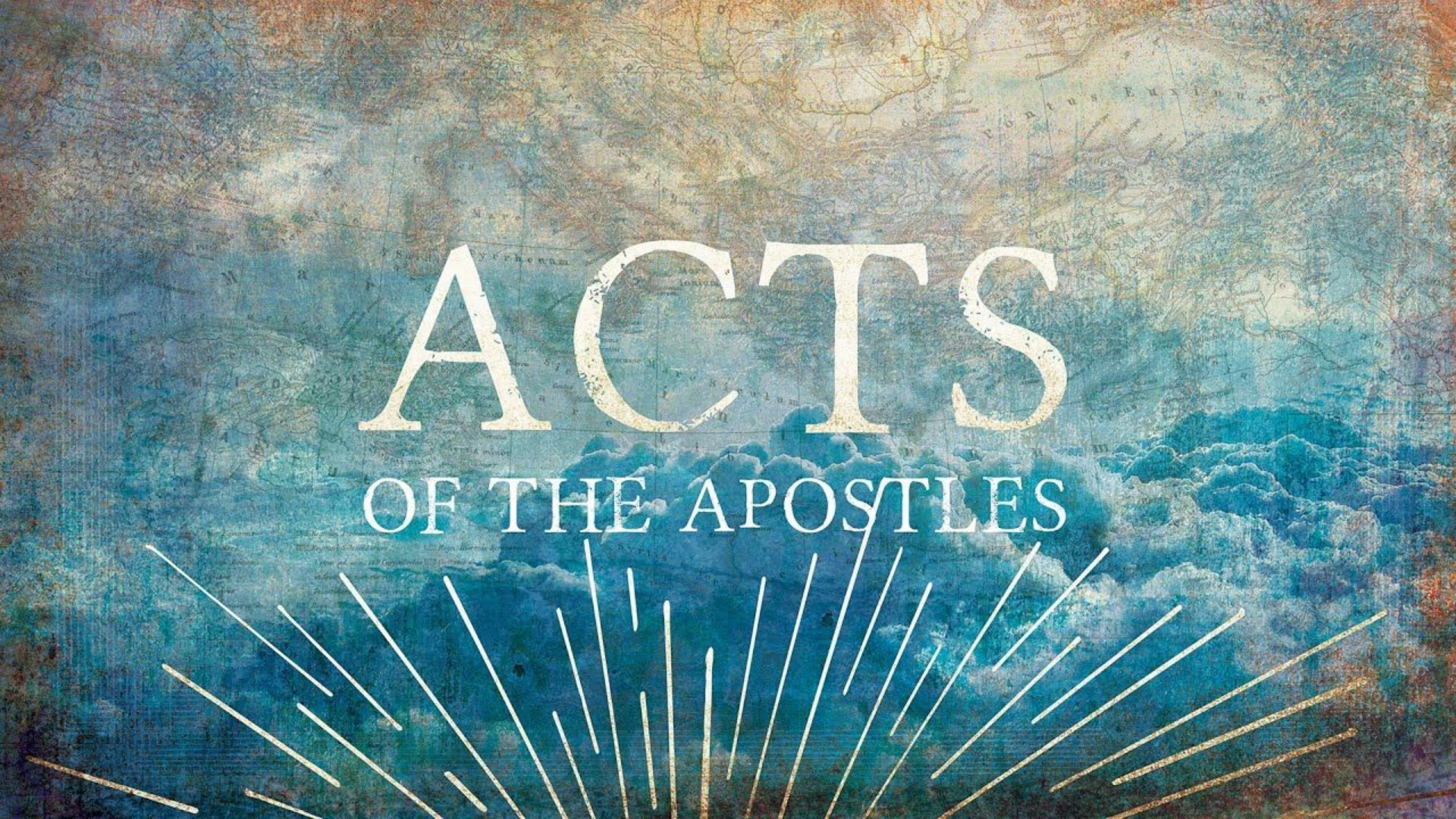




ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you have taken us on a journey through these Acts of the Apostles - from Jerusalem to Rome. We pray that as we make sense of these events that happened so long ago and so far away, we might see them as our own story. May we take our lead and inspiration from the courage and convictions of all those Spirit-filled women and men who proclaimed your good news of grace and salvation. Amen.



KAUPAPA - BOLDNESS

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1.8)



SUMMARY

Acts traces the growth of the early church from Pentecost to Paul in Rome, emphasizing the Holy Spirit's power, the spread of the gospel, and the growing opposition that cannot stop God's mission. It highlights key themes such as Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises, the courage and faithfulness of the apostles and Stephen, the seriousness of sin and the centrality of grace, and the way Acts shows God sovereignly advancing the message of Christ to all people.



- A UNIFIED, TWO-VOLUME WORK
- FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: LUKE
- A TRAVELING CO-AUTHOR WITH PAUL (COLOSSAENSIS 1:19, PHILIPPIANS 2:24)



LUKE ACTS

IMPLICATION: ACTS

WHAT JESUS CONTINUED TO DO & TEACH

TRADITIONAL NAME:
The Acts of the Apostles
A MORE ACCURATE NAME:

The ACTS of Jesus & the SPIRIT

1 INTRODUCTION

KINGDOM OF GOD:

- JESUS RESTORES GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE WORLD
- CALLED ISRAEL TO FOLLOW HIM
- ENTROUNCHED AS KING THROUGH HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION

PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT:

- FULFILLS PROPHETIC WORD (ISAIAH 32, EZEKIEL 36, ZEC 4:2)
- NEW TEMPLE IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM FILLED WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

YOU'LL BE MY WITNESSES JERUSALEM, JUDAEA & SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

JESUS IS EXALTED AS KING OF THE WORLD

FROM DANIEL 4:37

JESUS IS ENTROUNCHED AS SON OF MAN

2-7 IN JERUSALEM

2 PENTECOST

JOY SPIRIT

GOD'S GLORY FILLING THE TEMPLE

IN THE PAST: EXODUS 40, 2ND CHRONICLES 7

IN THE FUTURE: EZEKIEL 43, HAGGAI 2

THE NEW TEMPLE IS JESUS' COVENANT FAMILY

ISRAEL REINIFIED UNDER THE MESSIANIC KING (ISAIAH 11, EZEKIEL 37)

3-5 A TALE OF TWO TEMPLES

A PRACTICE DESCRIBED IN THE TORAH (DEUTERONOMY 16:17) SUPPORTED TO BE PRACTICED IN THE TEMPLE

JESUS' FOLLOWERS SELL POSSESSIONS TO SUPPORT THE POOR

PETER HEALS & PREACHES IN THE TEMPLE--ARRESTED & TRIED

JESUS' DISCIPLES GATHER DAILY IN THE TEMPLE COURTS & HOUSE TO HOUSE

LUKE'S POINT:

THE NEW TEMPLE OF JESUS' COMMUNITY IS WHERE LUCKY PEOPLE ENCOUNTER GOD'S GRACE, HEALING, & PRESENCE

6-8:3 FIRST PERSECUTION

STEPHEN

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS RESIST GOD'S SPIRIT?

JESUS' FOLLOWERS DRIVEN FROM THE CITY

8-12 JUDEA & SAMARIA

HOW THE MOSTLY JEWS, JERUSALEM-BASED COMMUNITY OF JESUS BECAME A MULTI-ETHNIC, INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

0 PHILIP IN SAMARIA

7-11a PETER & CORNELIUS

11b THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSUS

FIRST MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH--FIRST USE OF "CHRISTIANS" (11:26)

13-20 THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

ASIA MINOR

13-14 ASIA MINOR

15-16a ASIA MINOR & GREECE

16b-20 ASIA MINOR & GREECE AGAIN!

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

NO WAY!

GOD'S PLAN WAS ALWAYS TO INCLUDE NON-JEWS IN HIS PEOPLE

PRE-EXISTENT A JEWISH ORIGIN WAS NECESSARY

MEMBERSHIP IN JESUS' PEOPLES IS NOT BASED ON ETHNICITY OR TORAH OBEYANCE, BUT SIMPLY ON TRUSTING & OBEYING JESUS

CONTINUED MISSION TO ISRAEL

JESUS IS KING OF ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS!

HE OPPOSES THE TORAH

THE PARADOX OF THE EARLY CHURCH:

A JEWISH MESSIANIC MOVEMENT, but ethically diverse

• MEN & WOMEN, RICH & POOR, SLAVE & FREE. All treated as equals

• LOYAL TO JESUS ALONE... but not a military threat to Rome

THE CLASH OF CULTURES (A.M. 16-17, 19)

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO OBEY BOTH GOD & ROME!

THE ROMAN DEITY IS THE ONE TRUE GOD & KING!

ACCUSATIONS OF REBELLION (A.M. 17, 19)

• HE'S BETTING AGAINST THERE'S ANOTHER KING DESIGNED TO RULING

LUKE-ACTS

HOW GOD'S KINGDOM CAME ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN THROUGH JESUS & HIS SPIRIT & HIS CHURCH

EXAMPLES OF FAITHFULNESS TO KING JESUS:

- SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN WORD & ACTION
- FORMING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE ARE EQUALS
- TRUSTING IN THE POWER & GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRIT

21-28 PAUL'S WITNESS SPREADS TO ROME

21-22 PAUL ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM

HE TEACHES AGAINST OUR PEOPLE & OUR TEMPLE! (21:27)

HE'S THE TREASONER FROM COOPPI! (21:38)

23-26 PAUL ON TRIAL BEFORE...

21 GOVERNOR FELIX

25 GOVERNOR FESTUS

26 KING AGRIPPA

23 THE SANHEDRIN

HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND!

HE'S DONE NOTHING WORTHY OF DEATH!

I STAND ON TRIAL BECAUSE OF MY PART IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE SUFFERING MESSIAH (13:4, 24:15)

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT ALLOWS TIME TO COMPOSE HIS APOSTOLIC LETTERS

TO COLOSSAE

TO EPHESUS

TO PHILIPPI

28 UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN ROME

PAUL ANNOUNCED THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BY TALKING TO WHATEVER ALL ABOUT THE LORD JESUS, THE MESSIAH, "TOTALLY UNWINDING" (28:31)

MOST MEMORABLE ...

- What is the one thing that stands out for you in Acts?
- Why does it seem so significant?



THE BIG PICTURE

“The church does many things, but Acts is not centered upon what the church does. It is not a book about evangelism, discipleship, church leadership, or missions as such. Acts reminds us that we are caught up in God’s work, in God’s story. The gospel is God’s good news that will go out, regardless of the obstacles and oppositions. The church is God’s people, God’s witnesses to God’s powerful work of redemption through Jesus Christ.”

(TGC)



GOD'S STORY

- How are you caught up in God's Story?
- What obstacles and oppositions have you seen overcome?
- How do you see your life and/or our church as a witness to God's powerful work of redemption?



MISSION

- How would you describe the mission of God in Acts? (Strategy, people, role of Holy Spirit, etc...)



MISSION

- Compare Peter to Paul
- How could answers to these questions shape our mission here?



HOLY SPIRIT

- What does the Holy Spirit do in Acts?
- What might that look like here?



GRACE

- What is grace?
- How would you communicate it to someone new in the church?
- What role has grace played in your life?



