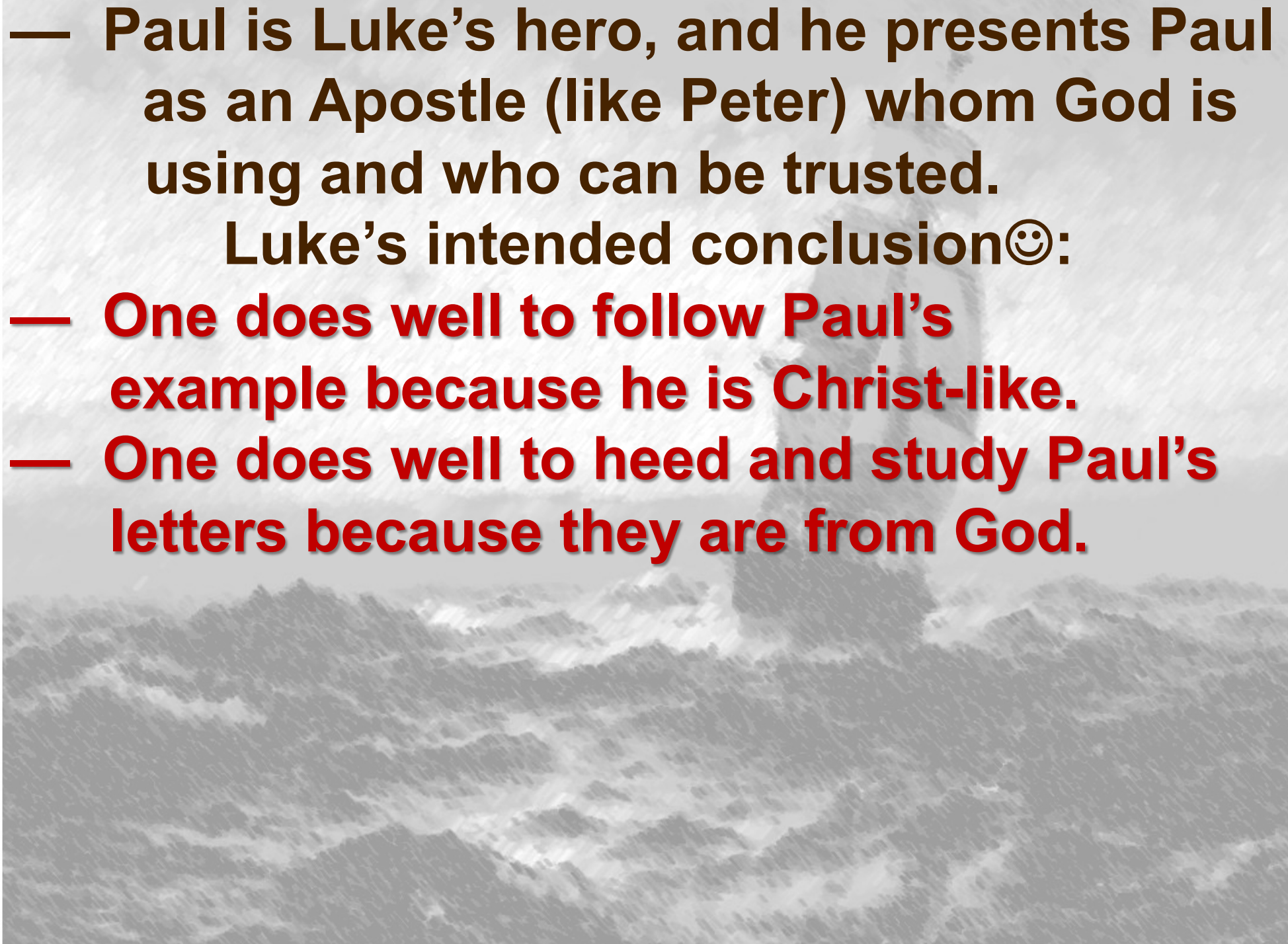
This is one of the longest chapters in the book.

From start to finish this chapter is the story of a voyage gone bad; it has nothing to do with mission work or church planting, as previously mentioned.

What then is the purpose of this chapter?

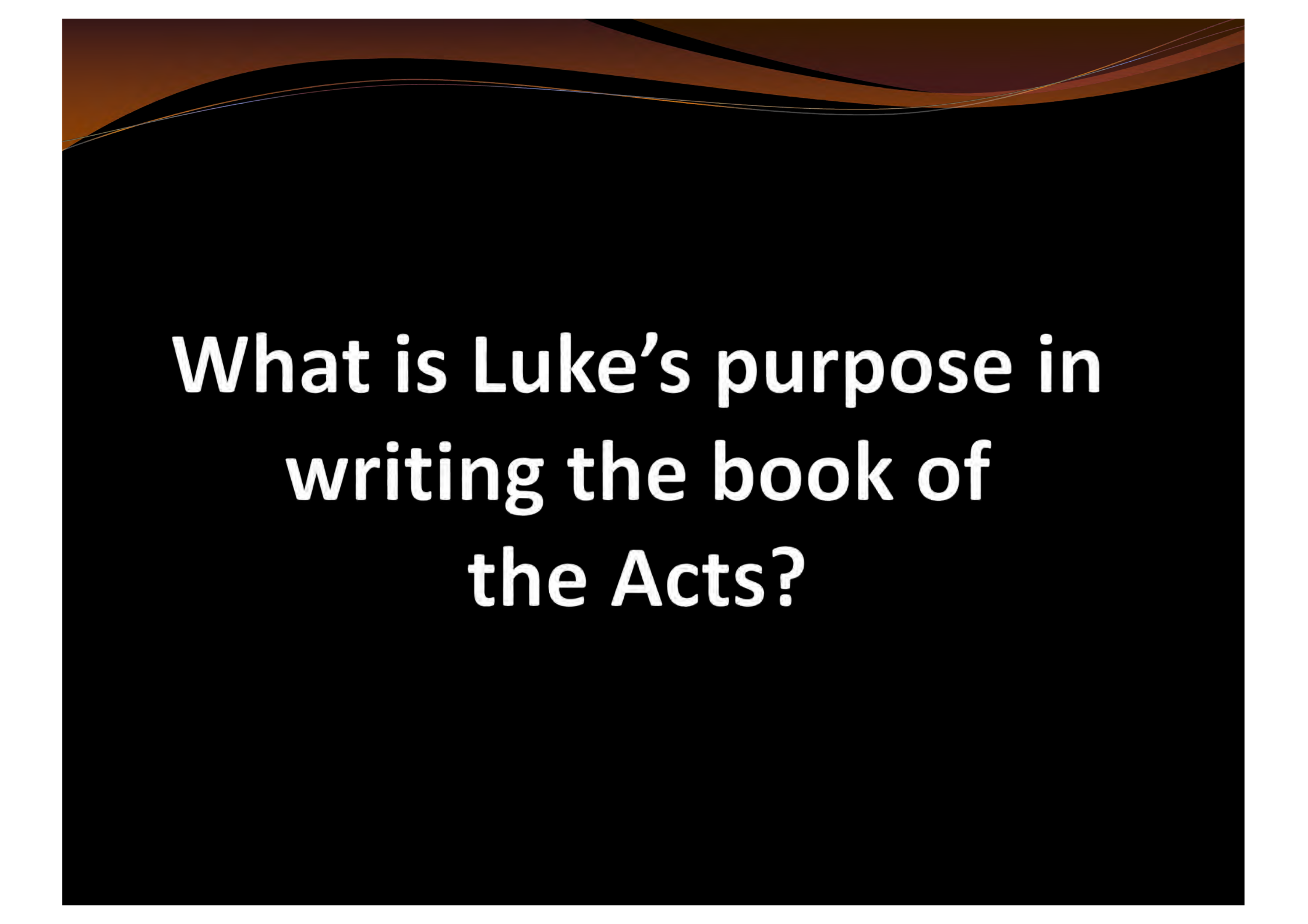
- 
- **It shows that natural forces cannot prevent Paul from fulfilling God's will of testifying in Rome.**
 - **It shows that God sovereignly protects His servants to the completion of their God-given tasks.**

- 
- It shows Paul's wisdom in practical matters of life as well as his faith and confidence in God's protection.
 - It shows that when Paul's counsel is disregarded, both the cargo and the ship are lost.

- 
- Paul is Luke's hero, and he presents Paul as an Apostle (like Peter) whom God is using and who can be trusted.

Luke's intended conclusion☺:

- One does well to follow Paul's example because he is Christ-like.
- One does well to heed and study Paul's letters because they are from God.



**What is Luke's purpose in
writing the book of
the Acts?**

Transitional:

- From Jerusalem to Rome
 - From Jew to Gentile
- {establishment of the Church}

Transitional/Apologetic

— From Jerusalem to Rome

— From Jew to Gentile

— From Peter to Paul

**Luke shows Paul's
credentials—that he is
continuing the ministry of the
risen Lord and that his ministry
and writings as an Apostle can
be trusted.**



Be Witnessing

Acts

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Book of Acts in 3 Minutes
(TheChurchatBrookHills.mp4)

The Witness Stand



Is this you?



Many Fear Evangelism!

Q65
Q74
Q83



"When I was a kid, I would go up to someone's porch, ring the doorbell, and run like the dickens. I still do it, except now our church calls it 'outreach training.'"

©1985 LEADERSHIP. Concept: Don Byers. Artist: Larry Thomas.

Billy Graham





**There are ineffective ways
to witness.**

Is this your cup?



Key Verse

56

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8).

Acts

For us...

INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM

JOHN 4:1-26

**Why should we be
witnessing?**



Background



Who was Dr. Luke?

Medical doctor

Traveling companion of Paul

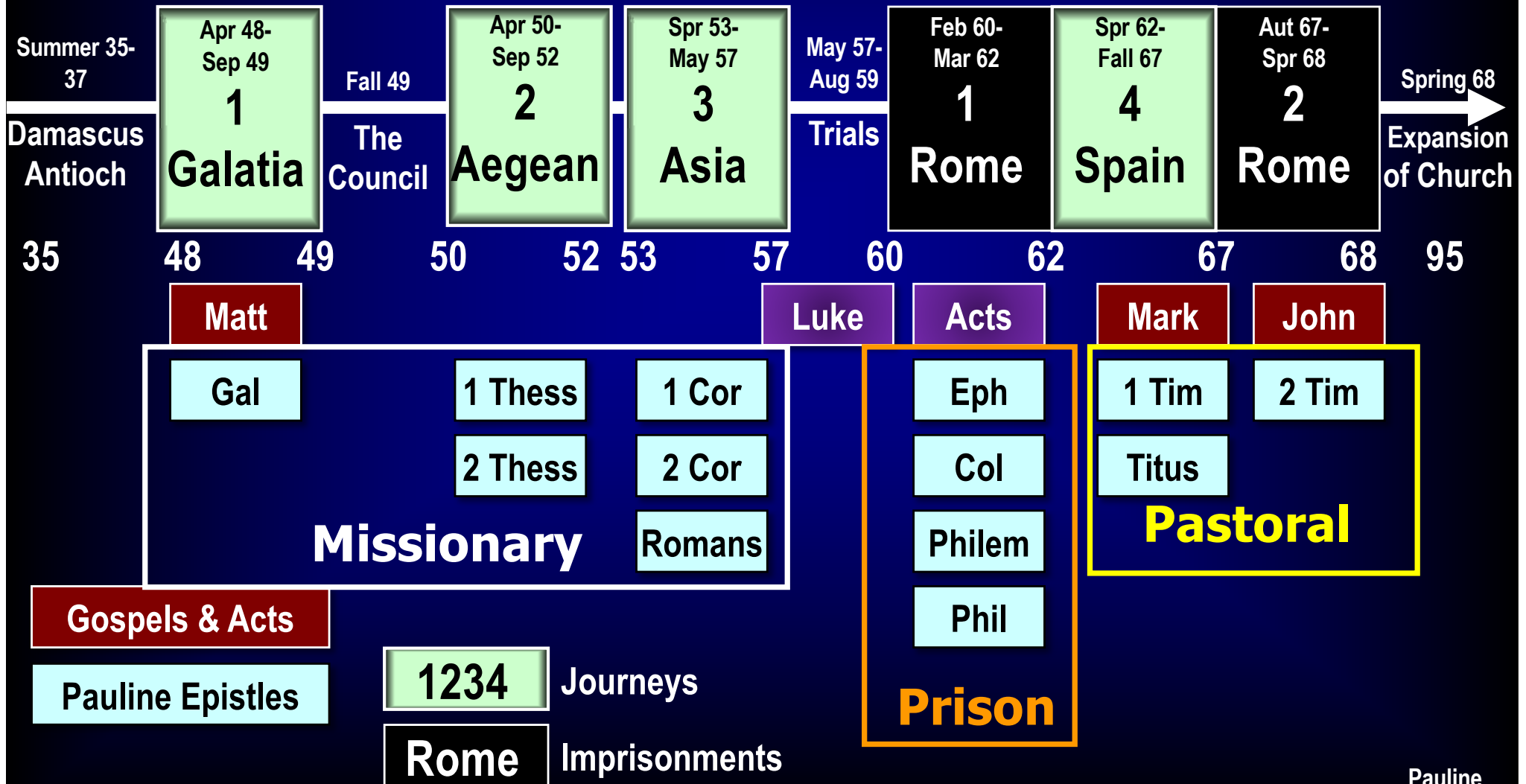
Articulate historian & writer

NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38
124
39-41

“To the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



The Roman Empire

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and *even to the remotest part of the earth*" (Acts 1:8 NAU).



Why should we be **witnessing?**

3 reasons



I. God has gone ahead of us so
we can begin where we **are**
(1:1–6:7).



Acts 1

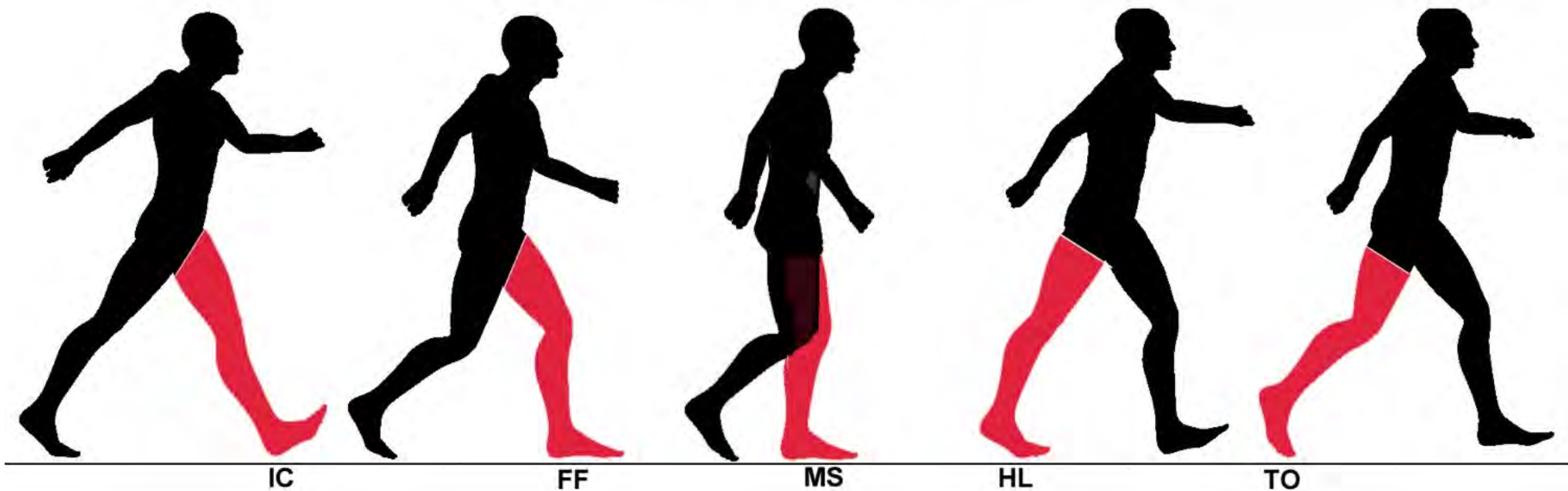
Upper Room Prayer



Put Wait in Your Gait

Acts 1

THE GAIT CYCLE



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CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

Waiting



Waiting in the Spirit?



Flu Bug



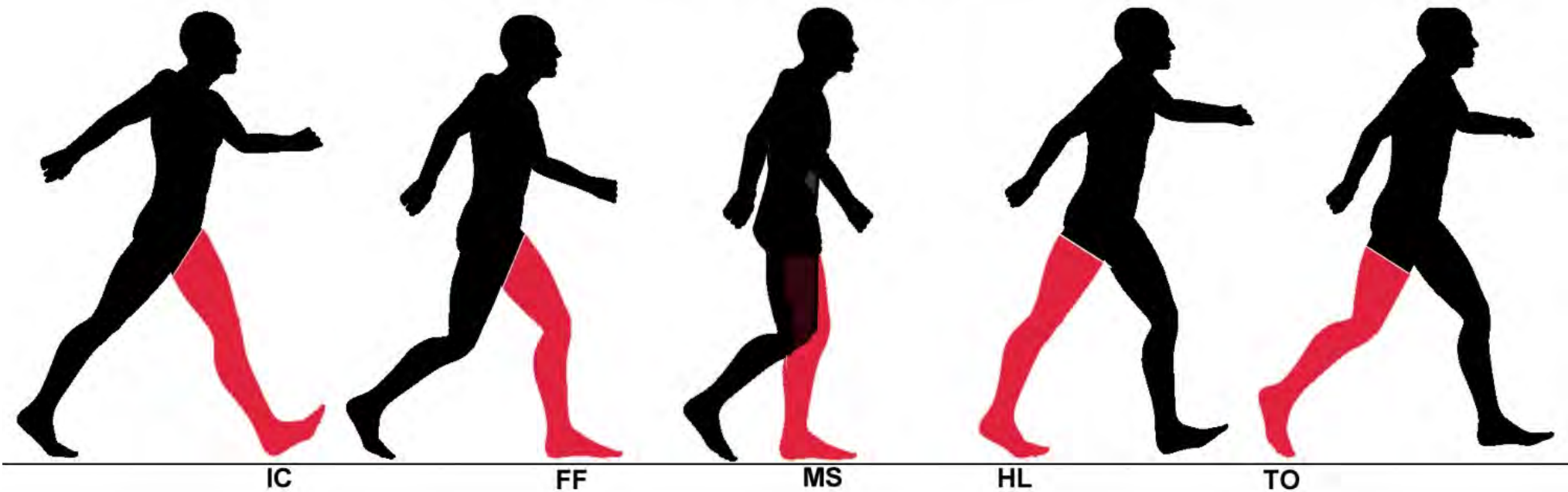
What are you waiting for?



Put Wait in Your Gait

Acts 1

THE GAIT CYCLE



**How can you wait
expectantly in the Spirit?**



***GOOD NEWS
ON THE MOVE***

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

Who was Luke?

Medical doctor

Traveling companion of Paul

Articulate historian & writer



Acts 1:1-14

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

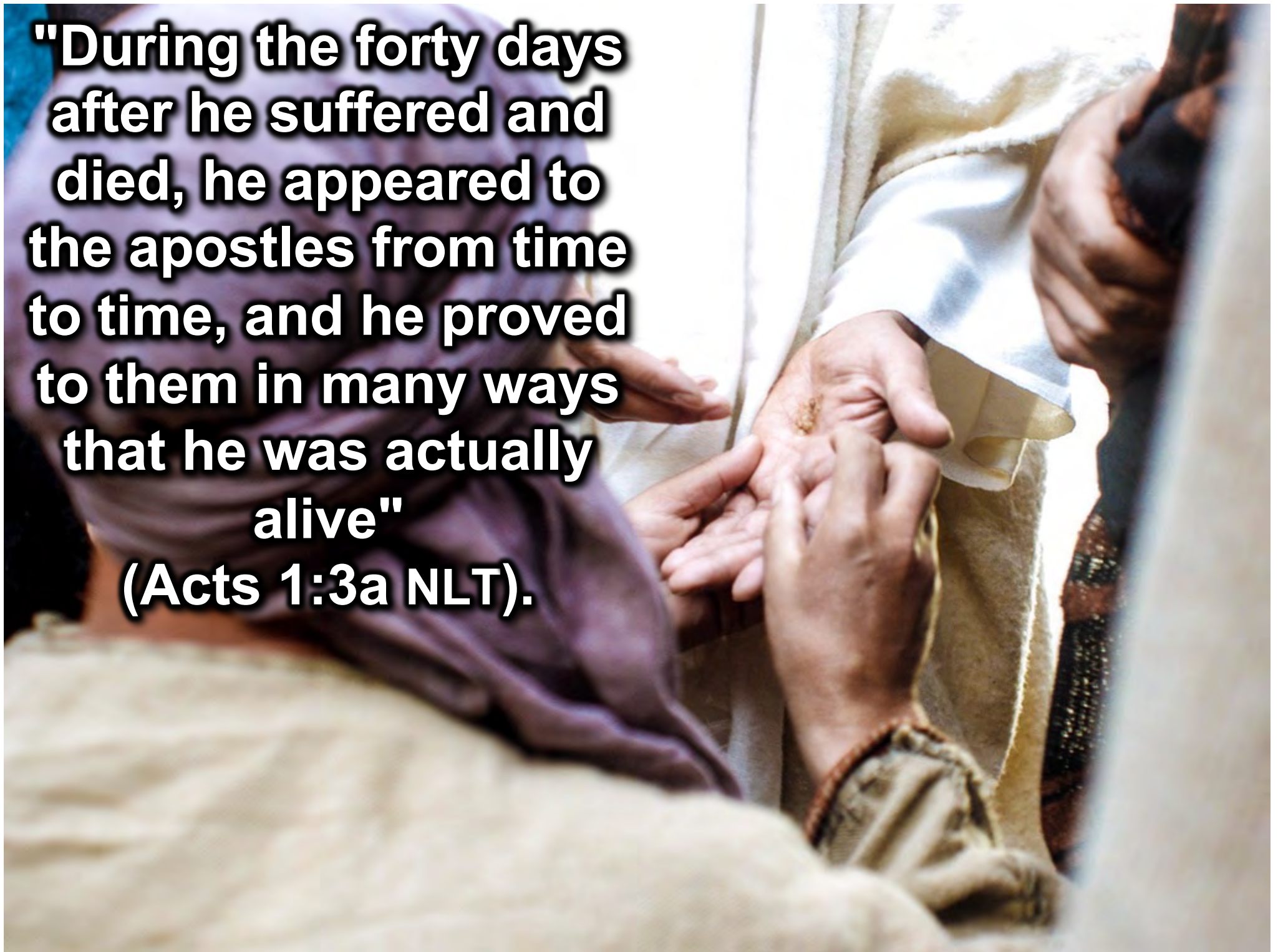
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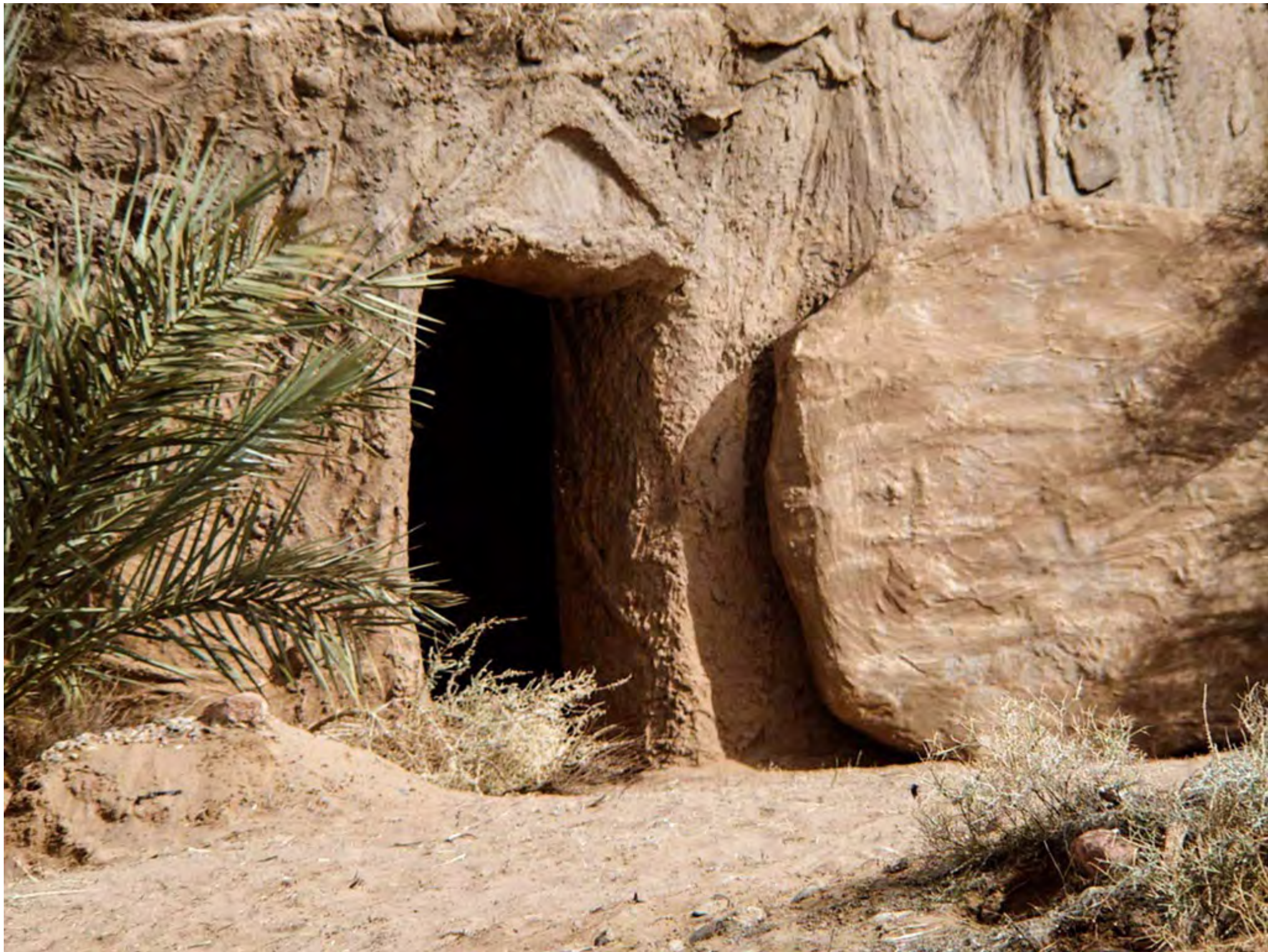




**"In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit"
(Acts 1:1–2 NLT).**

**"During the forty days
after he suffered and
died, he appeared to
the apostles from time
to time, and he proved
to them in many ways
that he was actually
alive"
(Acts 1:3a NLT).**





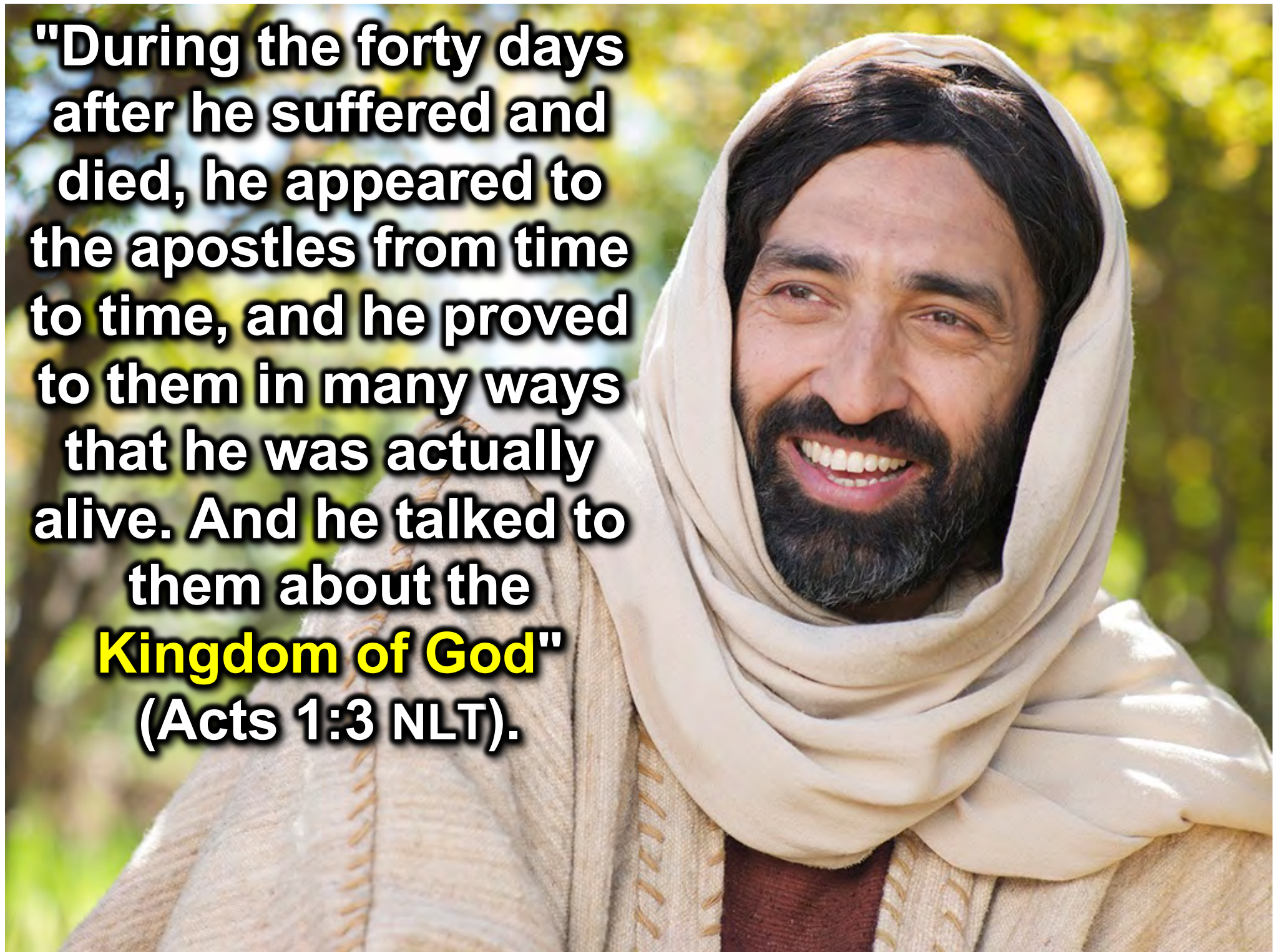




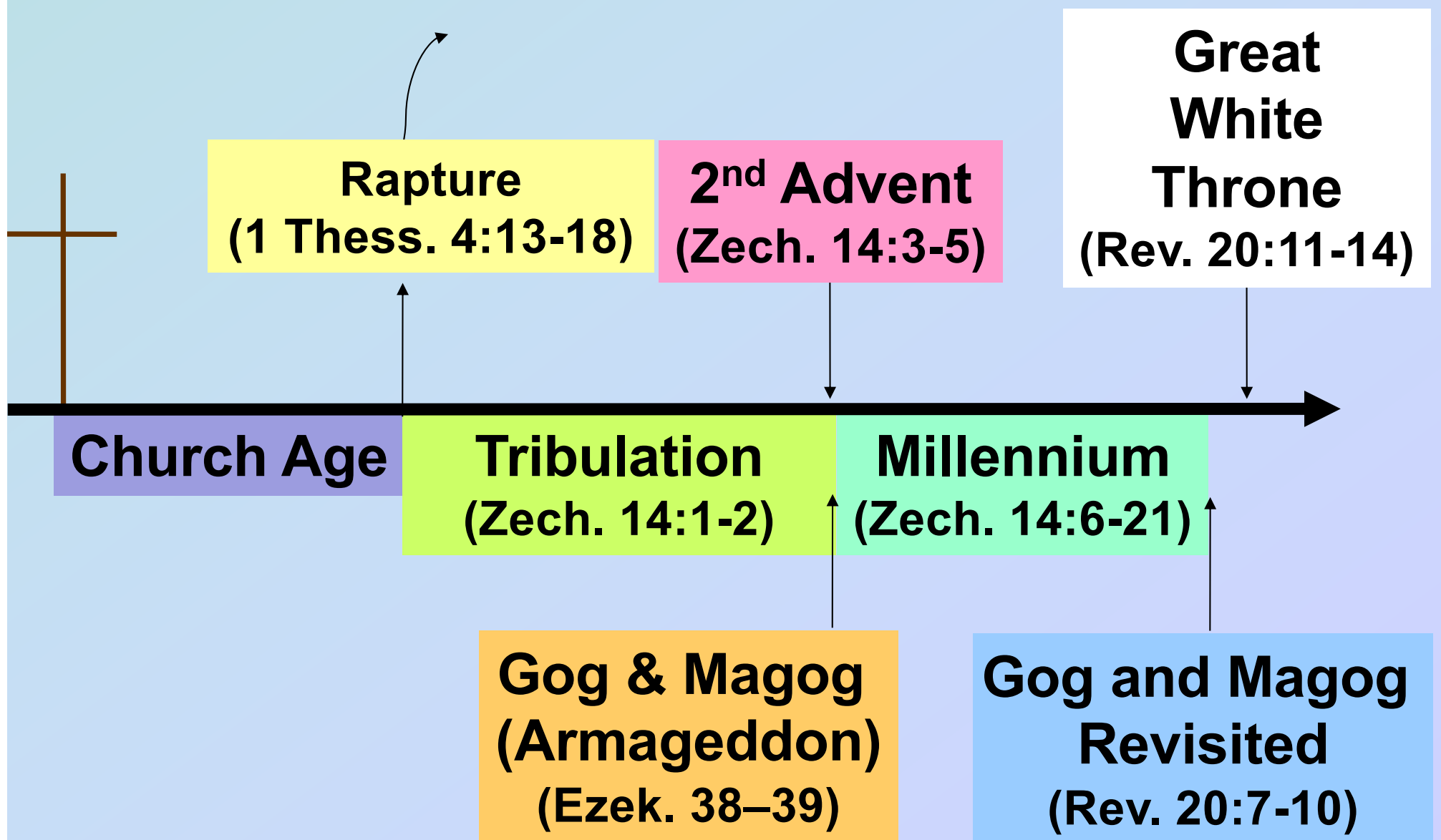




**"During the forty days
after he suffered and
died, he appeared to
the apostles from time
to time, and he proved
to them in many ways
that he was actually
alive. And he talked to
them about the
Kingdom of God"
(Acts 1:3 NLT).**



A Look at the Future



A Literal, Political Kingdom

"Jesus replied, 'I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel'"
(Matt. 19:28 NLT)



THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO
PLOWSHARES. AND THEIR SPEARS INTO
PRUNING HOOKS; NATION SHALL NOT LIFT
UP SWORD AGAINST NATION. NEITHER
SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE
ISAIAH



Incredibly Long Life (NIV)!

NIV Isaiah 65:20 "Never again will there be in [Jerusalem] an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed."

To Disciples: WAIT for the Spirit!



Acts 1:4-5

To Us: DON'T WAIT for the Spirit!



We do not need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come: he came on the day of Pentecost. He has never left the church.

—John Stott—

**How can you wait
expectantly in the Spirit?**



2 ways



**How can you wait
expectantly in the Spirit?**

Witness
(Acts 1:6-11)

A Great Question (Acts 1:6)

**So when they met together, they asked him,
“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the
kingdom to Israel?”**

Key Characteristics of Acts

122

A. Kingdom



Start

"So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and **restore our kingdom?**'"
(Acts 1:6 NLT)



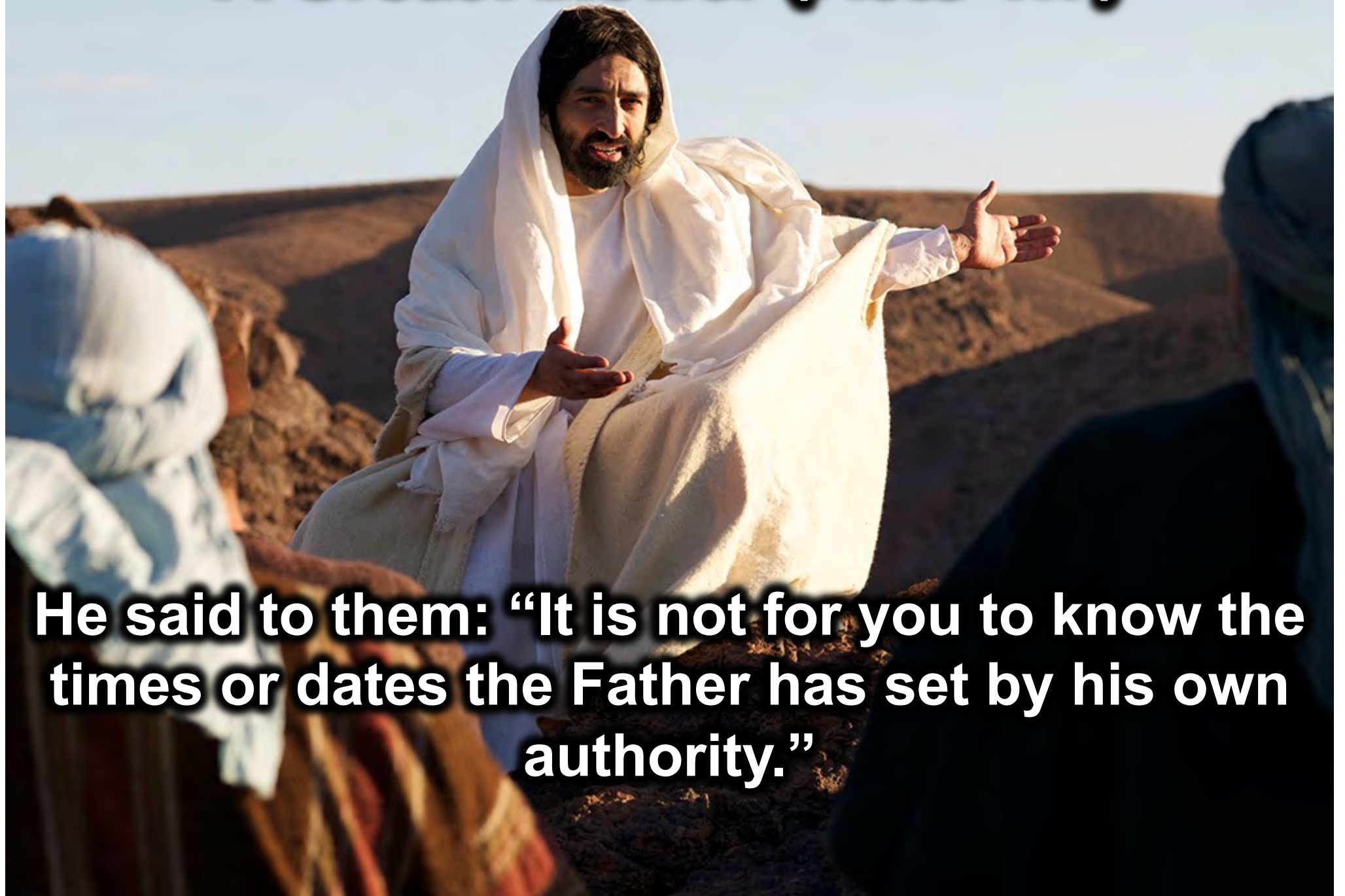
End

"For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹**boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him" (Acts 28:30-31 NLT).

**Will you at this time restore
the kingdom to yourself?**

Acts 1:6

A Great Answer (Acts 1:7)



He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”

“...you shall be my witnesses”

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

—Acts 1:8—



The Witness Stand



Acts 1:8 NAU

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the **remotest part** of the earth."



The Roman Empire

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and ***even to the remotest part of the earth***" (Acts 1:8 NAU).

















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P R O J E C T

THE
GOSPEL
OF
MATTHEW

THE
GOSPEL
OF
MARK

THE
GOSPEL
OF
LUKE

THE
GOSPEL
OF
JOHN

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Two Angels (Acts 1:11)



Mt. of Olives

656

1. Clearing of the temple MONDAY

Mt 21:10—17
Mk 11:15—18
Lk 19:45—48

The next day he returned to the temple and found the court of the Gentiles full of traders and money changers making a large profit as they gave out Jewish coins in exchange for "pagan" money. Jesus drove them out and overturned their tables.

5. Day of controversy and parables

TUESDAY Mt 21:23—24:51;
Mk 11:27—13:37; Lk 20:1—21:36

IN JERUSALEM

Jesus evaded the traps set by the priests.

ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM
(Tuesday afternoon,
exact location unknown)

He taught in parables and warned the people against the Pharisees. He predicted the destruction of Herod's great temple and told his disciples about future events, including his own return.

6. Day of rest WEDNESDAY

Not mentioned in the Gospels

The Scriptures do not mention this day, but the counting of the days (Mk 14:1; Jn 12:1) seems to indicate that there was another day concerning which the Gospels record nothing.

7. Passover

1. Arrival in Bethany

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3. The Triumphal Entry

SUNDAY

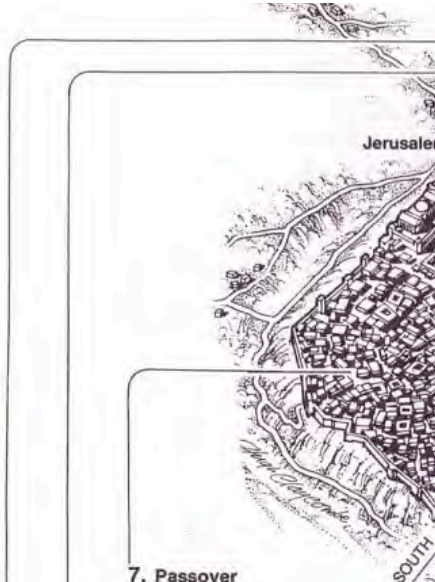
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The Spirit Leaves & Returns

Mt. of Olives



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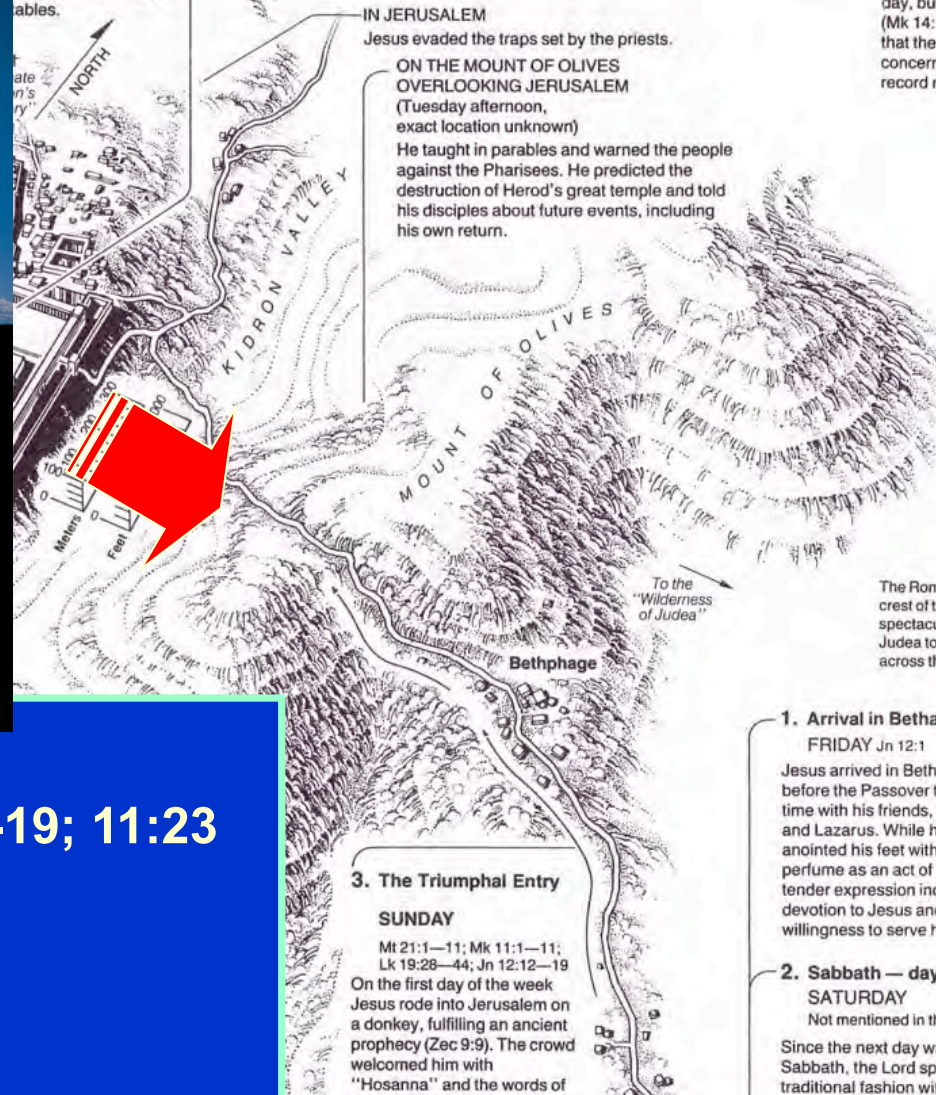
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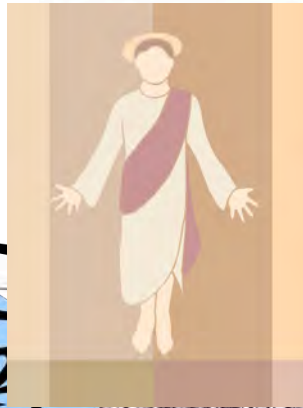
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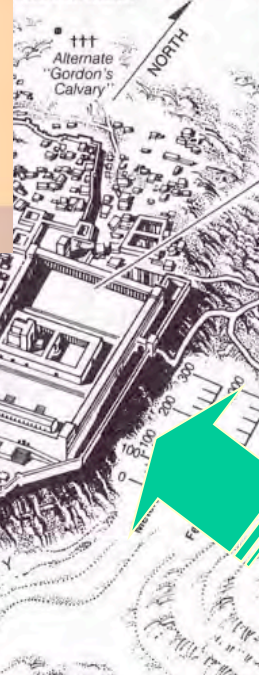
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**The Spirit Leaves &
Returns**

Mt. of Olives



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To the Wilderness of Judea

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Luke 19:37; 24:50; Acts 1:10

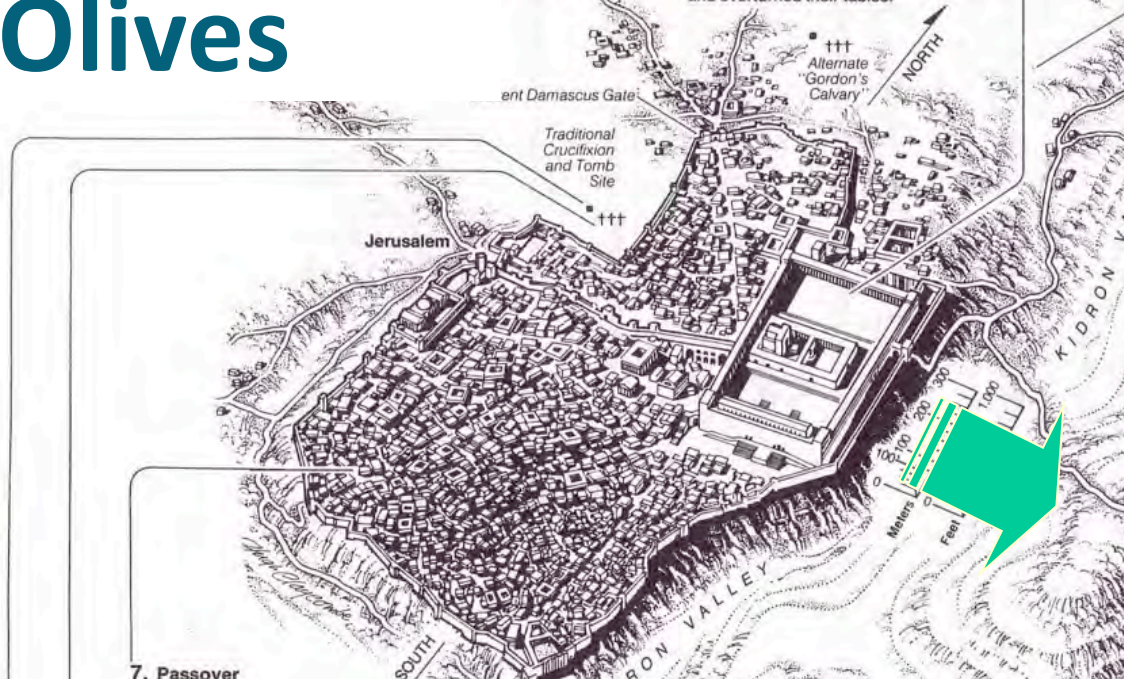
The Spirit Leaves & Returns

Mt. of Olives

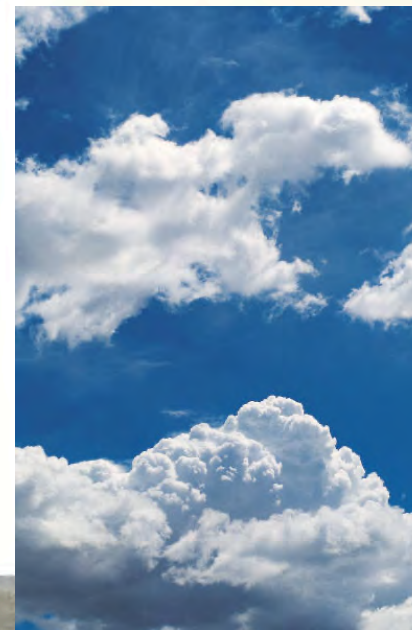
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The Spirit Leaves & Returns

Mt. of Olives

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Mt 21:1—11; Mk 11:1—11;
Lk 19:28—44; Jn 12:12—19

On the first day of the week Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Zec 9:9). The crowd welcomed him with "Hosanna" and the words of

Ezek. 8:4; 9:3; 10:4; 10:18-19; 11:23

Luke 19:37; 24:50; Acts 1:10

Acts 1:11; Zech. 14:4; Ezek. 43:1-5

The Spirit Leaves & Returns

**How can you wait
expectantly in the Spirit?**

Witness
(Acts 1:6-11)

Pray
(Acts 1:12-26)



Upper Room Prayer



Upper Room Prayer



Acts 1:14

Revival historian J. Edwin Orr



“No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer—Christians persistently praying for revival.”

Matthias Chosen



Acts 1:15-26

They cast lots (Acts 1:26)



Casting Lots Today?



Wait in Prayer

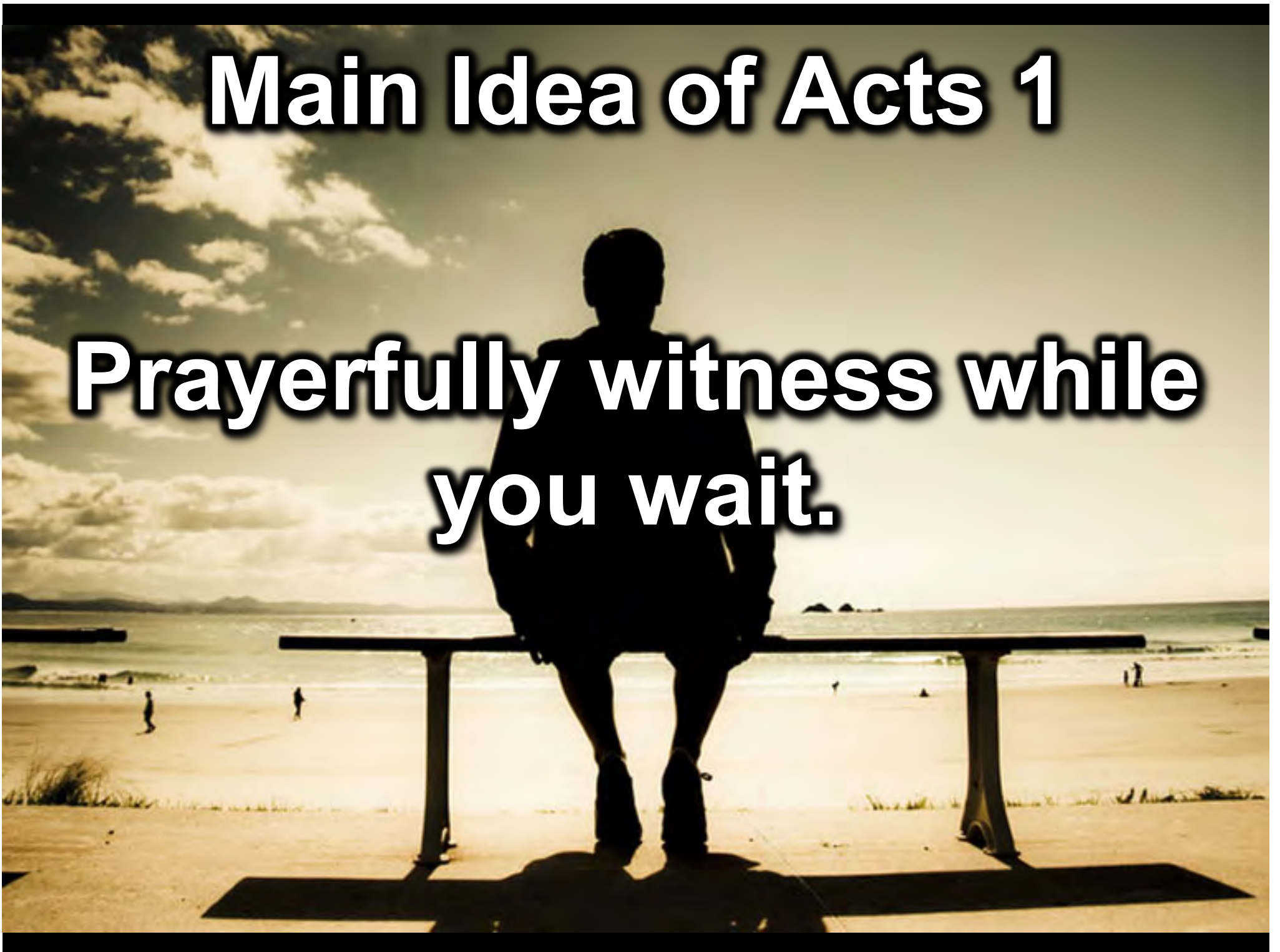


**How can you wait
expectantly in the Spirit?**



Main Idea of Acts 1

**Prayerfully witness while
you wait.**



**How can you wait
expectantly in the Spirit?**

Witness
(Acts 1:6-11)

Pray
(Acts 1:12-26)

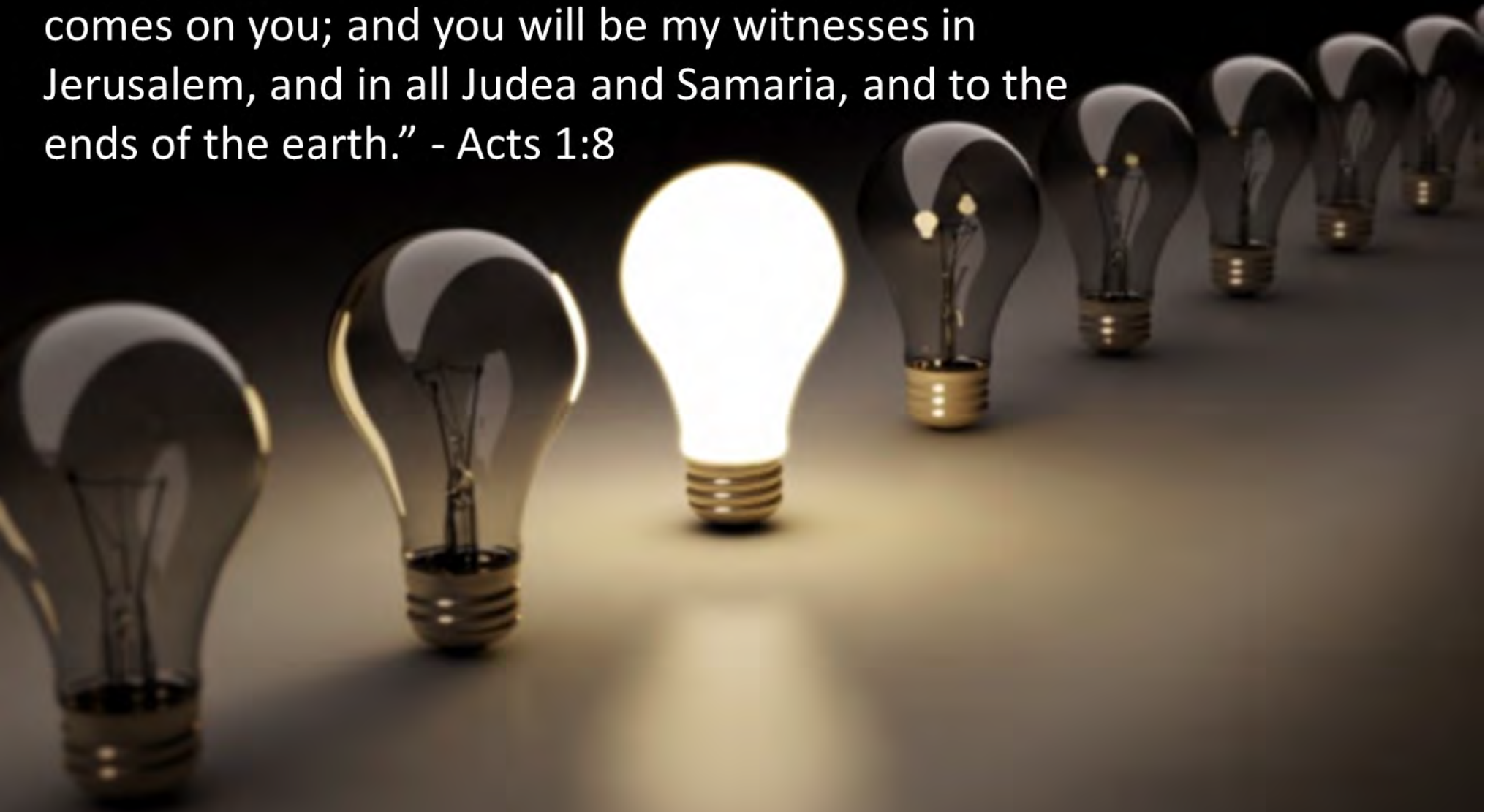


WITNESS

**How can you prayerfully witness while
you wait now?**

#PreparingforPentecost

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

A row of light bulbs is shown on a dark surface. The bulb in the center is illuminated, casting a warm glow, while the others are unlit. The bulbs are arranged in a slightly curved line, receding into the background.

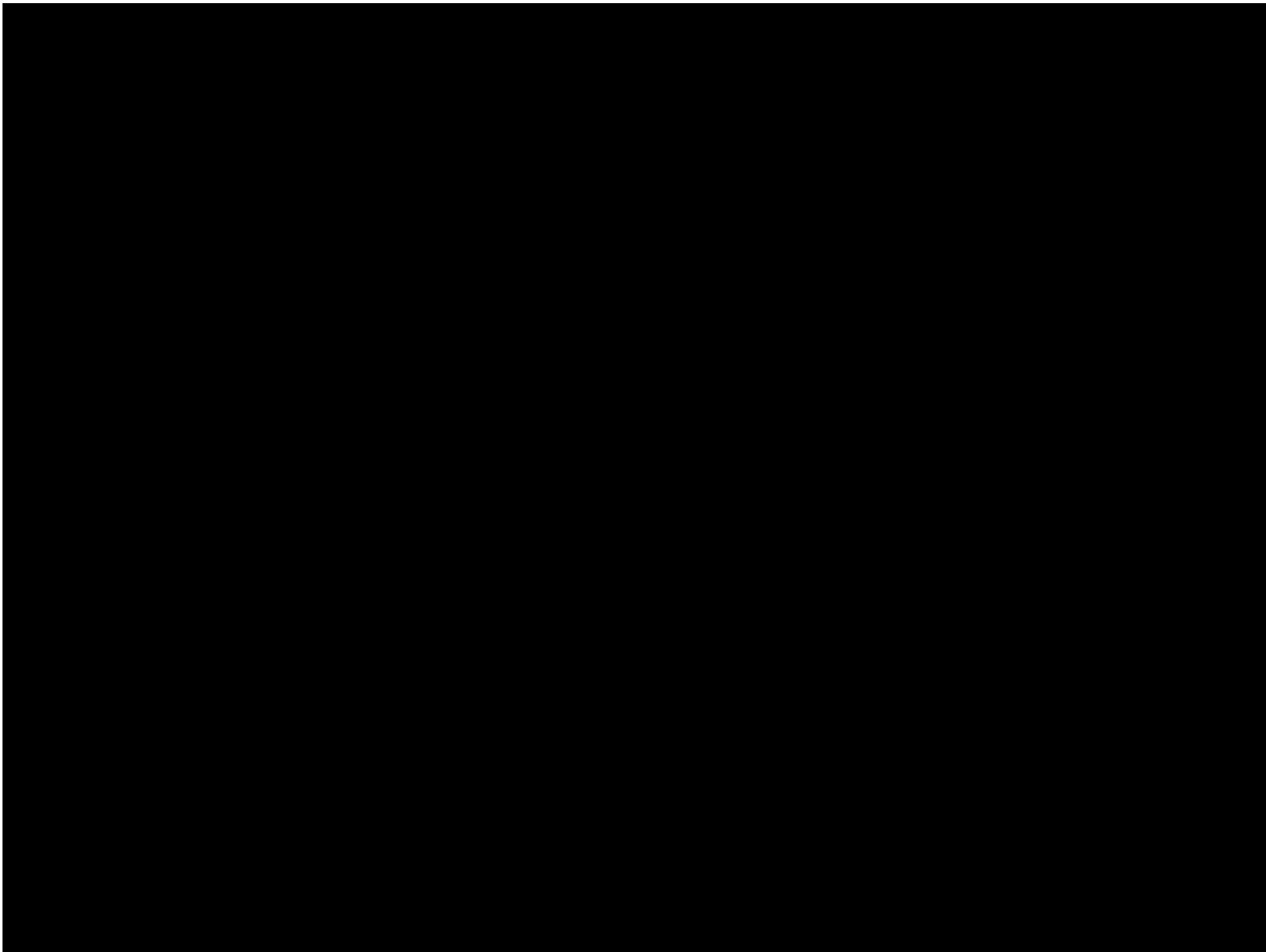
Start where you are.

Who is your “Jerusalem”?

- Who are you praying for to trust Christ?
- Who should you be praying for?

A Recipe for Church Success (Acts 1)

People	People have always been God's plan for the delivery of his message (1:2, 8, 11, 13-14, 21-26).
Prayer	Prayer was the first, best step in every decision of the early church (1:14, 24-26).
Preparation	The apostles showed a knowledge of and belief in the Scriptures. God's Word should be learned, trusted, obeyed, and applied to life situations (1:1-4, 7-8, 16, 20).
Power	Christ's promised Holy Spirit power is the basis of the church's ability to accomplish great things for him (1:8).
Promise	The church must always live in the conscious reality of a returning Savior who will come back in the same way he departed (1:9-11).
Pattern	Our task is not so much to be preachers as it is to be witnesses. A witness tells what he or she has seen and heard. We speak the news and spread the news (1:8, 11).



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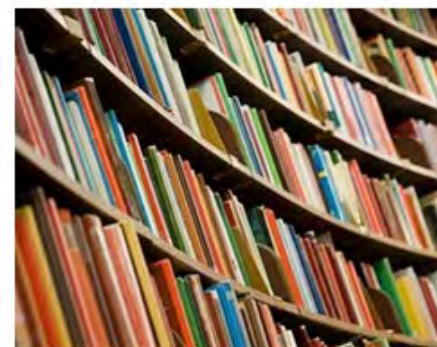


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Acts 2

The Power of the Spirit

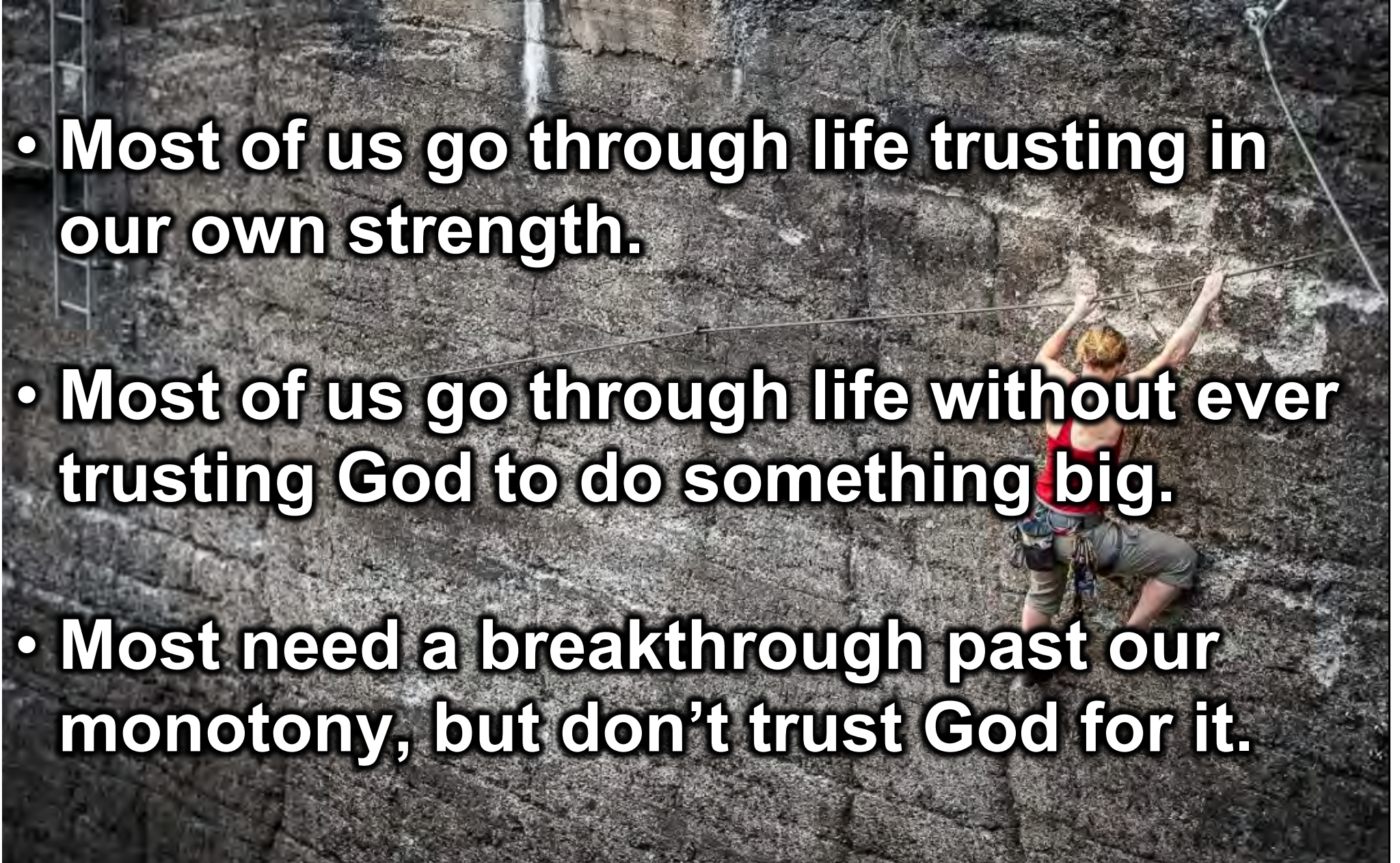


Acts 2

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org**

Do you agree?

- **Most of us go through life trusting in our own strength.**
- **Most of us go through life without ever trusting God to do something big.**
- **Most need a breakthrough past our monotony, but don't trust God for it.**



Our Vision



The image features three concentric hearts on a black background. The outermost heart is green and contains the text 'Love the Nations'. Inside it is a blue heart containing the text 'Love the Church'. The innermost heart is red and contains the text 'Love God'. The hearts are centered and overlap, with the red heart being the smallest and the green heart being the largest.

Love the Nations

Love the Church

**Love
God**

***GOOD NEWS
ON THE MOVE***

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

Waiting for a breakthrough...



Acts 2 Background



Upper Room Gathering



Why submit to the Spirit?



3 reasons

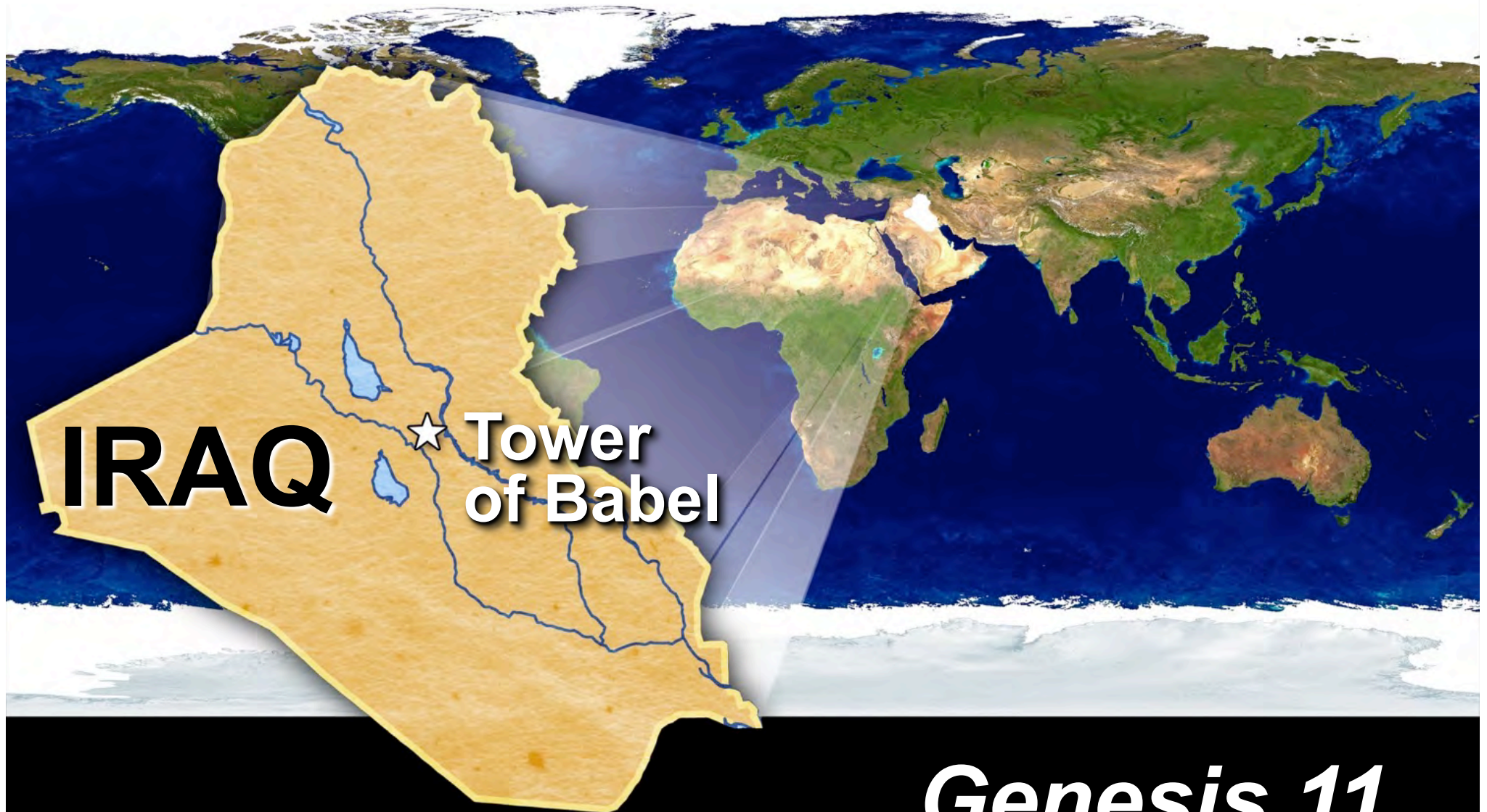
Why submit to the Spirit?

- **The Spirit *reverses* Babel (1-13)**



Acts 2

TOWER OF BABEL



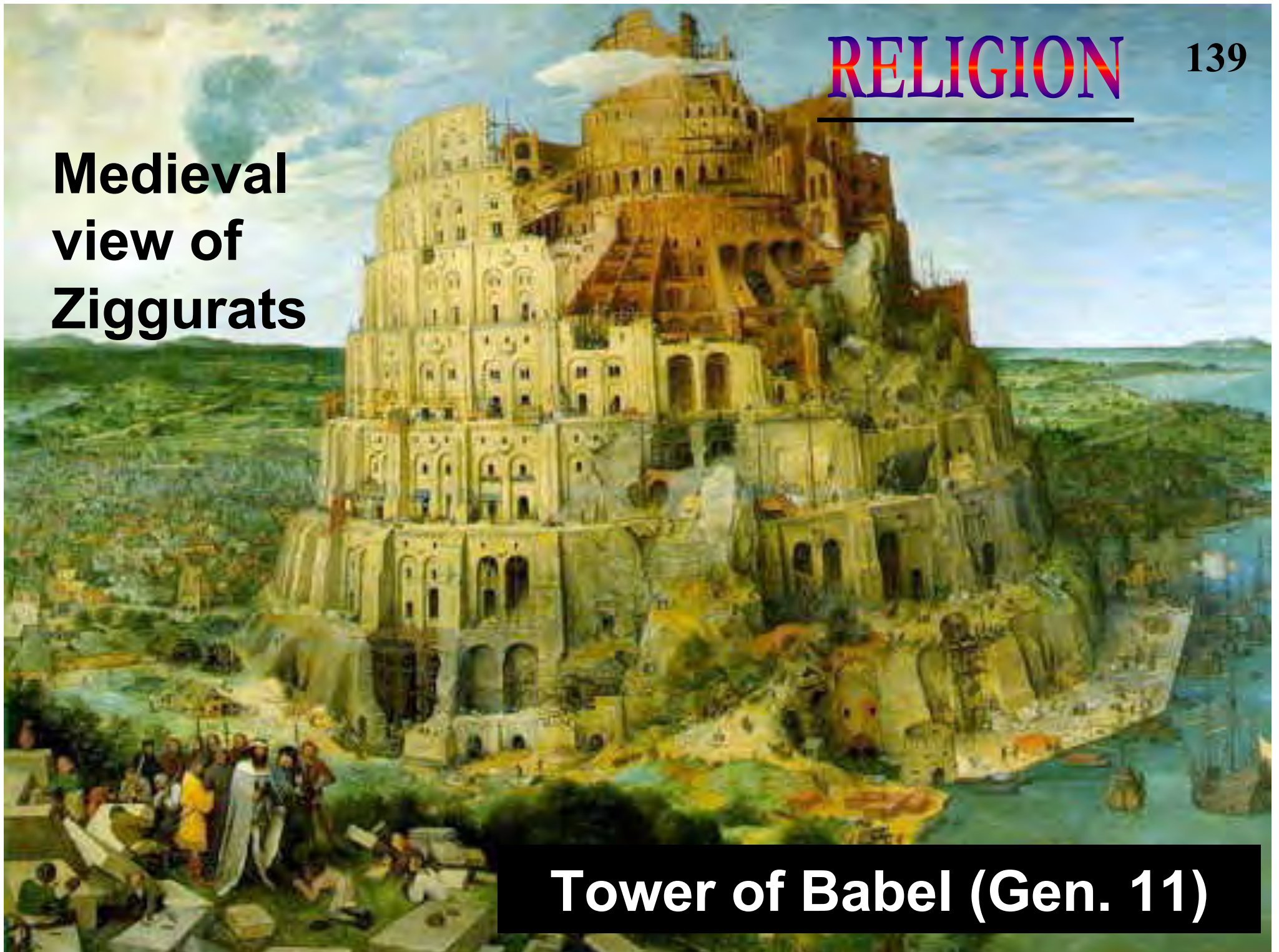
Genesis 11
© 2005 Answers in Genesis



Genesis 11:2-6

© 2005 Answers in Genesis

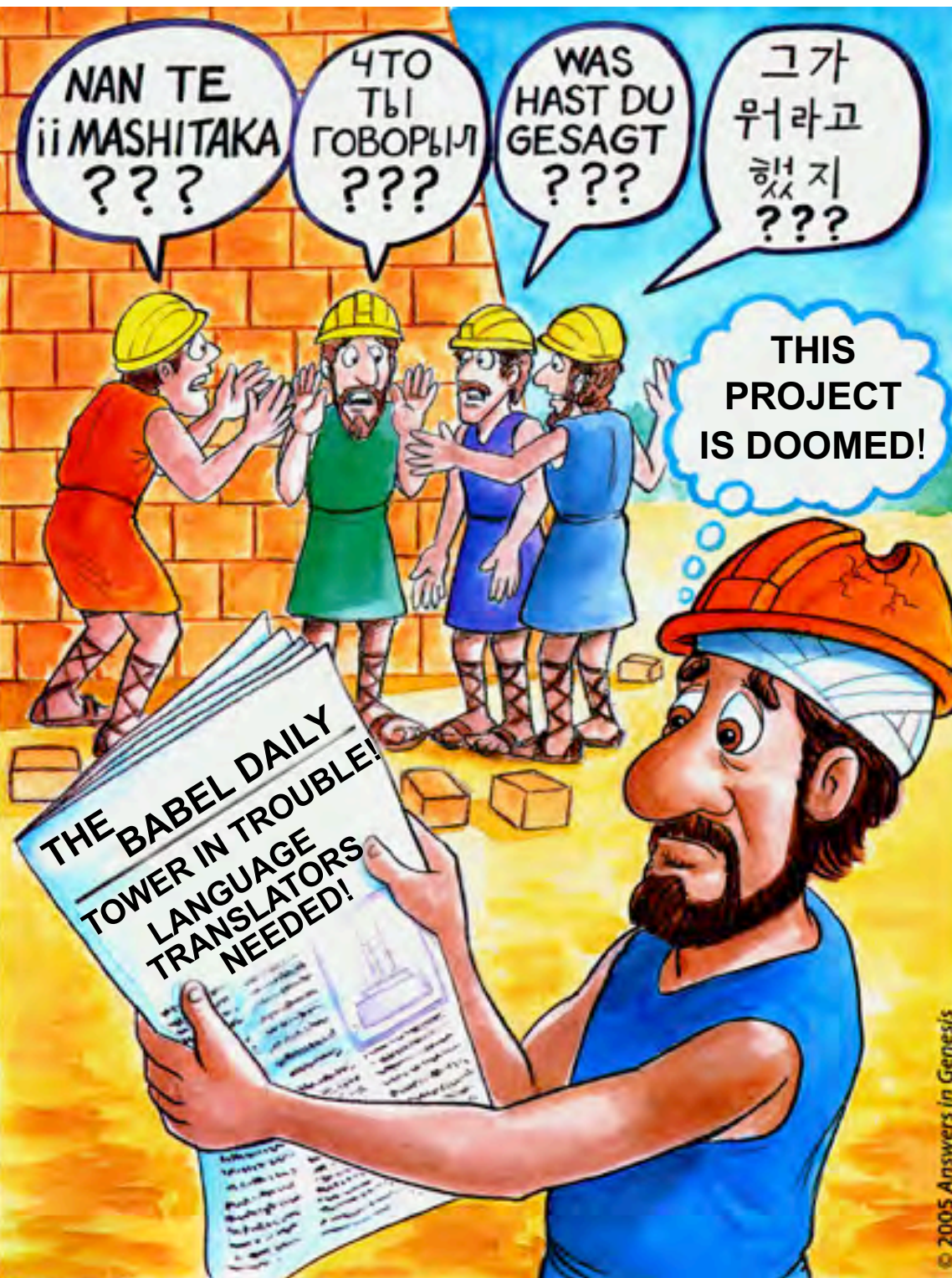
**Medieval
view of
Ziggurats**



Tower of Babel (Gen. 11)

The Tower as a Ziggurat





¡Hola!

Spanish

Привет!

Russian

Ciao!

Italian

Bonjour!

French

“Hello!”

ACROSS THE GLOBE

Hallo!

German

Oi!

Portuguese

喂

Japanese

Traditional Chinese

Het hallo!

Dutch

Γειάσου!

Greek

Genesis 11:7



Babel Dispersion

Genesis 11:8

Genesis 11:9

"Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD **confused the language of the whole earth**; and from there the LORD **scattered them** abroad over the face of the whole earth."



The Jewish Diaspora at Pentecost

132



The Spirit Came at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)



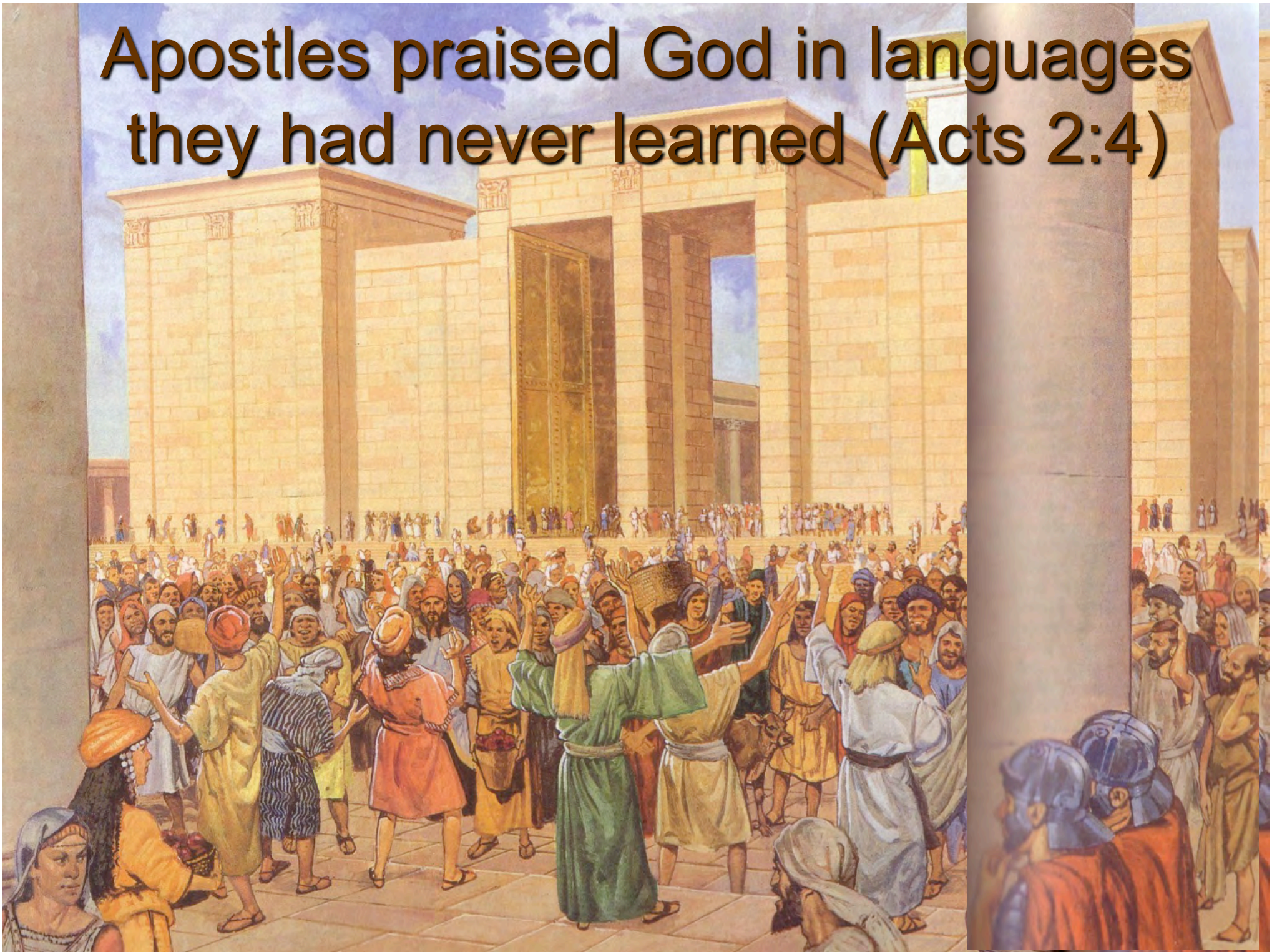
Wind filled the place (Acts 2:2)



Tongues of Fire (Acts 2:3)

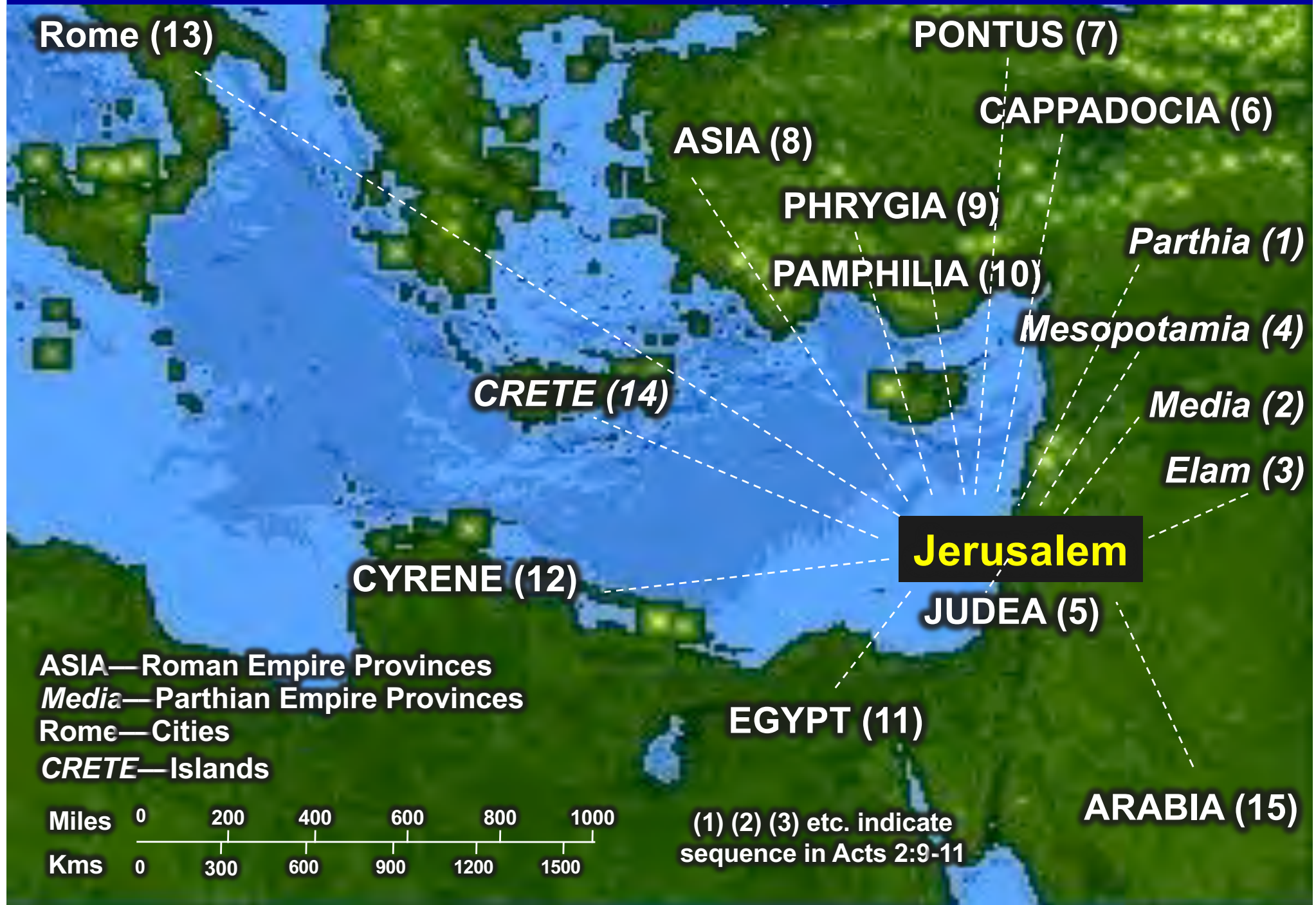


**Apostles praised God in languages
they had never learned (Acts 2:4)**



Jews at Pentecost—Acts 2:9-11

132



Are tongues in Acts a pattern for today?

<i>Passage</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Audience</i>	<i>Related to Salvation</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
2:1-4	Apostles+	Unsaved Jews at Pentecost	After salvation	Validate for Jews the fulfillment of Joel 2
8:14-17	Samaritans	Saved Jews doubting God's plan (Peter+)	After salvation	Validate for Jews God's acceptance of Samaritans
10:44-47	Gentiles (Cornelius+)	Saved Jews doubting God's plan (Peter+)	At salvation	Validate for Jews God's acceptance of Gentiles
19:1-7	OT believers in Messiah	Jews needing gospel message confirmed	At salvation	Validate for Jews God's message through Paul

Adapted from Stanley Toussaint, "Acts," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2:408

Comparing Tongues in Acts & 1 Corinthians^{161cc}

Comparisons	Tongues in Acts	Tongues in 1 Corinthians
<i>Both spoken in known foreign languages</i>	Languages of the Roman world were spoken (Acts 2:7-11)	Since the same term (<i>glossa</i>) is used, we should assume the nature of the gift is the same
<i>Both functioned as a sign to unbelievers</i>	The listeners were exhorted to receive forgiveness (Acts 2:38)	Unbelievers in the assembly needed translation for blessing (1 Cor.14:21-22)
<i>Both have God as the Source rather than self</i>	The tongues speakers were not trying to get the gift (Acts 2:2)	Tongues is among the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12–14)

Contrasting Tongues in Acts & 1 Corinthians ^{161cc}

Contrasts	Tongues in Acts	Tongues in 1 Corinthians
<i>Speaker's Control</i>	Controlled	Uncontrolled
Given to...	Groups only	Individuals who are gifted
Phenomenon	Wind and fire the first time (Acts 2:2)	None
Times per person	One time	Repeated
Those who understand	Native speakers	Those gifted in interpretation
Interpretation	No corollary gift	Yes (corollary gift of interpretation)
Dates	AD 33-53 (Acts 2–19)	AD 56
<i>When occurred</i>	Generally at salvation	Generally after salvation
Use	Always used properly	Often misused
<i>Restrictions</i>	None	Some: only 2-3 per service, each in turn, need interpreter (1 Cor. 14:27)

Tongues versus Prophecy

161m

Contrasts	Tongues	Prophecy
<i>Speaker's Control</i>	Inferior (14:5a)	Superior (14:1)
<i>Relation to Other Gifts</i>	The least important gift (12:28)	The second most important gift (12:28)
<i>Language Used</i>	Foreign (14:10)	Vernacular (14:19)
<i>Corollary Gift</i>	Interpretation of tongues (12:30; 14:27-28)	Discerning of spirits (12:10; 14:29)
<i>Speaker's Knowledge of the Language Being Spoken</i>	Unknown: "utters mysteries with his spirit...my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful" (14:2b, 14)	Known: "pray with my spirit [and] with my mind" (14:15, 19)
<i>Value (without Interpretation)</i>	Harmful: people cannot understand and thus are not edified (14:16-17, 23, 28)	Great: people can understand and thus are edified (14:5b, 24-25)
<i>Edification (without Interpretation)</i>	Self only (14:4a; cf. 10:24; 12:7, 11)	Entire church (14:4b)

Tongues versus Prophecy

161m

Contrasts	Tongues	Prophecy
<i>Direction of Speech is to...</i>	God (14:2)	Men (14:3)
<i>Result in Others</i>	Revelation, knowledge, prophecy, word of instruction (14:6)	Strengthening, encouragement, and comfort (14:3b)
<i>Type of Communication</i>	Speaking (14:6), prayer (14:14), praise (14:16), singing? (14:15b)	Foretelling the future, "forthtelling" or declaring doctrinal truth (14:19)
<i>Purpose</i>	Sign to unbelieving Jews (14:21-22a)	Message to believers (14:22b)
<i>Limitations</i>	Two or three tongues messages in each service (14:27a), speak in turn (14:27b), someone must interpret (14:27c-28)	Two or three prophetic messages in each service (14:29a), speak in turn (14:30-31), weigh what is said (14:29b, 32)
<i>Exhortation</i>	Negative: Do not forbid tongues (14:39b)	Positive: Be eager to prophesy (14:39a)



Pentecost Reversed Babel

Scattered

United

Confused

Understand

Praised Men

Praised God

Rebellion

Submission

Warren Wiersbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary*

The Gospel is for the Whole World



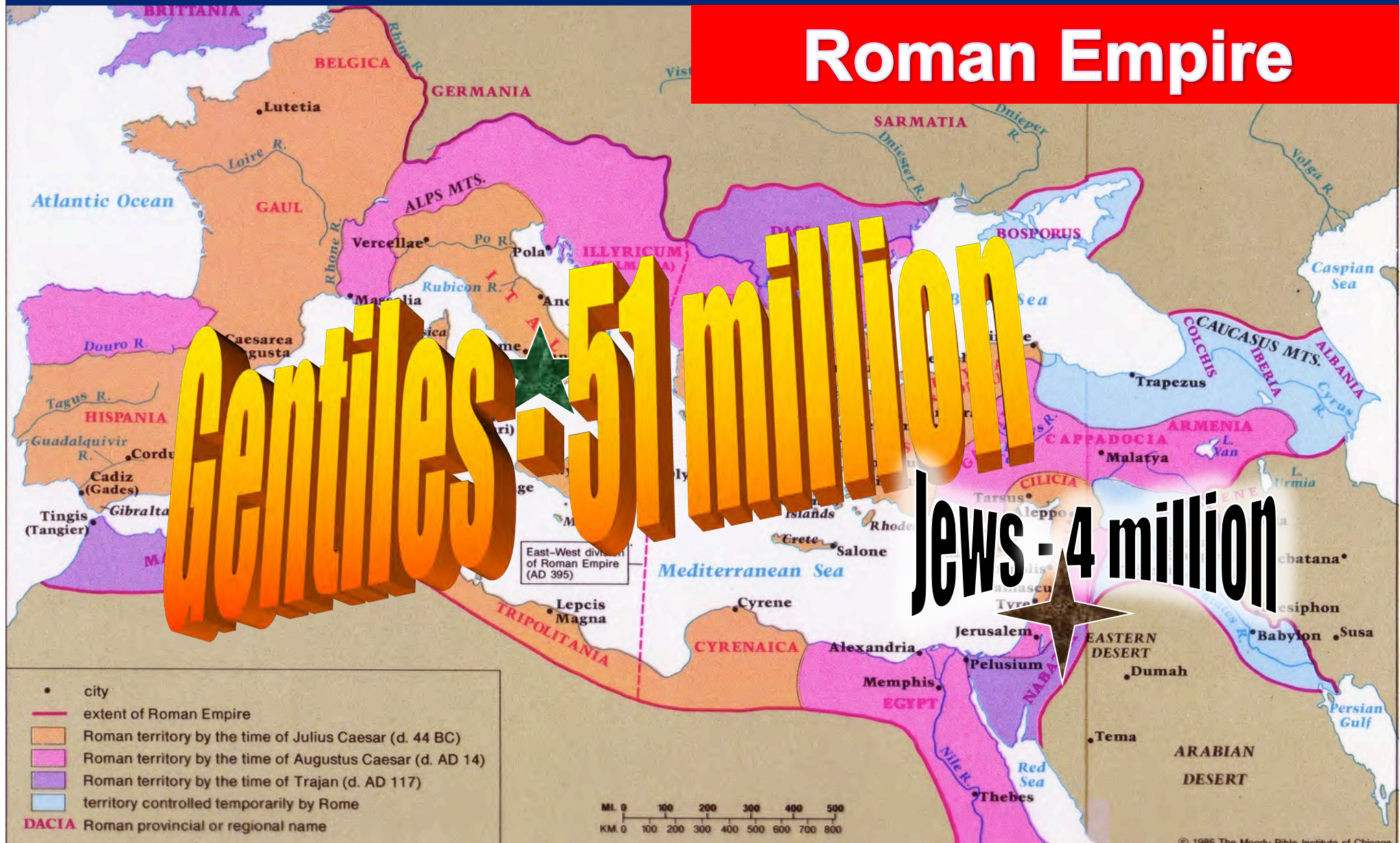
**“The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we must become.”
—Henry Martyn—**

Pentecost (Acts 2) was a Corporate Indwelling



Population of Empire = 55 Million

Roman Empire



Languages of the Empire

Roman Empire



Hello Haōari
Guten Tag
Nyob zoo
Salaam Ni hao ma
Buenos días
Kia ora Osivo
KONNICHTWA
Bonjour

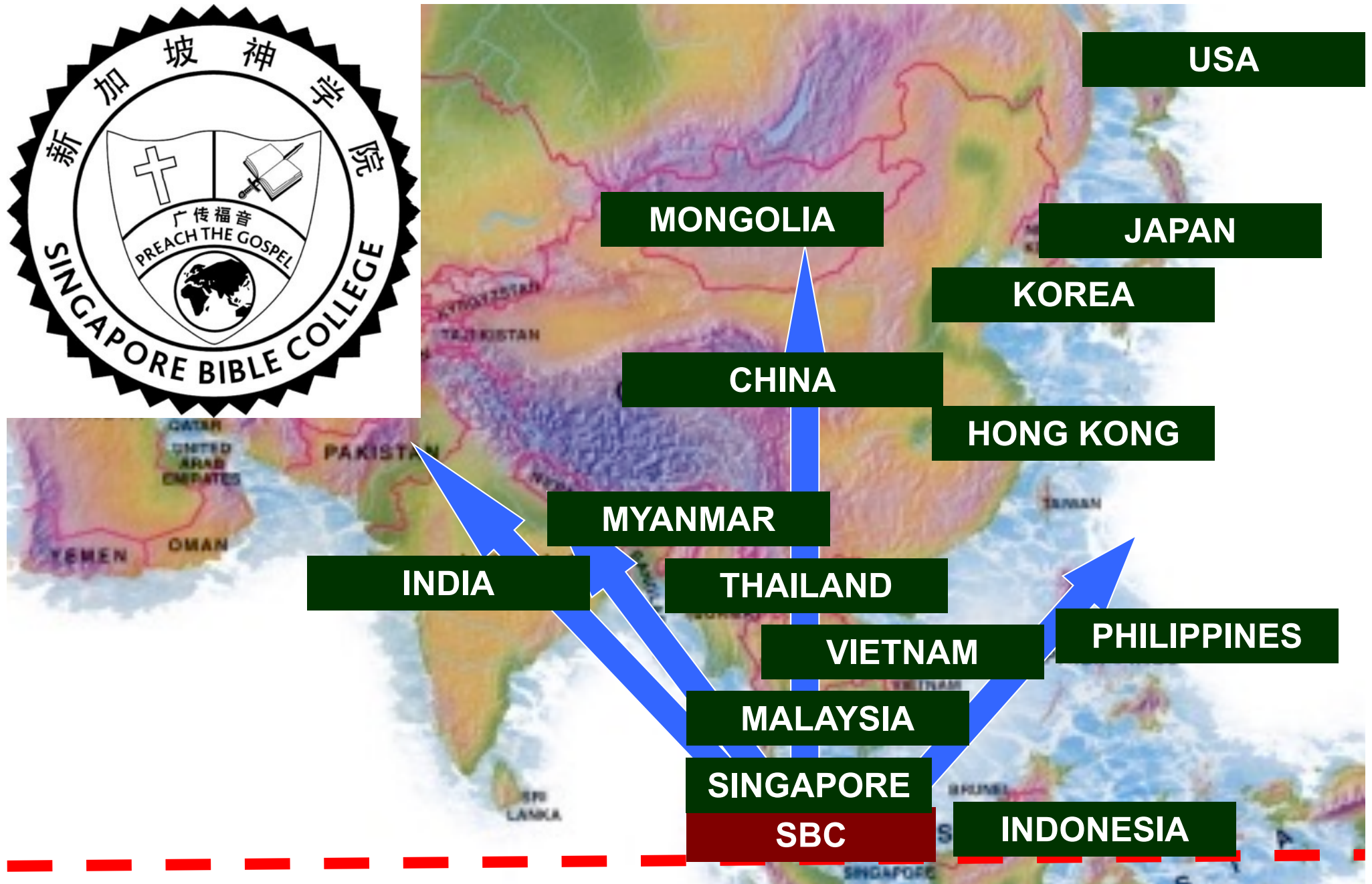
Please TAA SHOODI
'Olu 'olu E fowō
Pucakannida
Bitte
Alstublieft Qing
MOLIM Ong làm ơn

Thank you
Danke xie
Khawp khun
Yum gotic
Mahalo
Salamat
Juspa
Spacibo
Arigato Obrigada

Yes Haan
KEN Hûu
EVER DA
Ja
Oui
Ndiya
Jo chka
Hai Ae



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Singapore Bible College Students

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Ntsata Ethan Yantung-Yanri

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Why submit to the Spirit?

- The Spirit **reverses** Babel (1-13)
- The Spirit **proves** Jesus (14-41).



Acts 2





CROSSROADS

international church

9

100 people from 16 nations



The Spirit's indwelling shows that God accepts anyone—not a select few (14-21).

UNITED KINGDOM

NETHERLANDS

FRANCE



KOREA

CHINA

NEPAL

TAIWAN

MYANMAR

INDIA

USA

THAILAND

KENYA

SOUTH AFRICA

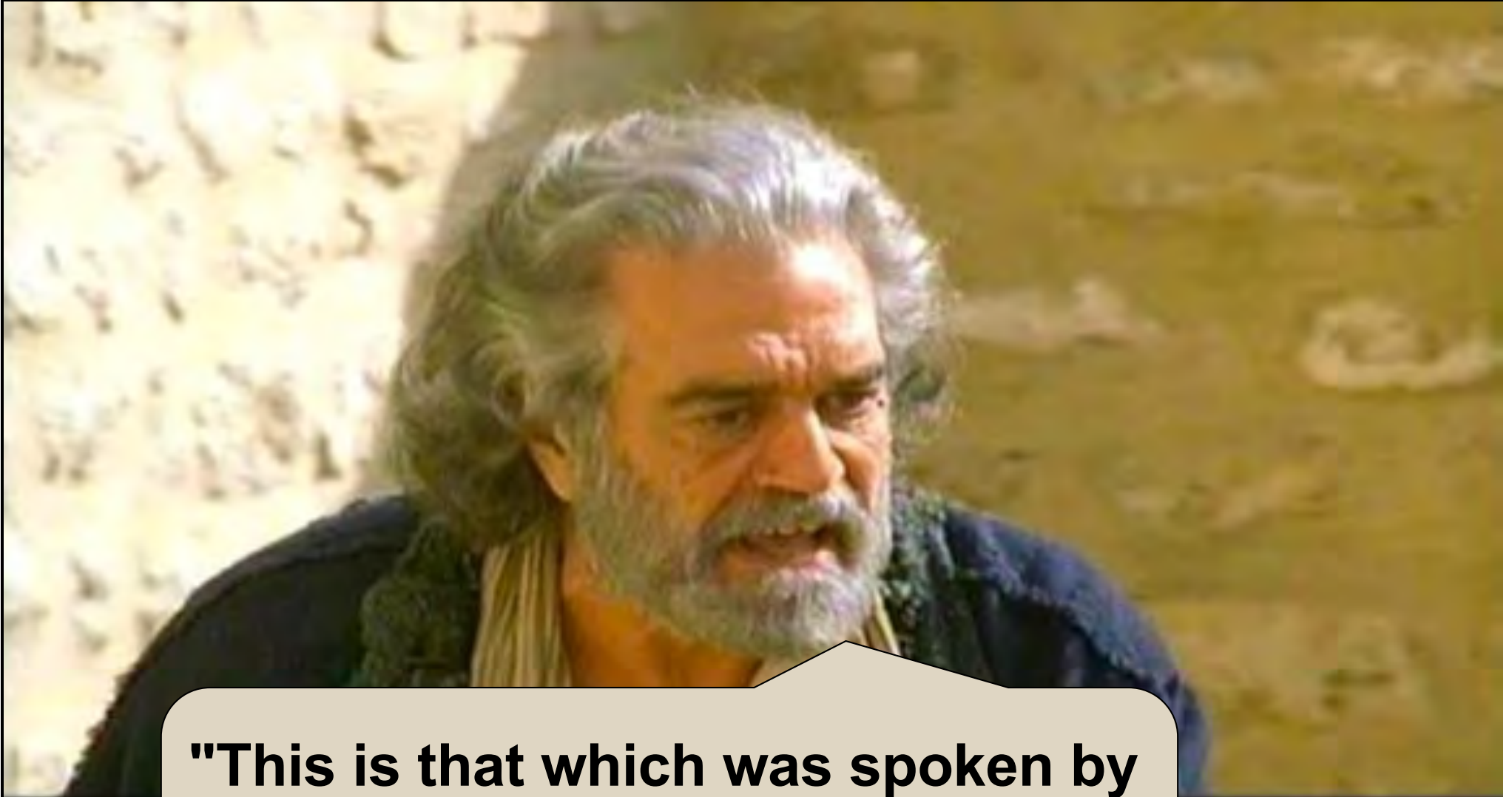
SINGAPORE

INDONESIA

CIC

AUSTRALIA

Crossroads People • Feb 2021



**"This is that which was spoken by
the prophet Joel..."
(Acts 2:16)**

**"Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.
29In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike."**



Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18 NLT

"And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth—**blood and fire** and columns of smoke.

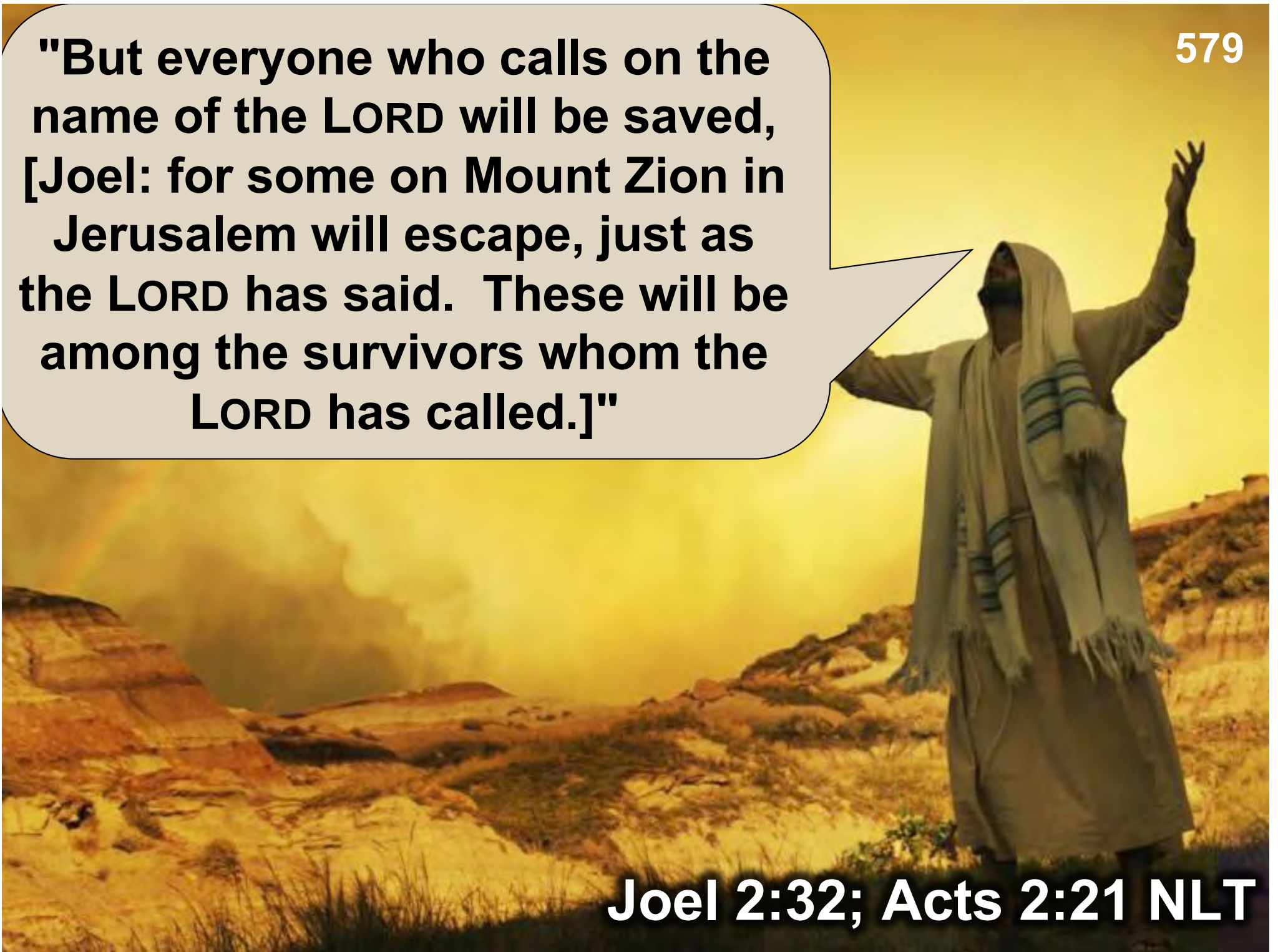
³¹**The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red** before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives."



Joel 2:30-31; Acts 2:19-20 NLT

"But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved, [Joel: for some on Mount Zion in Jerusalem will escape, just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called.]"

Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21 NLT





Resurrection Focus (Acts 2:22-36)

**The Spirit's indwelling proved that Jesus as
Messiah was raised to life (22-36).**

"For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave" (Psalm 16:10 NLT).

Peter noted this as predictive prophecy of the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:27)

36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Acts 2:36-37 (NLT)

³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

Acts 2:38-39 (NLT)

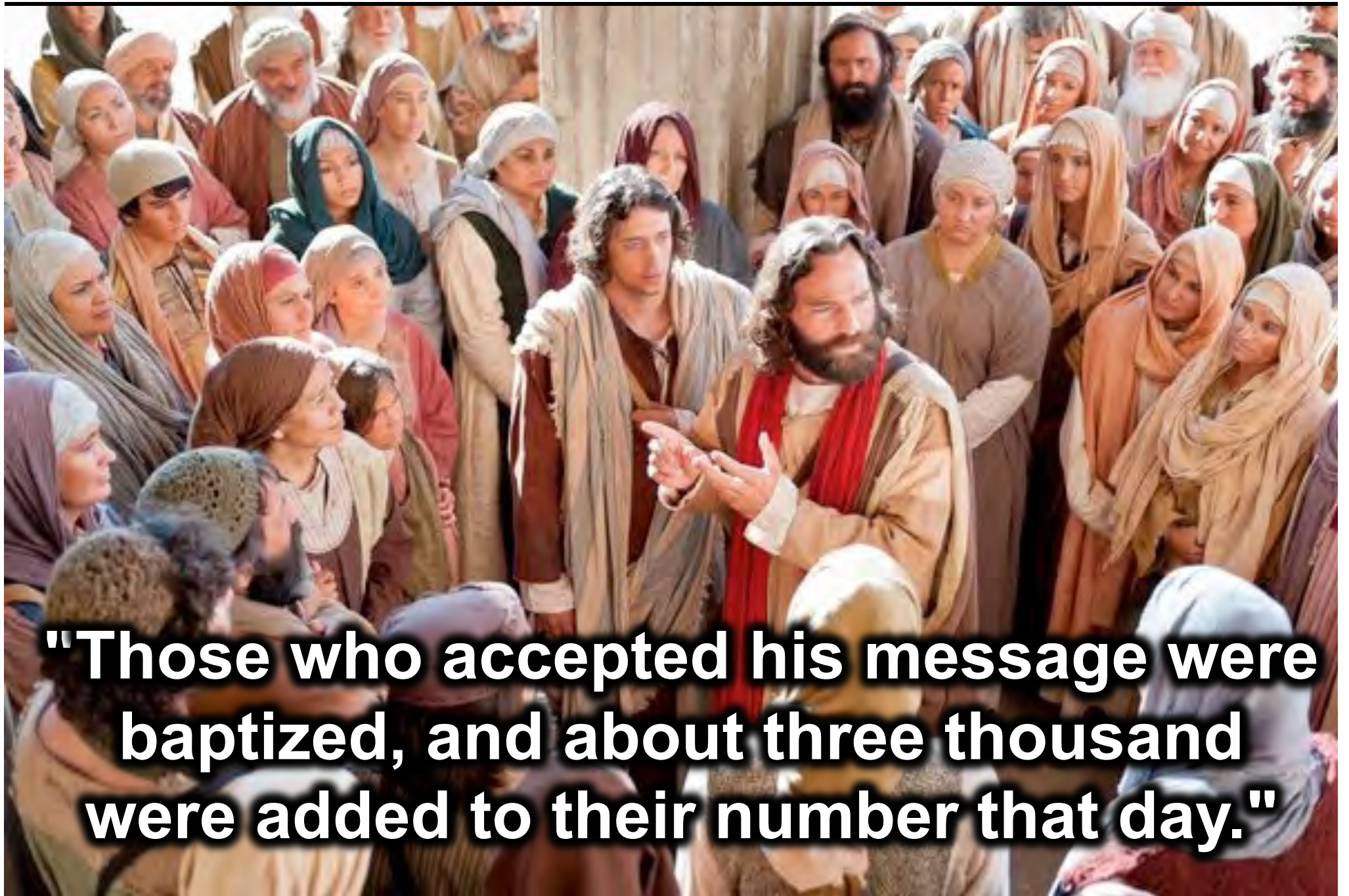
40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Acts 2:40-41 (NLT)

**The Spirit proving Christ as Messiah has
implications for all of us**

Unbelievers: Has he *saved* you?



"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Acts 2:41 NIV

**The Spirit proving Christ as Messiah has
implications for all of us**

Unbelievers: Has he *saved* you?

Believers: Has he *changed* you?



**Believers are
different but still part
of one body (12:13)**

**"For we were all baptized with one Spirit
into one body—whether Jews or Greeks,
slave or free—and we were all given one
Spirit to drink" (1 Cor. 12:13)**

**"Do you not know that
your body is a temple of
the Holy Spirit, who is in
you, whom you have
received from God? You
are not your own; ²⁰you
were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God
with your body"
(1 Cor 6:19-20 NIV).**



Why submit to the Spirit?

- The Spirit **reverses** Babel (1-13)
- The Spirit **proves** Jesus (14-41).
- The Spirit **unites** us (42-47).

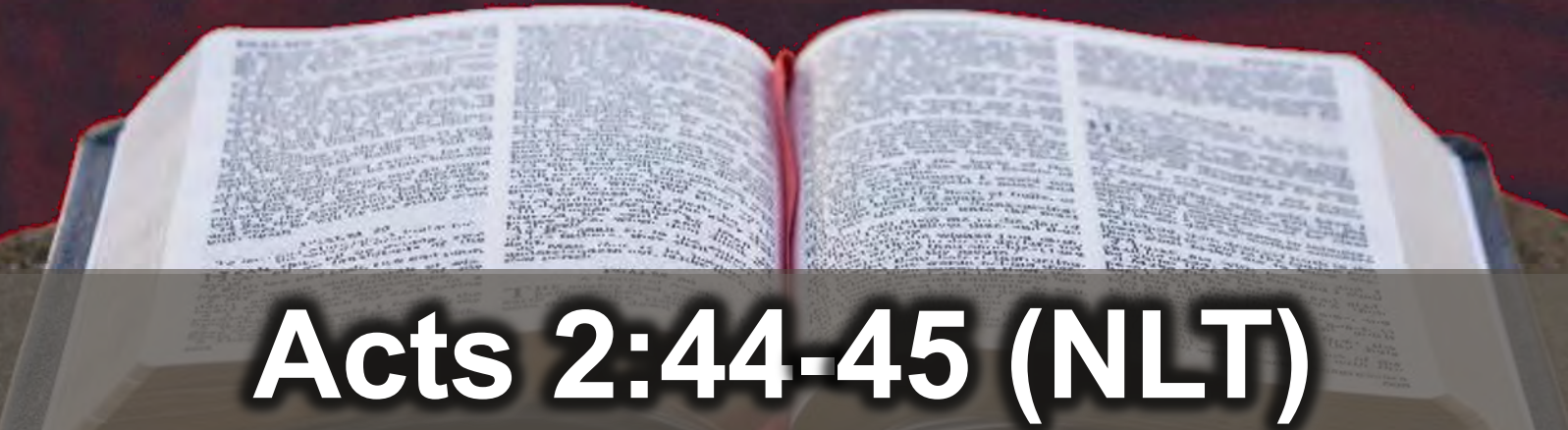


42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

Acts 2:42-43 (NLT)

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.



Acts 2:44-45 (NLT)

⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47 (NLT)

ACTS 2:42

fellowship of believers

Life Together (Acts 2:42-47)

Teaching

Fellowship

Meals

Prayer

Awe

Miracles

Generosity

Growth

[illegible]



Progress Reports

125

Key Verse: 1:8

1. 2:47b

2. 6:7

3. 8:40

4. 9:31

5. 12:24

6. 16:5

7. 19:20

8. 28:30-31

Why end this way?

1:1–6:7

6:8–8:40

Acts 9–28



End of the
Earth

Adapted from Stanley D. Toussaint, *BKC*; Jeremy Chew, *EAST*

Acts 2 Passage Idea

The purpose for the baptism with the Spirit was to show that Jesus as the risen Messiah can save people from all nations into his church.

Why submit to the Spirit?

- The Spirit **reverses** Babel (1-13)
- The Spirit **proves** Jesus (14-41).
- The Spirit **unites** us (42-47).

Acts 2

Main Idea of Acts 2



**The Spirit put you into
Christ's body to reach the
nations**

A stylized, abstract graphic of fire or flames. The flames are composed of various shades of yellow, orange, and red, with black outlines, set against a solid black background. The flames appear to be rising and moving from the bottom left towards the top right.

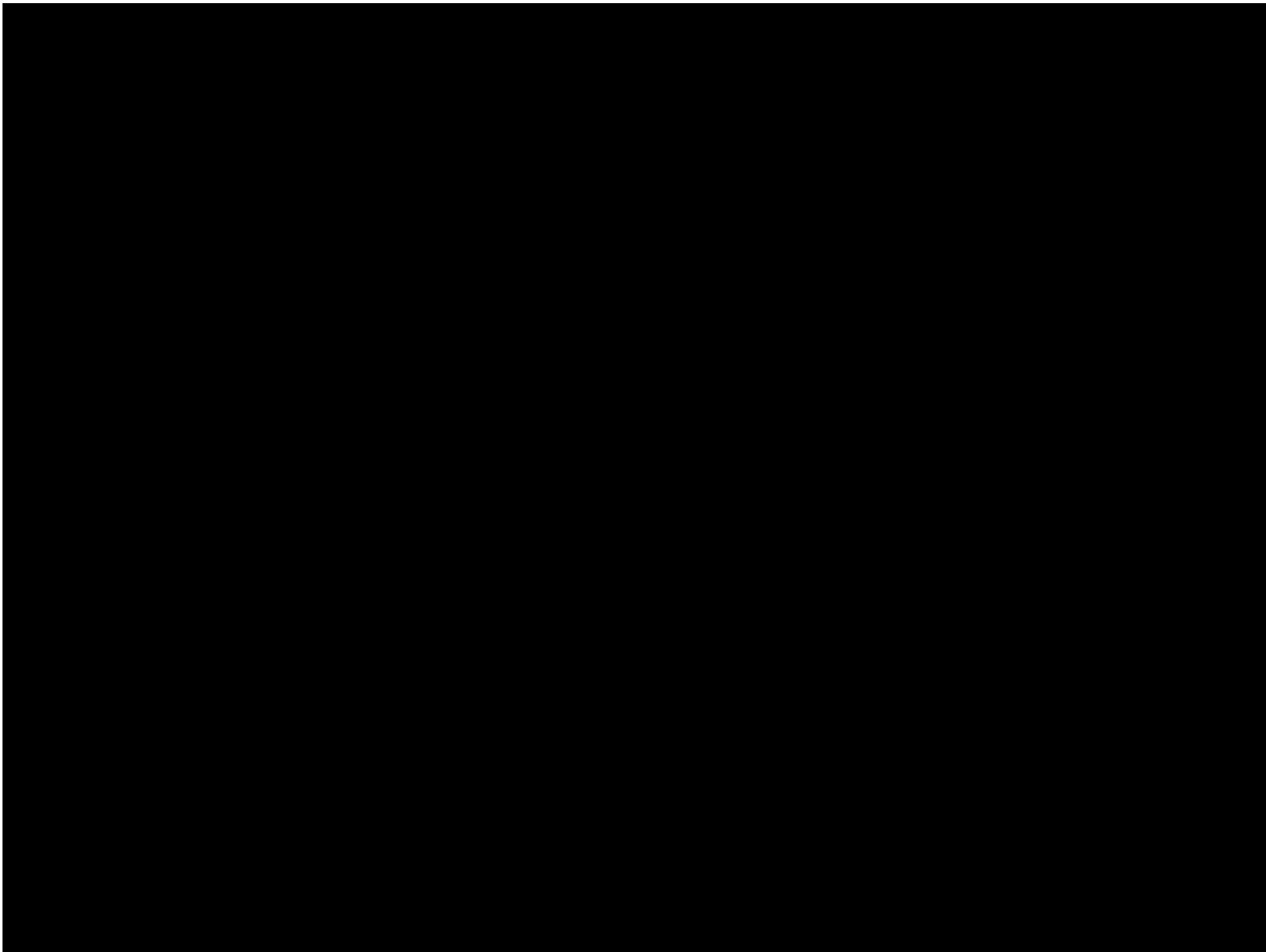
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FROM THE UPPER ROOM
TO THE UTTERMOST

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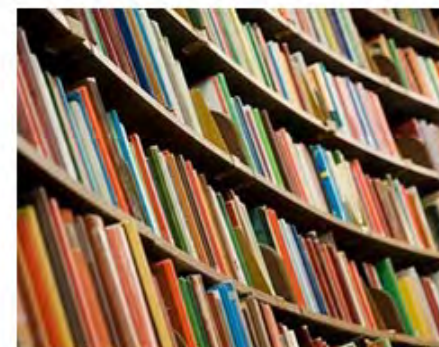


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Expanding View of Acts

1:1–6:7

**Formation of Church
Jewish
Jerusalem Center
Peter
To Jerusalem**

AD 33-35 (2 years)

6:8–8:40

**Transition of Church
Samaritan
Jerusalem Center
Peter & Philip
To Judea & Samaria**

AD 35 (a few months)

Acts 9–28

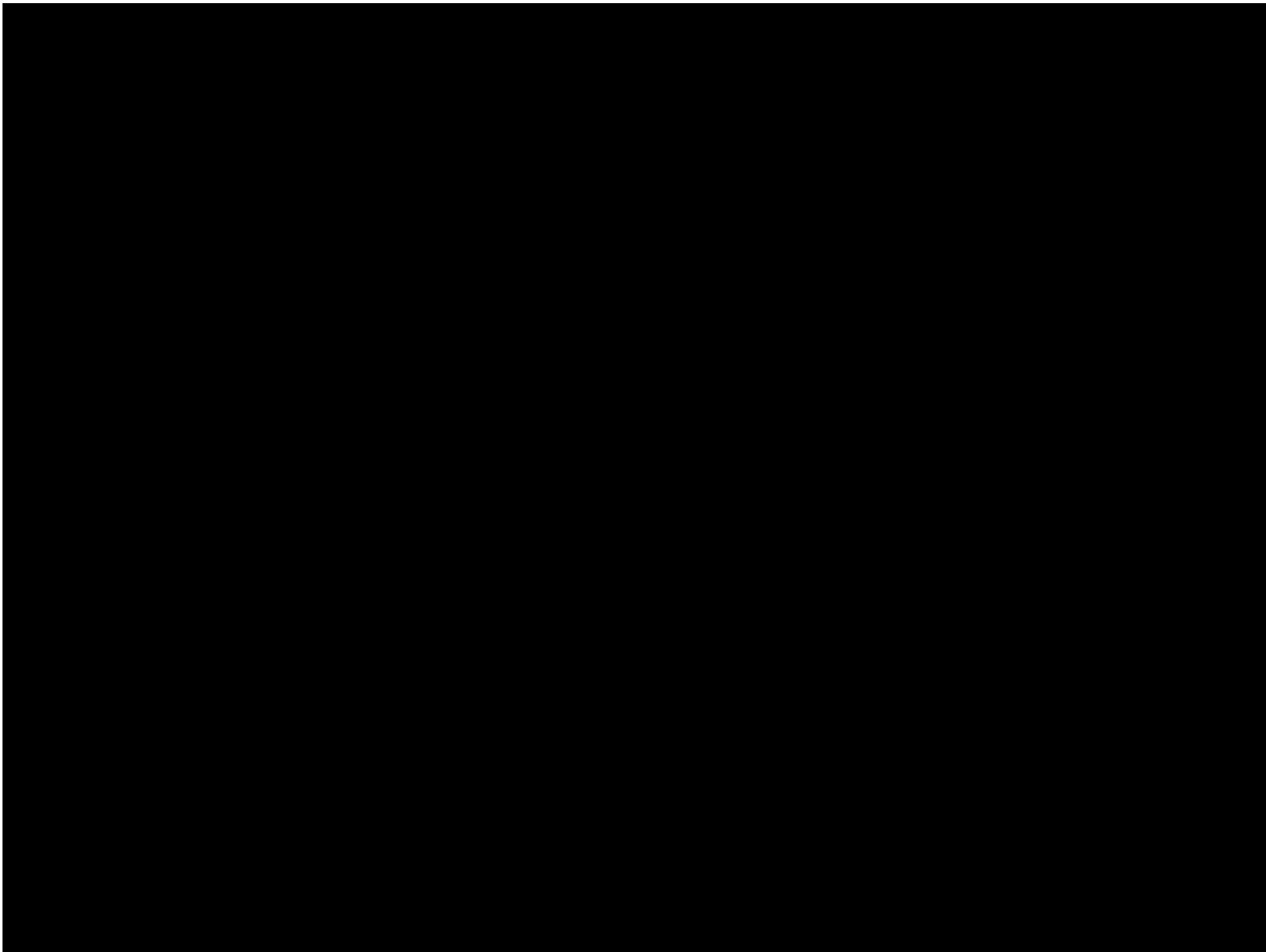
**Antioch, Caesarea, Cyprus,
Phoenicia, Jerusalem
(Acts 9–12)**

4 Journeys of Paul:

- 1. Galatia (Acts 13–15)**
- 2. Greece (Acts 16–18)**
- 3. Asia (Acts 18–21)**
- 4. Rome (Acts 22–28)**

**Expansion of Church
Gentile
Antioch to Rome Center
Paul & Barnabas
To Uttermost Part**

AD 35-62 (27 years)



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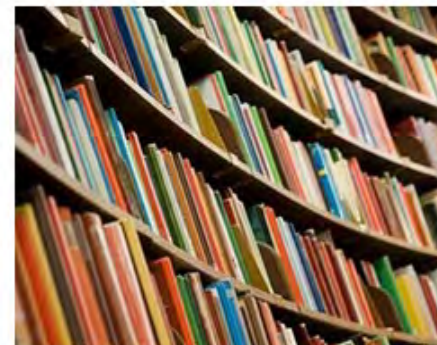
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