

Bible Study in the Book of Acts

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Acts Introduction

Writer: Luke the Physician

Luke 1:1-4 — *Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*

Acts 1:1-2 — *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:*

Chapters: 28

Verses: 1,007

Words: 24,250

Time Frame:

Book was not completed until AFTER the Apostle Paul's imprisonment in Chapter 28, which should be after A.D. 58 by all other accounts and before his death.

The Apostle Paul's death was about 64-69 A.D during Nero's reign.

Luke also does not mention any fulfillment of the Prophecies defined in Luke 21 regarding the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Luke 21:20-24 — *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

Acts Introduction

Approach for Studying the Book of Acts

It is very important in studying the book of Acts that we approach it in a way that rightly divides the book in accordance with God's divine plan and in accordance with other scriptures. A brief background from our study on Rightly Dividing God's Word is important before we begin.

In order to rightly divide God's Word, we must understand the general concepts. The following items must be understood to rightly divide God's Word. Even if we learn the following items, it still takes a lot of persistence and study to rightly divide God's Word. But if we correctly apply the following concepts, we are much less likely to misinterpret God's Word.

- Three Groups of People
- Three Ways to Apply Scripture
- Two Resurrections
- Two Advents (Comings)
- Seven Dispensations
- Eight Covenants

2 Timothy 2: 15 — *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

To rightly divide scripture, we must understand God divides groups of people into three distinct groups:

1 Corinthians 10:32 — *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

Jews – Distinct beginning in Genesis 12

Genesis 12:1-3 — *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Church – Distinct beginning in Acts 2

Acts 2:1-4 — *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were **all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

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Gentiles – Distinct Beginning in Genesis 1

Genesis 1:26-27 — *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

2 Timothy 3:16 — *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Three ways to apply scripture:

Historically — The scripture will describe how the event happened (or will happen) exactly as the event happened.

Spiritually — All scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instructions in righteousness and can be used to provide correction and instruction.

Doctrinally — Every verse in the Bible is aimed at a specific group of people for a specific period of time (dispensationally), to teach a specific truth that must be taken **EXACTLY** as the verse is written.

Although there are seven dispensations throughout the Word of God, the Book of Acts primarily only deals with one dispensation beginning in Acts Chapter 2 with the start of the dispensation of the grace of God which is mentioned by Paul in Ephesians 3. We will only focus our study carefully with this in mind.

Ephesians 3:2 — *If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:*

The reason why this is very important is that Acts is the source of several incorrect teachings today!!

Another fact is that no one from Acts 1-15 (at least) had no access to any written Word of God – other than the Old Testament.

Matthew – John – Written to the Jews and is the Gospel of the Kingdom – for the Jews in case they accepted Christ as the Messiah – but they rejected Him.

Acts – Transition from the Gospel of the Kingdom to the Gospel of the Grace of God. Chapters 1-7 are for the Jews and they end up rejecting Christ as the Messiah when the Sanhedrin stoned Stephen in Chapter 7 – Rejection of the Holy Spirit.

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Romans – Philemon – Epistles of Paul written to the Church – doctrinally – the only books for the Church

Hebrews – Written to the Jews – Transitional book from the Church – back to the Jews for the tribulation period

James – Revelation – Written to the Jews – Doctrinally for the Jews through the tribulation period.

A key verse in the new testament is in the second book of Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 5:16 — *Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.*

Paul statement is very profound as revealed by the Holy Spirit – though you heard Christ speak something while He was on the earth – It is no longer to be taken as doctrinally applicable during the church dispensation.

Example –

Matthew 5:30 — *And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

Are we to cut our right hand off if it does something wrong – no we ask for forgiveness to restore fellowship – sins were forgiven when we accepted Christ as our Savior.

Outline of the Book

I. The Church Established in Jerusalem - Acts 1-6

A. The church began with power – Acts 1-2

1. Waiting for the promise – Acts 1
2. The promise fulfilled and the church established – Acts 2

B. The church grew in Jerusalem – Acts 3-6

1. Miracle of Peter and John / Opposition of Sadducees....3:1-4:31
2. Wrestling with a social problem / Ananias and Sapphira
3. Prosperity and renewed opposition....5:12-42
4. Appointment of the seven....6:1-7
5. Pharisees aroused by Stephen / Stephen's capture....6:8-15
- c. Stephen brought before the council....6:12-15

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- II. The Jews Reject the Third Part of the Trinity - Acts 7**
 - A. Stephen's defense before the council....7:1-53**
 - B. The reaction of the council—Stephen's death....7:54-60**
- III. The Church Scattered to Judea and Samaria and God Turning to Gentiles - Acts 8-12**
 - A. The church extended geographically....8-9**
 - 1. Expansion of the church in Philip's work....8:1-40
 - 2. Conversion of Saul / Peter raises Dorcas....9:1-43
 - B. The church expands racially....10-12**
 - 1. Door open to Gentiles....10:1-11:30
 - 2. Persecution from civil government12 (first martyr of the apostles)
- IV. THE CHURCH SPREAD TO THE UTTERMOST PARTS - 13-28**
 - A. First Missionary Journey (Saul and Barnabas) 13-14**
 - 1. Call of Barnabas and Saul....13:1-3
 - 2. First missionary journey....13:4-14:28
 - B. Major Conference in Jerusalem Acts 15:1-36**
 - 1. The subject of keeping the law after salvation
 - 2. The decision is made
 - 3. The declaration
 - 4. The charge going forward
 - C. Second Missionary Journey....15:36-18:22**
 - 1. The rift between Paul and John Mark....15:37-41
 - 2. Paul forbidden to go to Asia and Bithynia....16:6-8
 - 3. Paul called to Macedonia....16:9
 - 4. Continues on journey and returns to Antioch....16:9-18:22
 - D. Third Missionary Journey....18:23-21:14**
 - E. Paul's Journey to Jerusalem and to Rome....21:15-28:31**
 - 1. Paul arrives and witness to the Jews at Jerusalem21:16-19
 - 2. Issue on following the law arises21:20-26
 - 3. Paul gives personal testimony seized and appeals to Caesar21:27-22:30
 - 4. Paul causes disagreement between the Jews and is transferred Felix23
 - 5. Paul's appeal to Felix24
 - 6. Paul before Felix25
 - 7. Paul before Agrippa26
 - 8. Paul's trip to Rome27-28

Acts Chapter 1

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-2	<p>Acts 1:1-2 — <i>The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:</i></p> <p>Luke 1:1-4 — <i>Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.</i></p> <p>If you believe Luke, the beloved physician is the writer of the book of Luke, it is hard to dispute him being the author of the book of Acts. Luke is with the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys and is with him at his death in Rome.</p> <p>Colossians 4:14 — <i>Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.</i></p> <p>2 Timothy 4:11 — <i>Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.</i></p> <p>Luke summarizes how far he discussed Christ's time on earth in the second verse from Luke 24.</p> <p>Luke 24:46-49 — <i>And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.</i></p> <p>Christ continued to “do and teach” for the apostles up until he was caught out from among them. Notice the transition from “disciples” to “apostles”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 1:1-4 Col. 4:14 2 Tim. 4:11 Luke 24:46-49</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-2 (cont)	<p>Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary</p> <p><u>Disciple</u> Noun: A learner; a scholar; one who receives or professes to receive instruction from another. Adherent: A follower; one who adheres to the doctrines of another.</p> <p><u>Apostle</u> Noun: A person deputed to execute some important business; to send away, to sent.</p> <p>How appropriate to transition the terms from disciples to apostles? They were learners and followers of Christ while He was here and now they are being sent throughout the world.</p>	
3	<p>Acts 1:3 — <i>To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:</i> (KJV)</p> <p>We will notice now the many attacks on how Luke emphasized the term infallible.</p> <p>Acts 1:3 — To whom he also showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing unto them by the space of forty days, and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God: (ASV)</p> <p>Acts 1:3 — To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. (RSV)</p> <p>Acts 1:3 — He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (ESV)</p> <p>Acts 1:3 — To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. (NASV)</p> <p>Acts 1:3 — After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (NIV)</p>	

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
3 (cont)	<p>What is noticeable among the various versions?</p> <p>Infallible - incapable of making mistakes or being wrong. The removing and changing the word from infallible to convincing is intentional. I can convince you that something is true BUT I could still be wrong.</p> <p>Greek word translated means - criterion of certainty.</p> <p>Being seen 40 days after His resurrection – He wasn't hiding at all and all of the graves that were opened when He arose (Mat. 27:52) and seen of more than 500 at one time (1 Cor. 15:6) and being with about 120 at his ascension (Acts 1:15).</p> <p>Matthew 27:52 — <i>And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:6 — <i>After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.</i></p> <p>Acts 1:15 — <i>And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)</i></p> <p>The last portion of the verse speaks about the Kingdom of God versus Kingdom of heaven. We won't have time to go deeply into this distinction, but the Kingdom of heaven spoken of throughout Matthew's gospel only. It is the literal kingdom that Christ will set up during His millennial reign on earth. The Kingdom of God is the spiritual kingdom and engulfs the Kingdom of heaven and basically from Adam to eternity beginning.</p> <p>I have included a chart by Clarence Larkin that attempts to illustrate the differences.</p>	<p>Mat. 27:42 1 Cor. 15:6 Acts 1:15</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
3 (cont)	<p>40 days of appearance after His resurrection. Let's go back in time to verify these days.</p> <p>Exodus 23:14-19 — <i>Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD. Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning. The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.</i></p> <p>10th day of first month Nisan – Take up the lamb without blemish</p> <p>Exodus 12:3 — <i>Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:</i></p> <p>14th day of the month of Nisan – Kill the Passover lamb and apply the blood</p> <p>Exodus 12:6-7 — <i>And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.</i></p>	<p>Ex. 23:14-19; 12:3, 6-7</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
3 (cont)	<p>Keep this day for a memorial as a feast</p> <p>Exodus 12:13-14, 18 — <i>And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.</i></p> <p>Leviticus 23:16 — <i>Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.</i></p> <p>Pentecost is 50 days after the Passover. Passover was when Christ was crucified. And then 3 days later arose from the dead and has now been seen for 40 days. Pentecost was 7 days yet in the future based on biblical timing.</p>	<p>Ex. 12:13-14, 18; Lev. 23:16</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
4-5	<p>Acts 1:4-5 — <i>And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.</i></p> <p>The promise of the Father is mention in the last chapter of Luke.</p> <p>Luke 24:46-49 — <i>And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.</i></p> <p>Baptized meaning - to immerse, submerge; to make whelmed</p> <p>John Baptized with water (immersed) while the promise of the Father is to immerse them with the Holy Ghost.</p> <p>John 14:16-17 — <i>And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.</i></p> <p>Thank God for baptizing us with the Holy Ghost!!</p> <p>What's missing in this passage versus the discussion in Matthew about John baptizing folks?</p> <p>Matthew 3:11 — <i>I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:</i></p> <p>Oh – but all Pentecostals say that happened in Acts. 2:3.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 26:46-49 John 14:16-17</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
4-5 (cont)	<p>Acts 2:3 — <i>And there appeared unto them <u>cloven tongues like as of fire</u>, and it sat upon each of them.</i></p> <p>But the verse says “like as of fire”. The passage in Matthew refers to a different fire because you either are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Ghost or you will be baptized in the Lake of Fire for evermore as described in Rev. 20.</p> <p>Revelation 20:15 — <i>And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.</i></p>	Acts 2:3; Rev. 20:15
6-11	<p>Acts 1:6-11 — <i>When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, <i>It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, <i>Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.</i></i></i></p> <p>The disciples were still focused on Christ setting up His kingdom after His resurrection.</p> <p>Matthew 24:3 — <i>And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? <u>and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?</u></i></p> <p>John 21:22-23 — <i>Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. <u>Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?</u></i></p>	Mat. 24:3 John 21:22-23

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
6-11 (cont)	<p>Even though the disciples have had 40 days of one on one communion with Christ and Him expounding the Old Testament about Him, they still were not allowed to see the Church dispensation because the Jews had one more shot at accepting Christ as the Messiah.</p> <p>Luke 24:44-45 — <i>And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,</i></p> <p>For the Jews – this is the main theme of the Old Testament for Christ to set up an eternal earthly kingdom and it will happen at the end of the Tribulation period.</p> <p>Only God the Father has the knowledge of when that day will come.</p> <p>Mark 13:32 — <i>But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.</i></p> <p>Receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you – and be witnesses. The great commission is repeated here from the gospels.</p> <p>Matthew 28:19-20 — <i>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.</i></p>	<p>Luke 24:44-45 Mark 13:32 Mat. 28:19-20</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
6-11 (cont)	<p>Mark 16:15-18 — <i>And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.</i></p> <p>Thus – they are no longer disciples – but now as apostles – being sent throughout the world. And this commandment still falls to us today to get out and be witnesses. If anyone thinks the commission is just for the disciples at that time, then why is Paul also going everywhere – the Commission is for all who accept Christ.</p> <p>After the commission Christ is taken into the clouds into heaven (sky - visible heaven at this point). What a sight!! Luke is the only one to mention this occurrence in both Luke 24 and here. This same Jesus shall so come in like manner!!</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 — <i>But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.</i></p> <p>What a day that will be – when my Jesus I shall see – When I look upon His face – the One who saved me by His grace!!!</p>	<p>Mark 16:15-18 1 Thes. 4:13-18</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
12-14	<p>Acts 1:12-14 — <i>Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.</i></p> <p>As we discussed back in verse 3, The Day of Pentecost is fast approaching and they were assembled at Mt. Olivet when Jesus left. So He will be returning back to Mt. Olivet during His Revelation as described in the Old Testament.</p> <p>Zechariah 14:1-4 — <i>Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. <u>And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.</u></i></p> <p>Recent discoveries have geological studies have identified an east-west trending fault line running beneath the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, often cited alongside the prophecy in Zechariah 14:4. This feature is technically a transverse shear zone or fault that traverses the ridge, with some evidence of micro-seismic activity. This fault, distinct from the Dead Sea Rift system, aligns with predictions of the mountain splitting north to south.</p>	Zech. 14:1-4

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
12-14 (cont)	<p>Luke 6:12-16 — <i>And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.</i></p> <p>The word “abode” implies a place of residence. Here we see the same list of men from Luke 6 where Christ selected the specific 12 disciples – later to be called apostles except for Judas who betrayed Christ.</p> <p>We also see the last mention of Mary the mother of Jesus, in the bible. If she was so important to the Christian life as the Roman Catholics place her, then why is her position not mentioned anywhere in the New Testament? It also mentions that Jesus had brothers – we call our male brothers in Christ as brethren – this use of the word means “brothers from the womb” – So Mary was not a virgin after Christ, but had other sons from Joseph.</p> <p>Mark 6:3 — <i>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 6:12-16 Mark 6:3</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
15-20	<p>Acts 1:15-20 — <i>And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.</i></p> <p>So Peter gets up and takes the lead of the apostles. Approximately 120 disciples were present, but only 11 were considered as apostles. See a similar number 120 mentioned in the Old Testament that brought the Glory of the Lord down.</p> <p>2 Chronicles 5:11-14 — <i>And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.</i></p>	<p>2 Chr. 5:11-14 Psa. 109:6-8 Mat. 19:28</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
15-20 (cont)	<p>Peter goes back to Psalms 69 and 109 to identify what was prophesied about Judas. Also, Christ indicated in Matthew that there would be 12 thrones and the disciples would rule with him – so one needs to be added back to make up the 12.</p> <p>Psalm 69:25 — <i>Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.</i></p> <p>Psalm 109:6-8 — <i>Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office.</i></p> <p>Matthew 19:28 — <i>And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.</i></p> <p>Now Peter considered Judas Iscariot as a co-disciple until he sold out on Jesus. However, Jesus knew all along as described in John.</p> <p>John 6:70-71 — <i>Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, <u>and one of you is a devil?</u> He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.</i></p> <p>John 6:64 — <i>But there are some of you that believe not. For <u>Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.</u></i></p> <p>Matthew 27 says Judas hung himself and the silver was used for a potter's field which is defined as a field of blood. So how did the bowels gush out? – He was still hanging when Christ died in Mat. 27 and then there was a great earthquake. That could have easily resulted in the tree breaking and falling on a rock to cause the latter effect.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross References</p> <p>Psa. 69:25; 109:6-8 Mat. 19:28 John 6:64</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
21-26	<p>Acts 1:21-26 — <i>Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.</i></p> <p>Verses 21 and 22 define what Peter says is the criteria for being defined as an apostle – been with Christ from the baptism of John until he was caught out. However, these criteria do not hold the same weight when applying to the Apostle Paul since he only saw the risen Christ (1 Cor. 15:8). They chose 2 men that met Peter’s criteria and cast lots to define which one was the replacement. Of course – they missed it.</p> <p>A key point though in this passage is the statement that Judas went to his “own place”. What could be meant by this statement? We will go back to our study of Rev. Chapter 9 to bring this passage to an understanding.</p>	
<p>The following passages and study is from Rev. Chapter 9 and all verses on the left refer to Rev. 9.</p>		

Acts Chapter 1

Verses	Comments	Cross References
Chap. 9: 1-2	<p>Revelation 9:1,2 — <i>And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.</i></p> <p>Notice that this star is an angel and not a planet similar to Revelation 1:20</p> <p>The first mention of the place called the “bottomless pit” Also mentioned in Rev. 11, 17, and 20. Notice the following characteristics of the pit.</p> <p>It can be locked – Rev. 8:1</p> <p>Revelation 20:1 — <i>And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.</i></p> <p>Revelation 20:3 — <i>And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.</i></p> <p>It is filled with smoke – Rev. 8:2 It is full of non-earthly beast – Rev. 9:3 It has a king over it that is an angel – Rev. 9:11</p> <p>Revelation 9:11 — <i>And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.</i></p> <p>The angel is also referred to as a “beast” – Rev. 11:7, 17:8</p> <p>Revelation 11:7 — <i>And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.</i></p> <p>Revelation 17:8 — <i>The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.</i></p>	<p>Rev. 1:20 Rev. 20:1, 3 Rev. 9:11, 11:7 Rev. 17:8</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
Chap. 9: 3	<p>Revelation 9:3 — <i>And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.</i></p> <p>These are definitely not ordinary locusts – They have a king (Verse 11) and normal locust do not:</p> <p>Proverbs 30:27 — <i>The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;</i></p> <p>They are given power like scorpions – Their size is not specifically defined.</p>	Prov. 30:27
Chap. 9: 4	<p>Revelation 9:4 — <i>And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.</i></p> <p>Notice the timing relative to Rev. 7 – The locust can't harm the 144,000 Jews sealed in Rev. 7.</p>	
Chap. 9: 5-6	<p>Revelation 9:5,6 — <i>And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.</i></p> <p>Scorpion's impact on man is rarely fatal, but result in severe pain locally and sometimes numbness. Obviously though, these scorpions can result in the kind of pain and suffering that one would rather die, but can't.</p>	
Chap. 9: 7-10	<p>Revelation 9:7-10 — <i>And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.</i></p> <p>So these locusts are definitely not of the earth and they are scary-looking locusts.</p>	

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
<p>Chap. 9: 11</p>	<p>Revelation 9:11 — <i>And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.</i></p> <p>This angel is referred to as a “beast” in Rev. 11 and 17. His name is Abaddon – Hebrew tongue – Destroying Angel Apollyon – Greek tongue – A Destroyer</p> <p>Let’s study this person. He is a “king” Referred to as the “beast” that kills the 2 witnesses in Rev. 11.</p> <p>Revelation 11:7 — <i>And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.</i></p> <p>It’s the same beast referred to in Rev. 17 and the great whore.</p> <p>Revelation 17:7-12 — <i>And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.</i></p>	<p>Rev. 11:7 17:7-12</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
<p>Chap. 9: 11</p>	<p>The beast in Rev. 17 is connected to the beast of Rev. 13 by description. Seven heads and ten horns</p> <p>Revelation 13:1-3 — <i>And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a <u>beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns</u>, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the <u>beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion</u>; and the <u>dragon</u> gave him his <u>power, and his seat, and great authority</u>. And I saw one of his heads as it <u>were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed</u>: and all the world wondered after the beast.</i></p> <p>Is there any question on who this beast is – He is the Antichrist.</p> <p>Notice how both Rev. 13 and 17 describe that he was wounded to death but risen again. Rev. 13:3 and Rev. 17:11</p> <p>Revelation 17:11 — <i>And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.</i></p> <p>He is a “man”</p> <p>Revelation 13:18 — <i>Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.</i></p>	<p>Rev. 13:1-3 Rev. 17:11</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
Chap. 9: 11	<p>Daniel 7:1-8 — <i>In the <u>first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon</u> Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the <u>great sea</u>. And four great <u>beasts came up from the sea</u>, diverse one from another. The first was like a <u>lion</u>, and had <u>eagle's wings</u>: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the <u>feet as a man</u>, and a <u>man's heart was given to it</u>. And behold another <u>beast, a second, like to a bear</u>, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, <u>like a leopard</u>, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a <u>fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly</u>; and it had <u>great iron teeth</u>: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was <u>diverse from all the beasts that were before it</u>; and it had <u>ten horns</u>. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another <u>little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots</u>: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a <u>mouth speaking great things</u>.</i></p> <p>Revelation 13:5-7 — <i>And there was given unto him a <u>mouth speaking great things</u> and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue <u>forty and two months</u>. (3-1/2 years) And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.</i></p>	Dan. 7:1-8 Rev. 13:5-7

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
Chap. 9: 11	<p>Daniel 7:9-11 — <i>I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.</i></p> <p>Revelation 19:20 — <i>And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.</i></p> <p>Daniel 7:12-17 — <i>As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. These great beasts, which are four, are <u>four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.</u></i></p>	Dan. 7:9-17 Rev. 19:20

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
Chap. 9: 11	<p>Belshazzar came after Nebuchadnezzar as king of Babylon. The four Kingdoms defined in Daniel 2 started with Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel defined the 4 world-wide kingdoms at that time in succession as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babylon • Medes and Persians • Greek Empire • Roman Empire – split between Eastern and Western branches <p>Therefore, notice that the description in Daniel 7 starts with the Medes & Persians and the fourth kingdom has yet to be seen but will be the Anti-Christ reign.</p> <p>Daniel 7:19-25 — <i>Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And <u>he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.</u> (1+2+1/2 = 3-1/2).</i></p> <p>2 Thessalonians 2:3 — <i>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, <u>and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;</u></i></p>	Dan. 17:19-25 2 Thes. 2:3

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
<p>Chap. 9: 11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. So the beast is a man (Rev. 13:18) that is also a king (Dan. 7:17). 2. He cometh up out of the bottomless pit (Rev. 17:8) and he has a name in the Greek tongue – Abaddon and in the Hebrew tongue – Apollyon (Rev. 9:11). 3. He had lived when John wrote Revelation (~ 90 AD) but was not living when he wrote it, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit in the future (Rev. 17:8, 11). 6. His dominion will be the whole earth (Dan. 7:23, Rev. 13:16-18). 7. He will be incarnated by Satan himself (Rev. 12 and 13). 8. He will appear to die and be resurrected (Rev. 13:3, 12). 9. He will speak great things (Dan. 7:11, 20, 25; Rev. 13:5-6). 10. He will make war with the saints (Dan. 7:21, Rev. 13:7) 11. His destruction is in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20: 20:10) 12. He is referred to as the Son of Perdition (2 Thes 2:3). <p>There is a Satanic Trinity – He tries to mimic God</p> <p>Revelation 16:13 — <i>And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.</i></p> <p>There are only two places in the whole Bible that use the term “Son of Perdition”. 2 Thes 2:3 is one and it definitely identifies this person as the Antichrist. The other is Christ himself in John 17</p> <p>John 17:11-12 — <i>And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.</i></p> <p>Who is Jesus referring to here? – JUDAS – Let’s see</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rev. 16:13 John 17:11-12</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
Chap. 9: 11	<p>John 6:64 — <i>But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.</i></p> <p>John 6:70-71 — <i>Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.</i></p> <p>Acts 1:24-25 — <i>And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. (bottomless pit)</i></p> <p>If these do not convince you of the connections – look at some Old Testament Prophecy</p> <p>Zechariah 11:12-14 — <i>And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD. Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.</i></p> <p>Zechariah 11:15-17 — <i>And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.</i></p> <p>Luke 22:3 — <i>Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.</i></p> <p>Revelation 13:4 — <i>And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross References</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 6:64, 70-71 Acts 1:24- 25 Zech. 11:12-17 Luke 22:3</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-4	<p>Acts 2:1-4 — <i>And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven <u>tongues like as of fire</u>, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with <u>other tongues</u>, as the <u>Spirit</u> gave them utterance.</i></p> <p>Odds are there are still about 120 gathered on the day of Pentecost and all are in accord in in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind – Just like in a church service where the Holy Spirit has his way – You don’t see the wind but you can sure see the effects and feel His presence when He shows up. Just like last chapter when we saw in the Old Testament when all 120 priest were all together – God’s presence filled the house.</p> <p>Notice the term cloven – divided like the hoof of a beast – My guess is that a different tongue fell on each of the apostles – Notice verse 14 – Peter is standing with the eleven – not 12. Tongues set on each of them to give them the ability to speak in the other languages present. The term “Unknown” is not used here. As a matter of fact – the ONLY place “unknown tongue” is mentioned is in 1 Cor. 14 and there it is italicized. Which means the word was added by the KJV translators to make it defined. In other words – as Bro. Wayne mentioned – it is by definition – unknown to any man and unintelligible by man.</p> <p>There was no Baptism of fire on this day – Peter himself even makes it clear that it is only of the Holy Ghost.</p> <p>Acts 11:16 — <i>Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.</i></p> <p>The people gathered are Baptized by the Holy Ghost into the body of Christ and filled with the Holy Ghost.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:13 — <i>For by one <u>Spirit</u> are we all <u>baptized into one body</u>, whether we be <u>Jews or Gentiles</u>, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.</i></p>	<p>Acts 11:16 1 Cor. 12:13</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-4 (cont)	<p>Can you imagine being there on that day? They started speaking with “Other tongues” or simply – Different tongues Let’s let the bible self-interpret the meaning of tongues in Acts 2.</p> <p>Genesis 10:5 — <i>By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; <u>every one after his tongue</u>, after their families, in their nations.</i></p> <p>Genesis 11:7 — <i>Go to, let us go down, and there confound <u>their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.</u></i></p> <p>Acts 2:6 — <i>Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them <u>speak in his own language.</u></i></p> <p>So – by the bible’s own interpretation – Acts 2 tongues are simply other languages. And the term “unknown tongue” is only applicable for Paul correcting the Corinthian Church and is only described as Unknown in 1 Cor. 14 for trying to say they could speak gibberish and claim it was the Holy Spirit!!!</p> <p>Where did they get the idea of an “unknown” tongue?</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13:1 — <i>Though I speak with the tongues of men and <u>of angels</u>, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.</i></p> <p>As far as I can find in the bible – this is the only mention of an actual “tongue” that is not a human language.</p>	<p>Gen. 10:5; 11:7 Acts 2:6</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
5-13	<p>Acts 2:5-13 — <i>And there were dwelling at <u>Jerusalem Jews</u>, devout men, <u>out of every nation under heaven</u>. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, <u>Jews and proselytes</u>, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.</i></p> <p>Now who is in Jerusalem – Jews and Jewish Proselytes (verse 10). In addition – all of the various nations were also represented there that day – coincidence on how God set this day up – No!!!</p> <p>So we have Jews and associated proselytes (Gentiles converted to Judaism) and they were confounded by what was happening. They recognized all of the men speaking were from Galilee, but they were hearing them speak in their own native language where they were born. I have provided a map of the nations represented for your benefit.</p> <p>All of these Jews and devout men were in Jerusalem for the Feast and when it was heard of what was happening where the disciples were in the upper room, then they all had to come see what was happening. They marveled that this “lowly Galileans were able to speak in their own language the wonderful works of God. However, more than likely – a lot of the locals who took part in the crucifixion were doubters (since they couldn’t understand the languages) and began mocking them – saying they were drunken on new wine (i.e., grape juice).</p> <p>Isaiah 65:8 — <i>Thus saith the LORD, As the <u>new wine is found in the cluster</u>, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.</i></p> <p>So – the passage is still referring to the Jewish people and their proselytes – not Gentiles or the Church.</p>	Isa. 65:8

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
14-21 (cont)	<p>Peter recognizes the mumbling and straightens things out. So it is about 9:00 in the morning (third hour of the day) and pulls prophecy out from the book of Joel 2.</p> <p>Joel 2:28-32 — <i>And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. <u>And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:</u> for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.</i></p> <p>Peter is speaking from the mindset still back in Acts chapter 1 and Matthew 24.</p> <p>Acts 1:6 — <i>When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?</i></p> <p>Revelation 6:9-14 — <i>And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. <u>And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.</u></i></p> <p>Peter’s statement “<i>But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And <u>it shall come to pass in the last days</u>, saith God,</i>” is the prophecy of the last days which technically started on Pentecost and we are still living in them today.</p>	<p>Joel 2:28-32 Acts 1:6 Rev. 6:9-14</p>

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
14-21 (cont)	<p>Peter is telling the nation of Israel gathered and Jews from all other nations that even though you crucified the Messiah, you have another chance to accept Him as the Messiah and set up the Kingdom. Notice how Peter sums up his message in verse 36.</p> <p>Acts 2:36 — <i>Therefore let <u>all the house of Israel</u> know assuredly, that <u>God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.</u></i></p> <p>Now – let’s focus on the verse 21.</p> <p>Acts 2:21 — <i>And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.</i></p> <p>Recognize the similarity of Joel verse 32.</p> <p>Joel 2:32 — <i><u>And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:</u></i></p> <p>Saved is translated from the same word as meaning delivered. Peter is still quoting Joel in the verse and not declaring any new specific meaning other than quoting Joel.</p>	Acts 2:36; 21 Joel 2:32
22-28	<p>Acts 2:22-28 — <i><u>Ye men of Israel</u>, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by <u>miracles and wonders and signs</u>, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.</i></p> <p>Peter once again – addresses the Jewish people and gives direct evidence of Christ being the Messiah by miracles and raising from the dead. He addresses Jesus and being from Nazareth – a man approved by God – Although Peter considers Him the Christ – he has to once again convince the Jewish people he was not just a man.</p>	

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
22-28 (cont)	<p>Peter emphasizes the miracles and wonders – why? Because he is speaking to the Jews – who require signs to believe.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:22 — <i>For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 14:22 — <i>Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.</i></p> <p>Exodus 4:30 — <i>And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.</i></p> <p>Now notice the sign and miracles ministry throughout the book of Acts by the apostles for the Jews.</p> <p>Acts 2:19 — <i>And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:</i></p> <p>Acts 2:22 — <i>Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:</i></p> <p>Acts 2:43 — <i>And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.</i></p> <p>Acts 4:30 — <i>By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.</i></p> <p>Acts 5:12 — <i>And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.</i></p> <p>Acts 7:36 — <i>He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.</i></p> <p>Acts 8:13 — <i>Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.</i></p> <p>Acts 14:3 — <i>Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.</i></p> <p>The Jews require a sign!!!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Cor. 1:22; 14:22 Ex. 4:30 Acts 2:19, 22, 43; 4:40; 5:12; 7:36;8:13; 14:3</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
22-28 (cont)	<p>In this passage we also see an interesting statement that “God raised Christ up from the dead”. It is interesting in the fact that God’s word indicates that not only did God raise Him up , but also Jesus did and the Holy Spirit did as well. All three of the triune God took part.</p> <p>John 10:17-18 — <i>Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.</i></p> <p>Romans 8:11 — <i>But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.</i></p> <p>Peter’s quote from David about not leaving his soul in hell is from Psalms 16:8-11.</p> <p>Psalm 16:8-10 — <i>I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.</i></p> <p>We know Christ went down into paradise and took them back to Heaven.</p> <p>Ephesians 4:8 — <i>Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.</i></p> <p>Hell is translated from Hades here. Each time this is translated in the New Testament – it is referring to the real Hell and not paradise. So this opens up the real question. How did Christ “suffer” for our sins? Just the death on the cross? That would not be equivalent to what we would suffer throughout all eternity. Remember that Christ BECAME SIN for us. Those sins had to be paid for us to be free from them. Can I prove the next statement for absolute – no – but I honestly believe Christ suffered Hell for me for those three days and three nights and then arose victor over hell and the grave by doing so. So – His body did not see corruption and His soul was not left in Hell – praise God!!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">John 10:17-18 Rom. 8:11 Psa. 16:8-11 Eph. 4:8</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
29-36	<p>Acts 2:29-36 — <i>Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, <i>The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.</i></i></p> <p>After Peter refers to David’s prophesy about not leaving his soul in hell and God raised Him up – he brings the reality to the Jews gathered that David was not referring to himself since he is still dead and buried. He indicates the prophetic nature of the passage referring to Jesus Christ. God promised to David that he would raise up Christ from his seed to sit on David’s throne during the kingdom.</p> <p>2 Samuel 7:12-16 — <i>And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. <u>And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.</u></i></p> <p>Matthew 19:28 — <i>And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the <u>Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory;</u> ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross References</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Sam. 7:12-16 Mat. 19:28</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
29-36 (con)	<p>Christ died, has rose from the grave and is sitting on the right hand of God as we speak!!</p> <p>Romans 8:34 — <i>Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.</i> So the question asked by the Jews listening to all the speaking in tongues is answered by Peter – “What meaneth this?” (vs. 12)</p> <p>The meaning is that Christ is the Messiah and he was crucified by the people, died, and rose again as witnessed by several present. He returned to Heaven and is sitting on the right hand of God awaiting the time God says, “Go get my children and your bride!!”</p> <p>The phrase in verse 34 is found multiple times in the bible – once in the old testament and the remaining are quoted from that one prophecy.</p> <p>Psalm 110:1 — <i>A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.</i></p> <p>“LORD” refers to Jehovah God the Father “Lord” refers to Jesus Christ the son</p> <p>Other quotes are in Mat. 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42, and Heb. 1:13. What a joy to know that God’s word will always come true!!!!</p> <p>Peter sums up his message with a solemn warning to “all the house of Israel in verse 36.</p> <p>God hath made this same Jesus – whom you crucified – both Lord and Christ!!!</p> <p>Luke 1:30-33 — <i>And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross References</p> <p>Rom. 8:34 Psalm 110:1 Luke 1:30- 33</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
29-36 (con)	<p>Peter only knows the old testament prophecies about Christ returning and setting up His kingdom and that is what he is preaching to the Jews at Jerusalem.</p>	
37-41	<p>Acts 2:37-41 — <i>Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.</i></p> <p>Now comes one of the most abused passages of the book of Acts. A lot of the Jews present were convicted from Peter's message and it says "pricked in their heart"</p> <p>Pricked - to pierce thoroughly as described in Hebrews.</p> <p>Hebrews 4:12 — <i>For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.</i></p> <p>Once convicted to the core they asked the question "What shall we do?" Notice it is not the same as Acts 16:30.</p> <p>Acts 16:30 — <i>And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?</i> The "to be saved" is missing from the question.</p> <p>The infamous response for all of the people that believe in baptismal regeneration comes out.</p> <p>"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."</p> <p>First part of the passage is Peter quoting the Lord Jesus Christ from the great commission.</p>	<p>Heb. 4:12 Acts 16:30</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
37-41 (cont)	<p>Mark 16:14-16 — <i>Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.</i></p> <p>Several denominations use this passage to teach baptism has a role in salvation - Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics, Church of Christ, Pentecostals, Lutherans, Episcopalians, and others.</p> <p>This has also been used to say that baptism should only be done in Jesus name and not the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as quoted in Mat. 28:19-20.</p> <p>We have Christ giving the commandment in Mark 16 just as Peter quoted.</p> <p>We have Christ also stating in Luke 16 the following:</p> <p>Luke 16:15-16 — <i>And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.</i></p> <p>Matthew 3:8 — <i>Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:</i></p> <p>Luke 3:7-8 — <i>Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.</i></p> <p>Let's go back into Chapter 1 and try to understand Peter's message.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross References</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark 16:14-16 Luke 16:15-16 Mat. 3:8 Luke 3:7-8 Acts. 1:22</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
37-41 (cont)	<p>Acts 1:22 — <i>Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.</i></p> <p>From Peter’s point of view, the gospel of the kingdom of God is being preached and it started with John the Baptist and now baptism was part of that process. Repent and then you can be baptized for the remission of sins.</p> <p>–</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is Peter talking to? Jews and proselytes in Jerusalem. 2. What is Peter preaching? Jews crucified the Lord, Savior, and Messiah 3. Why is Peter preaching? To convince them who they crucified and that Christ is the risen Savior and the future King of Kings and Lord of Lords. 4. What is Peter responding to in verse 38? What shall we do? Not for salvation as we know it – but what they need to do now that they have convicted of what they have done. 5. Repent and be baptized – same as John the Baptist and Christ direction!! <p>They did receive the remission of sins – provided they did both conditions and did receive the gift of the Holy Ghost – but NO WHERE does it say they afterward spoke in tongues!!!! There were baptized by the Holy Ghost into the body of Christ.</p> <p>Notice – this action was only for those pricked to the hearts on the Day of Pentecost. The other 120 or so believers present were baptized into the body by the Holy Spirit BEFORE Acts 2:38 based on being baptized by John and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ before Pentecost!!!</p> <p>So during Acts 1-7, the gospel of the kingdom is still in effect and the last days are present with the apostles believe Christ return is imminent to set up his kingdom – why – because it was imminent if the Jewish religious hierarchy had accepted the message in Acts. 7.</p>	

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
37-41 (cont)	<p><i>For the promise is unto you (Jews), and to your children (Jews), and to all that are afar off (Jews present from every nation), even as many as the Lord our God shall call.</i></p> <p>Mark 1:4 — <i>John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.</i></p> <p>Who is this saying for?</p> <p>Daniel 9:7 — <i>O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.</i></p> <p>Peter is referring to the Jews solely in this passage – If you do not believe this, then read Acts 10 if you think Peter though the Gentiles could become one of them.</p> <p>Acts 10:9-16 — <i>On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.</i></p> <p>Peter still did not commune with Gentiles in Acts 10 until God had to show him – he can cleanse Gentiles – no different than the Jews.</p> <p><i>Save yourselves from this untoward generation.</i> This is the generation Peter is referring to.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mark 1:4 Dan. 9:7 Acts 10:9-16</p>

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
37-41 (cont)	<p>Matthew 23:33-36 — <i>Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.</i></p> <p>They gladly received Peter’s message and 3,000 souls were added in one day – lots of baptisms going on.</p>	Mat. 23:33-36
42-47	<p>Acts 2:42-47 — <i>And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.</i></p> <p>They continued in the doctrine of the apostles and fellowshiped, breaking bread, and in prayers. But that’s as far as all of the religions want to take Acts 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get the gift of tongues (although no believer received that gift) 2. Repent 3. Be baptized 4. Get the Holy Spirit 5. Fellowship 6. Prayers 7. Breaking bread 8. Fear of the power of God 9. Daily worship in the temple and house to house – not just weekly 10. All in one accord – not backbiting 	

Acts Chapter 2

Verses	Comments	Cross References
42-47 (cont)	<p>Notice that ONLY the wonders and signs were done by who? – The apostles – not everyone that believed.</p> <p>The remainder of the chapter – they ignore</p> <p>Sold ALL they had and had all things common – gave all proceeds to the apostles and they divided to all accordingly as they had need. Now the only specific difference between this and <u>Communism</u> is the leaders were holy and following Christ and not the government. But you will not see this practice in any religion except for Cults (e.g., Jim Jones).</p>	

Acts Chapter 3

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-10	<p>Acts 3:1-10 — <i>Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.</i></p> <p>After the great start of the church age in Chapter 2 with tongues to help communicate the message and all continuing in pray and breaking of bread (not communion), we now see a specific miracle occur that gets the attention of the Jewish elders. Peter and John are going back up to the temple at about 3:00 pm and Luke records the miracle of the lame man. So Peter and John and probably others were going up and a man lame from his mother's womb was there begging for alms and he had been doing this for years and was well known. He over 40 years old. The one important part of this miracle is that it can't be refuted because the man is well known among the people the witness gets out quick.</p> <p>Acts 4:22 — <i>For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.</i></p> <p>Let's notice the parallel of this man with a lost person who needs Christ today.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sinner is born helpless (Verse 2). 2. He is outside the dwelling place of God (Verse 2). 3. He is a spiritual beggar (Verse 3). 4. He expects something from Christians (Verse 5). 	Acts 4:22

Acts Chapter 3

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-10 (cont)	5. He doesn't know his real need (Verse 5). 6. Salvation is better than money (Verse 6). Any born-again child of God can pass salvation on to others by word of mouth (Verse 6). 7. Salvation is instantaneous (Verse 7). 8. The new convert must stand before he can walk (Verse 8). 9. After he gets to running he can praise God better (Verse 8). 10. His testimony should be public (Verse 9). 11. His conversation can lead to the conversion of others (Verse 10).	

Acts Chapter 3

Verses	Comments	Cross References
11-18	<p>Acts 3:11-18 — <i>And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.</i></p> <p>Verse 11 is illustrating how excited all the people that witnessed the change were totally excited and wanted to get close to the apostles. Peter – being opportunistic – like we as Christians should be – began to witness to the crowd gathering.</p> <p>But notice the audience – once again – <u>Ye men of Israel.</u> Why are you so awed to think that we performed the miracle? Since this is at the temple and the people gathered are Jews – God gives Peter another opportunity to convince the Jews that they crucified Jesus – the Messiah, whom God has glorified. He speaks once again of what the Jews did when they rejected Christ and desired a murdered to be set free in his stead.</p> <p>Notice the titles given to Jesus here – Holy One and the Just, Prince of Life. As Isaiah so greatly described His titles.</p> <p>Isaiah 9:6 — <i>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called <u>Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.</u></i></p> <p>Notice Peter's is not subtle in accusing the Jews – "<i>whom ye delivered up, denied him, ye denied the Holy One, desired a murderer, killed the Prince of life</i>"</p>	Isa. 9:6

Acts Chapter 3

Verses	Comments	Cross References
11-18 (cont)	<p>So Peter get's to let them know that they killed the one who provides the power to heal this man. Faith in Christ is what has raised this man up and Christ power – not Peter's, is the healer of this man. Verse 17 goes back to Christ statement on the cross.</p> <p>Luke 23:34 — <i>Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.</i></p> <p>Peter gives them the benefit of the doubt that they did not really understand what they had done when the crucified Christ along with the rulers as well. Then he pulls in the prophecies of the Old Testament about Christ sufferings he must endure. So Peter has now got their attention and the Holy Ghost has used the message to prick their hearts once more.</p>	Luke 23:34
19-26	<p>Acts 3:19-26 — <i>Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.</i></p> <p>Verse 19 is another statement about repentance along with sins being blotted out – Notice what is missing? – No mention of being baptized. The audience is who – verse 12 – Ye men of Israel. Your sins may be blotted out. Blotted here refers to “wipe away”, but the remainder of the verse is what is interesting.</p> <p><u>“When the <i>times of refreshing</i> shall come from the <i>presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you</i>”</u></p>	

Acts Chapter 3

Verses	Comments	Cross References
19-26 (cont)	<p>The term “times of refreshing” is not mentioned anywhere else in the bible. But we can say it refers to a time when the Lords presence is real. Notice how Paul writes this in Romans.</p> <p>Romans 11:25-27 — <i>For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. <u>And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.</u></i></p> <p>He says Christ will take away Israel’s sins when he shows up as the Deliverer.</p> <p>Notice the prophet Isaiah</p> <p>Isaiah 44:21-23 — <i>Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: <u>O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee. Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.</u></i></p> <p>The nation of Israel’s sins will be blotted out when he returns at the Revelation and the Jews finally accept Him as their Messiah. In verse 26, It is re-emphasized that the audience of verse 19 is the “nation of Israel” by “sent him to bless you”</p> <p>Zechariah 12:10 — <i>And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: <u>and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.</u></i></p> <p>Luke 1:68-71 — <i>Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed <u>his people</u>. And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross References</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rom. 11:25-27 Isa. 44:21- 23 Zech. 12:10 Luke 1:68- 71</p>

Acts Chapter 3

Verses	Comments	Cross References
19-26 (cont)	<p>Verse 21 makes it clear that Christ will remain in heaven until the times of restitution of all things spoken by many prophets. We know that Christ will remain in heaven until he comes to get His bride and in the Revelation – which is for the Jews. Verses 22-24 speaks of Moses prophecies concerning Christ and all other prophets spoke of Christ Revelation.</p> <p><i>Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, <u>have likewise foretold of these days.</u></i></p> <p>Now – nowhere in the Old Testament can you find the details of the Church age being foretold – because that mystery was not revealed until Paul came along later. So the context of Peter’s message should be clear – the reference of their sins being blotted out is referring to the <u>nation of Israel at Christ return in the Revelation Chapter 19-20.</u></p> <p>This also matches the context of Acts 2:17 that referred to the “last days”. And the audience once again is “the children of the prophets” – Jews. In thy seed shall the kindreds – Jews.</p>	

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-4	<p>Acts 4:1-4 — <i>And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.</i></p> <p>The First Persecution is starting – so far the book of Acts has only written about the positive aspects of the early church. Now we see the priests (plural), captain (singular) and Sadducees (plural) took note of the things occurring and were getting concerned about the popularity of the disciples and the ones believing. Notice the Sadducees – who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. The Sadducees were wealthy, priestly aristocrats who rejected the oral law and afterlife, while the Pharisees were a populist group focused on rigorous law-keeping, the resurrection, and oral traditions.</p> <p>The problem here is that they were teaching Christ resurrection, which they were not agreeing to (</p> <p>Matthew 28:11-15 — <i>Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the <u>chief priests</u> all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they <u>gave large money unto the soldiers</u>, Saying, Say ye, <u>His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept</u>. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: <u>and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.</u></i></p> <p>Their previous approach to suppress Christ resurrection is getting disputed by actual miracles that can't be disputed. So they took Peter and John and placed them in "jail" until they could determine what to do the next day.</p> <p>Verse 4 clearly indicates 5,00 men (not including women and children" were added because of the miracle and Peter's message – probably more than doubled the previous number from Acts 2 – 3,00 souls.</p> <p>Again – not speaking in tongues and no mention of baptism.</p>	


Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
5-12	<p>Acts 4:5-12 — <i>And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.</i></p> <p>Priests and Sadducees are now increasing to rulers, elders, and scribes. We now see two familiar names pop up – Annas and Caiaphas.</p> <p>John 18:13-14 — <i>And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.</i></p> <p>The group of men gathered is very similar to the discussions in several other New Testament passages that mention the chief priest, elders and council.</p> <p>Matthew 26:59 — <i>Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;</i></p> <p>Mark 14:55 — <i>And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. (Luke 22:66, Acts 5:21, Acts 6:12. Etc.)</i> and this is what is generally referred to as the Sanhedrin.</p> <p>The Sanhedrin was the supreme Jewish judicial and administrative council in ancient Israel, consisting of 71 members (chief priests, scribes, and elders) led by the High Priest. Mentioned prominently in the New Testament (e.g., Matthew 26:59), they handled religious law and, in New Testament times, had limited authority to enforce punishments, acting under Roman supervision.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">John 18:13-14 Mat. 26:59 Mark 14:55</p>

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
5-12 (cont)	<p>They could not deny the miracle that was performed – so they ask by what power or by what name have ye done this – knowing full well what they had mentioned and was probably widely spoken of by now. They have already rejected Christ miracles and power during His ministry on the earth – they just want it on public record – so they can deal with any potential future situation.</p> <p>Have we ordained you to go about doing the things you are doing. You know we are the religious ruler and you must need go through us.</p> <p>Normally, Peter in the past was mainly just full of himself – but this time he was filled with the Holy Ghost – can you imagine the difference in boldness. He clearly aims straight at them.</p> <p>“Ye rulers of the people and elders of Israel” (i.e., the Sanhedrin). If you are asking about the Lame man being made whole – Again speaking to who? Rulers of Israel – and All the people of Israel – Jews.</p> <p>By the name of “Jesus Christ of Nazareth” that YOU CRUCIFIED, Whom God raised from the dead – is this man standing here today!!! Boldness and Spirit led.</p> <p>Psalm 118:22 — <i>The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.</i></p> <p>Ever wonder why Peter quoted this verse? Same verse Christ quoted to them previously.</p> <p>Matthew 21:42-44 — <i>Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.</i></p> <p>Imagine what they thought at that moment. – BIG GULP!!! The head of the corner can only refer to the pyramid capstone which is at the head but also at the corner. The Great Pyramid of Giza's missing capstone.</p>	<p>Psa. 118:22 Mat. 21:42-44</p>

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
		
5-12 (cont)	<p>Job 38:4-7 (KJV) <i>Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?</i></p>	
<p>Notice the pyramid's math relationships to earth. Is this the reference God was referring to when he spoke to Job?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scale Model (1:43,200): If the pyramid's dimensions are multiplied by 43,200, they correspond to Earth's dimensions. This number is significant because it is a multiple of 72, which is the number of years it takes for the Earth to wobble 1 degree on its axis. 2. Perimeter and Circumference: Multiplying the original base perimeter (roughly 3,024 ft or 921 m) by 43,200 roughly equals 130,636,800 feet (approximately 24,734.94 miles), a close estimate of the Earth's equatorial circumference. 3. Height and Radius: Multiplying the original height (roughly 481 ft or (146.6 m) by 43,200 yields around 20,779,200 feet, a figure within 99.6% accuracy of the Earth's polar radius. 4. Geodetic Location: The Great Pyramid sits at the center of the Earth's landmass, and its faces were built to align with the cardinal points. 5. π and ϕ (Pi and Golden Ratio): The ratio of the perimeter of the base to the height is $8 \times \pi$, and the Golden Ratio ϕ is incorporated into the slope of the faces. 6. Latitude and Speed of Light: The latitude of the Great Pyramid (29.9792458°N) correlates with the speed of light (299,792,458 m/s), though some debate whether this is an intentional coincidence. 7. The ascending chamber inside points directly to the North Star (and many more). 		

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
13-14	<p>Acts 4:13-14 — <i>Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.</i></p> <p>Unlearned – illiterate Ignorant - an ignoramus (compare "idiot"):—ignorant, rude, unlearned</p> <p>So these high and mighty “Sanhedrin” men basically said these guys are ignorant and unlearned and are complete idiots. In their mind – they were considered as crazy and whatever they said would soon die.</p> <p>This mindset is all too familiar today as well with all of the “bible scholars” trashing the KJV and its teachings. God is not interested in Man’s knowledge – He wants man to surrender to His wisdom.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:17-21 — <i>For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.</i></p> <p>Although these two men were what religious leaders call unlearned and ignorant – they were recognized as having been with Jesus!!! What a testimony to have that someone else can see that you have been with Jesus Christ!!! Additionally, as verse 8 states – They were filled with the Holy Ghost!! When you get both of those combinations – God can use you in whatever capacity He chooses and you will be bold as Peter and John were declaring the gospel.</p> <p>Proverbs 3:5 — <i>Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.</i></p>	<p>1 Cor. 1:17-21 Prov. 3:5</p>

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
13-14 (cont)	<p>They were looking down at Peter and John and their lack of knowledge, but as verse 14 indicates – they couldn't dispute that the lame man was healed after 40 years.</p> <p>As you know the Jews seek signs and wonders – and it staring them in the face.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:22 — <i>For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:</i></p>	1 Cor. 1:22
15-22	<p>Acts 4:15-22 — <i>But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.</i></p> <p>Remember that Annas and Caiaphas are part of the Jewish leaders and they end up repeating their same old approach.</p> <p>John 11:45-51 — <i>Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. Then gathered the <u>chief priests and the Pharisees a council</u>, and said, What do we? for this <u>man doeth many miracles</u>. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. <u>And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year</u>, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation:</i></p>	John 11:45-51

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
15-22 (cont)	<p>Once man comes into a position of power – they generally never want to let go and will do anything to retain it – just like our politicians today. At least 32 members of congress today have been there more than 20 years.</p> <p>The “council” is once again used to refer to the Sanhedrin – Religious leaders of the Jews. They have to acknowledge the miracle – but they want to suppress the issue and keep it contained. So they try to contain it by threatening them to speak no more about Jesus – whom they had crucified. But notice how they threaten – It is not Peter and Paul they are worried about – it is the NAME OF JESUS being used (verses 17 and 18)!!!!</p> <p>Acts 5:42 — <i>And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>But with Peter and John being filled with the Holy Ghost – that threat did not phase them at all and got them to speak even more boldly. We will hearken to God and not men were their answer!! We need more men and women that are not afraid or ashamed to speak boldly. They personally observed Christ after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15) and also more than 500 at one time and they would not be silenced.</p> <p>The "Law of Jurisprudence" still followed today</p> <p>Initial Admissibility: Testimony given under oath is treated as factual and direct evidence. It holds weight as long as the witness is subject to truth-verification or cross-examination.</p> <p>Perpetuation of Testimony: Once sworn statements are "reduced to written form," they are preserved and legitimized, much like a sworn affidavit or a legal deposition.</p> <p>The Burden of Rebuttal: The statement establishes a default standard of truth. <u>It cannot be arbitrarily dismissed or set aside simply on a whim; it actively requires "conclusive evidence" to the contrary to overthrow its validity.</u></p> <p>In other words – once the resurrection of Christ was witnessed by so many people and written down and was not disputed – any attempt to make it invalid requires CONCLUSIVE evidence to the contrary.</p> <p>God’s Word recorded the eyewitness accounts and it has never been conclusively disproven!!!!</p>	Acts 5:42

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
15-22 (cont)	<p>The Sanhedrin could not disprove the miracle that had occurred or that it was performed in Jesus name – so all they could do at the time was threaten Peter and John to preserve their positions of authority. They were afraid to do anything else at this time due to the crowd.</p> <p>May 17, 2026 – A 66-year-old pastor in the United Kingdom was arrested while street preaching for preaching the Bible and speaking out against Islam – Fox News</p>	
23-31	<p>Acts 4:23-31 — <i>And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.</i></p> <p>So they leave the Sanhedrin with the threats and tell their followers all of things they said and did to them so they know. They then shout to the Lord and lift Him up in one accord – true worship!! They quote Psalms 2 in this passage. The Holy Spirit emphasizes again here that Christ was God’s son. Just like in Psalms 2.</p> <p>Psalm 2:7 — <i>I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.</i></p> <p>They praise God for what He is doing and allowing them to perform signs and wonders similar to Christ. Then the place is shaken and they defy the threat from the Sanhedrin and speak boldly in the name of Jesus. No tongues – once again because tongues are not a sign to believers (1 Cor. 14:22).</p>	Psa. 2:7

Acts Chapter 4

Verses	Comments	Cross References
32-37	<p>Acts 4:32-37 — <i>And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.</i></p> <p>Unity – what a blessing when God’s church is in unison and following Christ. All were of one heart and one soul. We can’t imagine that kind of unity today. The apostles had GREAT power and were emphasizing Christ resurrection and all had GREAT grace on them all. Can you imagine what Great grace would be like when we generally just think of grace. And they are all waiting for Christ to return any moment to set up His Kingdom.</p> <p>And it is mentioned once again that they all things common – Now this is 8,000 to 10,000 folks when you add the ones from Acts 2 and 3 together. Having all things common and in unity worshipping together. They sold all they had and brought it for the apostles to distribute and showed no jealousy toward one another. I would tend to think they were all cheerful givers at this point.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:7 — <i>Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.</i></p> <p>In verse 36 and 37 – we see a specific mention of Joses (Barnabas) – a Levite – priests – abandons his priesthood (different from the Sanhedrin) and joins the apostles and later joins the apostle Paul to get the gospel to the Gentiles. He is from Cyprus and goes right back with the apostle Paul.</p> <p>Acts 13:4 — <i>So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.</i></p>	<p>2 Cor. 9:7 Acts. 13:4</p>

Acts Chapter 5

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-11	<p>Acts 5:1-11 — <i>But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 5:1-6 — <i>It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 11:27-30 — <i>Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.</i></p>	1 Cor. 5:1-6; 11:27-30

Acts Chapter 5

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-11 (cont)	<p>Now we have a couple who decided to also sell their goods and place at the apostle's feet and claim that they gave their all – but held back some for their own use – personal stash. However, they wanted everyone to believe they gave it all.</p> <p>Notice that it was purely voluntarily sold and voluntarily given. Peter basically says – it was yours to sell and yours to give. But you decided to lie to God and tried to get away with it. He lied to the Holy Ghost (vs. 3), which is also God (vs. 4). But they were tempted by Satan to keep a part of what they sold to themselves and lie about it.</p> <p>Notice the parallel to the Corinthians that Paul discusses in 1 Cor. 5 and 11. Paul indicates that with certain conditions God turns a saved person over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that his spirit may be saved.</p> <p>Ananias and Sapphira are a lot like today's Christians – wanting to get recognized for what they give, but not totally dedicated to giving their all for Christ.</p> <p>This brought Great Fear to all the church to know that God's business is important.</p>	
12-16	<p>Acts 5:12-16 — <i>And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: <u>and they were healed every one.</u></i></p> <p>Notice the REAL method of apostolic signs and wonders versus today's fakes. ALL were healed or helped – No offerings for the miracles – No self-recognition – Just pure apostolic gifts provided – no speaking in tongues – except for those that are lost. All were still in one accord as well – Churches today can't get 10 people to all be in one accord – much less 10,000.</p> <p>God is moving throughout Jerusalem and bringing folks in from other surrounding areas to be healed and see what is happening. But we know that things are going to get rough again since they were forbidden to use Jesus name in their ministry.</p>	

Acts Chapter 5

Verses	Comments	Cross References
17-27	<p><i>Acts 5:17-27 — Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,</i></p> <p>Once again – the Sanhedrin (high priest and all that were with him and the sect of the Sadducees) gets upset (notice it limits it to the Sadducees due to their belief of no resurrection) and basically takes the apostles and cast them into prison. But unbeknownst to them – God sends the angel of the Lord to release them and even the guards of the prison didn't know they were gone (vs 23). So the apostles follow the instructions and start teaching in the temple again the next morning.</p> <p>The next morning the high priest summons all of the Sanhedrin – Senate of the children of Israel – to determine their next steps – not knowing that the apostles were loose and teaching in the temple. They send for them and are discussing the fact that they are not in the prison and get told – Oh – the people you threw into prison are in the temple teaching again!! So they send the captain with officers to bring them back to stand before the Sanhedrin.</p>	

Acts Chapter 5

Verses	Comments	Cross References
28-32	<p>Acts 5:28-32 — <i>Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.</i></p> <p>The high priest and Sanhedrin is now feeling the pressure of what has been done with Jesus when they crucified him and if that wasn't enough, the apostles are now rubbing it in their faces by proclaiming Jesus is the Christ and rose again and is the power to what they are doing.</p> <p>The Sanhedrin is so afraid of the movement that they just simply state that their concern is the apostles are saying they are responsible for killing the Christ.</p> <p>Peter and the apostles then just bluntly say it to their faces – God raised up Jesus – You killed him – He rose up from the grave – God has exalted him to sit at his right hand and declared him to be Prince and a Savior – and He can forgive sins to individuals and to Israel – if you repent!!</p> <p>We are his witnesses along with the Holy Ghost and we will obey Him rather than you – There – stick that in your pipe and smoke it!!!! Remember what we said last week about the law of jurisprudence. An eyewitness testimony written and sworn must be disproven by irrefutable evidence!!! Peter is putting the eye witness testimony to the faces!!!</p>	

Acts Chapter 5

Verses	Comments	Cross References
33-40	<p>Acts 5:33-40 — <i>When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them. Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.</i></p> <p>So the Sanhedrin were cut to the heart – meaning to irritate or annoy someone to the point of extreme frustration – In other words – they couldn’t find the words to come back with and just plainly wanted to kill them – just like Jesus.</p> <p>Then in the midst of their anger – A Pharisee (who believed in the resurrection of the dead) who was a doctor in the law (law of Moses) and was apparently somewhat respected by the Sanhedrin stood up and said – just a minute. Before you decide to kill them because of their movement – remember these 2 previous men that had a following (400 for one – not 10,000) and another man. When these men died, the movement they had and followers died out and nothing came of it. It’s obvious that both of these men were known by the Sanhedrin and that their attempt to gather a following was moot. If what these apostles are teaching is nonsense and not of God – then it will die and it would preferable that you “not repeat the same rush to judgement you did before”. But if it be of God, then killing them will not stop it – just like when you killed Christ – it didn’t stop. It shows “wisdom” in one way – but ignorance in another.</p> <p>So they repeat the previous threats – but this time they ignore his advice of letting them alone and beat them to provide additional discouragement from speaking in the name of Jesus.</p>	

Acts Chapter 5

Verses	Comments	Cross References
41-42	<p>Acts 5:41-42 — <i>And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>So the apostles leave the presence of the Sanhedrin and are rejoicing for being counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ – this breed of Christians has pretty much dwindled away in our time – can’t even suffer words against them – much less pain.</p> <p>1 Peter 2:19-21 — <i>For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:</i></p> <p>So the apostles keep right on teaching and performing miracles in Jesus name. But something is wrong and they are not following Christ commandment in Acts 1:8. They are not going anywhere and are sticking around in Jerusalem where Christ commanded them to go out from Jerusalem also.</p> <p>Acts 1:8 — <i>But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, <u>and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.</u></i></p> <p>We are about to see what happened to ensure the Gospel is proclaimed throughout the world.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Pet. 2:19-21 Acts 1:8</p>

Acts Chapter 6

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-7	<p>Acts 6:1-7 — <i>And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.</i></p> <p>OK – the first indication of some division shows up between the Grecians and the Hebrews – Preference has been given to the Hebrews for the widows in the ministrations – aid/help. Notice it says the 12 called the disciples – not the 12 apostles. This is supposedly the first mention of what is now called “deacons” in the church. Notice the term given is to “serve tables”. This is generally meant as to serve food or provide money. In this case – it could mean both since the focus is on the widows – who are not being treated correctly and they need to have someone make sure their needs are met. This ministry is to serve and not “lead the church” as most deacons today try and do.</p> <p>The apostles indicate that they are to focus on the ministry of studying and preaching God’s word and these other should be the focus of making sure the needs of the members are met. Notice the approach that was done. Find 7 good men that everyone can trust and is full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom that the 12 may appoint over this business. So they find 7 men – whom Stephen is emphasized and Nicolas – a proselyte (not a Jew) from Antioch. The apostles prayed over them and laid hands on them to bless this ministry they were given. Notice how the people presented the men before the Apostles. God’s word increased and even a good company of priest joined the church.</p>	

Acts Chapter 6

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-7 (cont)	<p>Not completely sure of the specific emphasis is of laying on the hands, but it is an important aspect based on the many references in the new testament.</p> <p>In the Bible, "laying on of hands" is a powerful symbolic and physical act representing the transference of authority, blessing, or spiritual power. Far from a mere ritual, it serves as a tangible connection between the spiritual and physical realms. The importance and primary biblical uses of this practice span several key categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impartation of the Holy Spirit - In the early Church, placing hands on believers was closely tied to receiving the Holy Spirit. For example, in the Book of Acts, the apostles Peter and John laid their hands on new believers in Samaria so they could receive the Holy Spirit. 2. Healing and Miracles - Jesus frequently touched the sick when curing them, establishing a precedent that His followers continued. In the Gospels, it is recorded that at sunset, Jesus laid His hands on each sick person brought to Him and healed them. Similarly, the Apostle Paul placed his hands on the sick to restore their health. 3. Ordination and Commissioning - Laying hands on someone is used to dedicate, endorse, and set them apart for specific ministry. For instance, when Moses laid his hands on Joshua, Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom, officially passing on leadership. The early church also laid hands on the first deacons and on missionaries like Paul and Barnabas to commission them for service. 4. Passing on a Patriarchal Blessing - Throughout the Old Testament, the gesture was used to confer a blessing or divine favor upon someone. A notable example is found in Genesis 48, where Jacob laid his hands on the heads of his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to bless them. 5. Sacrificial Substitution - In the Old Testament, worshippers would lay their hands on the head of a sacrificial animal. This act symbolized the transfer of guilt and sin from the person to the animal, acting as a temporary atonement. <p>Paul tells Timothy not to do it willy nilly.</p> <p>1 Timothy 5:22 — <i>Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.</i></p>	1 Tim 5:22

Acts Chapter 6

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-7 (cont)	<p>And in Hebrews – we see how it is defined as a “doctrine”.</p> <p>Hebrews 6:2 — <i>Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.</i></p> <p>And obviously – in the early church – this was also done to provide some level of transference of gifts from the Apostles – since we read about Stephen in the next few verses where he is doing great wonders and performing miracles.</p>	Heb. 6:2
8-15	<p>Acts 6:8-15 — <i>And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.</i></p> <p>Stephen has no more than started his ministry and has such boldness and wisdom – that certain rise up against him quickly. But God will use the persecution to accomplish the mission set forth to the apostles to get His word out to more than just Jerusalem. When this happens – we see history repeat itself.</p>	

Acts Chapter 6

Verses	Comments	Cross References
8-15 (cont)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As in Christ's case, his enemies could not answer his arguments (Acts 6:10 with Matt. 22:46). 2. As in Christ's case, they hired false witnesses to ruin him (Acts 6:11 with Matt. 26:60). 3. As in Christ's case, they accused him of blasphemy (Acts 6:13 with Matt. 26:65). 4. As in Christ's case, they stirred up the people against him (Acts 6:12 and Matt. 27:20). 5. As in Christ's case, they accused him of not reverencing the "LAW" (Acts 6:13 and Matt. 12:2). 6. As in Christ's case, they accused him of forecasting the destruction of the temple (Acts 6:14 with Matt. 26:61). 7. Caiphas was a priest on both occasions (Acts 7:1 cf. 4:6 with Matt. 26:57). <p>Paul gets the same treatment in Acts 21-27.</p> <p>The synagogue is a place of freed men (i.e., former slaves) from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and of Asia. They didn't agree with Stephen – so they were smart enough to start bribing others (suborned) to lie about what Stephen was speaking.</p> <p>The once again bring him before the "council" and have the false witnesses testify against him.</p> <p>As they are doing all of this testifying against him – all they can see is the face of an angel – can you imagine the guilt that it just kept nagging at them.</p> <p>In the next chapter though Stephen gets to provide the last witness against the Sanhedrin to define what must happen before they totally reject the Holy Spirit and God then turns to the Gentiles.</p>	

Acts Chapter 6

Verses	Comments	Cross References
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Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-6	<p>Acts 7:1-6 — <i>Then said the high priest, Are these things so? And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell. And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child. And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.</i></p> <p>We left Chapter 6 with a band of foreign type proselytes joined together to dispute him. However, they couldn't compete with his wisdom and brought false witnesses against Stephen similar to what they did to Christ. They set him before the "council" (Sanhedrin) and Stephen begins in the old testament at Abraham to define the Jewish ancestry and inheritance. He loads up his shotgun and starts preaching to the council and being Spirit-filled to deliver God's message to these religious leaders. You can probably see how his message is being totally accepted until it gets close to the end. A lot of history is discussed in the following verses and we just went through a good part of it when teaching Genesis.</p> <p>Like most good preaching today – very little results except for people getting upset at the messenger rather than listening to the Holy Spirit. You can imagine the crowd that has gathered to hear what is happening. Verse 6 is the prophecy of the Jews being in captivity in Egypt.</p>	

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
7-16	<p>Acts 7:7-16 — <i>And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place. And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs. And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh. Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.</i></p> <p>The covenant of circumcision is mention and Abraham starts the family late in life with Isaac, Jacob and then Stephen calls the 12 sons patriarchs. Then he mentions Joseph – the one that is a type of Christ. So the council has nothing bad to say yet because Stephen is sticking by the book and old testament. Notice that Joseph had everything going for him but then uses the term “envy” when Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery. This term will eventually get to the Sanhedrin since they are also guilty of envy of Christ’s life and testimony. But so far – Stephen still has his audience and is speaking total truth – contrary to the accusers.</p>	

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
17-29	<p>Acts 7:17-29 — <i>But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph. The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live. In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.</i></p> <p>Notice in verse 18 – the Pharaoh is referred to as a king – pretty much the same definition. Stephen is still sticking with the truth and being filled with the Holy Ghost – can you imagine the captive audience at this point. He is standing before the Sanhedrin being accused of lying and saying false things – and so far – everything is gun barrel straight from the Old Testament – all truth. Everyone is on pins and needles wandering when it is going to go off the rails. So in this passage, he gets all the way down to Moses and his first 40 years in Egypt and the next 40 years in Midian.</p>	

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
30-36	<p>Acts 7:30-41 — <i>And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him, Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground. I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt. This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush. He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.</i></p> <p>So Moses is successful and brings the children of Israel out of bondage. All is still right down the straight and narrow.</p>	
37-41	<p>Acts 7:37-41 — <i>This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.</i></p> <p>Now we are leaving Stephen’s introduction to his message and starting his first major point. He says that God is going to raise up a prophet – like unto him. Of course this is Christ. So he is laying his groundwork of all the Old Testament prophecies. The word “Church” is referring to a “called out assembly” which is what they were at the time. The fathers rejected God’s prophet then – Moses – just like they have rejected Jesus when he appeared. Stephen is warming up for the kill shots here soon.</p>	

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
42-50	<p>Acts 7:42-50 — <i>Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon. Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen. Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?</i></p> <p>Now Stephen is getting to the meat of his message. Verse 45 is a key to his message. He refers to Jesus being in the Old Testament – obviously a statement that does not go over well. Neither does it go over with our translators today.</p> <p>All other translations changes Jesus to Joshua – since he was the one to lead the children of Israel into the land of promise. But let’s examine what Stephen is referring to.</p> <p>Joshua 5:13-15 — <i>And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as <u>captain of the host of the LORD am I now come</u>. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith <u>my lord</u> unto his servant? And the <u>captain of the LORD'S host</u> said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.</i></p> <p>So Stephen correctly identifies Christ from the Old Testament – but this goes against the council since they crucified him. Up until now – Stephen was doing fine – but now the tide is turning.</p>	<p>Jos. 5 :13-15</p>

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
42-50 (cont)	<p>Also – notice the parallel between Joshua and the second coming of Christ. Joshua was to lead the Israelites into the promised land and drive out the Gentiles from their land.</p> <p>Second coming of Christ will be familiar in the same light.</p> <p>Luke 21:20-24 — <i>And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.</i></p> <p>Just like Jesus led the Israelites into the promised land and drive out the Gentiles in the Old testament – He will do again. But at this point, this is in Acts 7 – not Revelation.</p>	<p>Luke 21:20-24</p>
51-53	<p>Acts 7:51-53 — <i>Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.</i></p> <p>Stephen loads them up straight and kaboom!! – just like Christ!</p> <p>Matthew 23:33 — <i>Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?</i></p> <p>You persecuted, slew, betrayed, murdered, and have not kept the law!! Resisted the Holy Ghost for personal position!!</p> <p>Invitation time for the Sanhedrin and all in attendance.</p>	<p>Mat. 23:33</p>

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
54-60	<p>Acts 7:54-60 — <i>When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.</i></p> <p>Can you imagine this scene – going at him and biting on him personally. They were so against the message of them being responsible for killing Jesus. They were cut to the heart, but they reacted in the flesh and not humbled by the conviction.</p> <p>But Stephen looking into heaven – and saw the glory of God and Jesus STANDING on the right hand. He was sitting earlier in Acts and now standing. People think he was standing to honor Stephen. But as we indicate before – Joshua was a type of Christ at the second coming. The Jewish nation as a whole is given their last opportunity to accept Jesus as their Messiah before God turns to the Gentiles.</p> <p>Notice the third reject by the nation.</p> <p>1 Samuel 8:1-7 — <i>And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, <u>Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.</u></i></p>	<p>1 Sam. 8:1-7</p>

Acts Chapter 7

Verses	Comments	Cross References
54-60 (cont)	<p>So they rejected God the Father for being their judge and would rather have a king.</p> <p>Matthew 27:19-26 — <i>When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said unto them, <u>Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.</u> And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.</i></p> <p>Then they rejected God the Son when they crucified Jesus.</p> <p>And now as stated in verse 51 – “<u>ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.</u>”</p> <p>And now they reject God – the Holy Spirit. What a travesty. But in each case they had a choice to do the right thing and refused to accept their Messiah.</p> <p>They take Stephen out and stone him to death and he says the same thing Christ says – lay not this sin to their charge.</p> <p>Final note on this chapter is that at least one person in the audience allowed the message to sink in – His name was Saul and a young man at the time. This would be a moment he would remember when later confronted on the way to Damascus.</p>	Mat. 27:19-26

Acts Chapter 8

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-6	<p>Acts 8:1-8 — <i>And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.</i></p> <p>With the Holy Spirit focusing on Saul in verse 58 and now again in verses 1 and 3 – we need to ensure we understand that focus. Saul was consenting – agreed and then went about persecuting Christians.</p> <p>Acts 22:20 — <i>And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.</i></p> <p>Saul's name is mentioned from Acts 7:58 through Acts 13:7 was mentioned at least 15 times. He was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin and devout Pharisee</p> <p>Philippians 3:4-6 — <i>Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, <u>I more</u>: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an <u>Hebrew of the Hebrews</u>; as touching the law, a Pharisee; <u>Concerning zeal</u>, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, <u>blameless</u>.</i></p> <p>Saul was just as zealous about dealing with the early believers almost as much about witnessing for Christ once he got saved. He was at the top echelon of the Pharisees. He is also a Roman citizen from Tarsus of Celicia.</p>	<p>Phil. 3:4-6</p>

Acts Chapter 8

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-8 (cont)	<p>Acts 22:3 — <i>I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.</i></p> <p>He was taught by Gamaliel who was the one in Acts 5 told the council to let the men alone and if they be false – it would die out and if of God – killing the apostles would not stop it. And he was considered a wise man at the time and well respected.</p> <p>Let’s see what all is written about Saul’s record before salvation.</p> <p>Verse 3 – he made havock – made spoil – trashed them – haling (old English for “hauling”) men and women (kids left) and placed them in prison.</p> <p>He also beat them. Punished them often, compelled to blaspheme God, and went to great distances to persecute them. He was a blasphemer. Saul was everything against God’s purpose.</p> <p>Acts 22:19 — <i>And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and <u>beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:</u></i></p> <p>Acts 26:11 — <i>And I <u>punished them oft in every synagogue,</u> and <u>compelled them to blaspheme;</u> and being exceedingly mad against them, <u>I persecuted them even unto strange cities.</u></i></p> <p>1 Timothy 1:13 — <i>Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.</i></p> <p>Saul had a zeal to persecute and make havock of the early church.</p> <p>Believers were being scattered due to the persecution – EXCEPT the APOSTLES – who God told to go through the world. Everything was going so good that God had to send persecution to get His Word out. A lot like we are today – we get comfortable where we are and we need prodding sometime to accomplish the things God wants us to accomplish. Guilty!!!!</p> <p>Devout men taken Stephen and give him a proper burial in Verse 2.</p>	<p>Acts 22:3; 19; 26:11 1 Tim. 1:13</p>

Acts Chapter 8

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-8 (cont)	<p>Notice though as they left Jerusalem – they still preached the word and were not hindered by the persecution. They are now fulfilling Acts 1:8 by going down into Judea and Samaria. Phillip was one of the seven appointed – full of the faith and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Notice who was verse 4 is referring to. “Therefore they”. Verse 1 says “they were ALL scattered abroad” and in verse 4 it states that “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”</p> <p>Does this mean that the women and men were preaching the word? The simple answer would be “Yes” (Women preaching?). Why not – what does the word mean in context.</p> <p>Strong’s concordance “preaching” - to announce good news ("evangelize") especially the gospel:—declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).</p> <p>We are all to be witnesses of what God has done for us and the men and women carried the work into the neighboring areas. Notice the word preaching 7 times in this chapter and what is being preached:</p> <p>Verse 4 – The Word Verse 5 – Christ Verse 12 – Kingdom of God and Jesus Verse 25 - Word of the Lord and the Gospel Verse 35 - Jesus</p> <p>Notice then that the focus in on Phillip in verses 5-8 and he was doing miracles just like the apostles were. People were receiving the message and great joy was throughout the city. Revival was starting to spread.</p>	
9-13	<p>Acts 8:9-13 — <i>But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <u>Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.</u></i></p>	

Acts Chapter 8

Verses	Comments	Cross References
14-24	<p>Acts 8:14-24 — <i>Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. <u>And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.</u> But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. <u>Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.</u> Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.</i></p> <p>We have the first apparent testimony of a counterfeit salvation. Simon the sorcerer who held great sway over the people by his magic and sorcery saw all that was happening and it says He believed and was baptized. But it appears he didn't get saved as indicated later in the chapter. He may have and just needed to repent – we don't know for sure.</p> <p>We also have a CHANGE in how the Holy Spirit is indwelling men and women who believe and are baptized. They received the Holy Ghost in Acts 2 by repenting, believing and being baptized. Here, they have believed and have been baptized – but no Holy Ghost until Peter and John are sent down and lay hands on those that believed. Notice Simon is not mentioned as receiving the Holy Ghost. He more than likely saw what was happening and asked for the same power before they got to him and he was jealous of the gift – being a sorcerer and wanted more power over the people. This is also the end of any mention of miracles in Jerusalem from this point forward.</p>	

Acts Chapter 8

Verses	Comments	Cross References
25-31	<p>Acts 8:25-31 — <i>And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.</i></p> <p>Verse 25 is the first mention of the word “gospel” is mentioned in Acts. We have the Apostles and Phillip preaching the gospel with great revival in the city and then Peter and John return to Jerusalem and Phillip is whisked away into the desert of Gaza. Sounds unusual – just when things are getting going God takes away all of the leaders. Apostles return to home while Phillip has more important business. Talking about fast travel – this is a lot like Elijah coming off of the mount after the prayer for rain. Beam me from here to there Lord. But God knows that if he can get this one Ethiopian eunuch converted, then the gospel will be spread to that nation without the other apostles or missionaries. This man was also a proselyte to the Jewish faith since he was an Ethiopian and in Jerusalem to worship. He was also very high up in the government based on God’s word. He’s reading from Isaiah (not the originals) 53. The holy Spirit knew exactly what Phillip should say to the man and this opened the conversation. Tact as we taught in personal soul winning and allowing the Holy Spirit to use you as his mouth piece is the best way to witness!! So he invites Phillip up to help him understand the passage and Phillip – being spirit filled – knows exactly how to preach unto him the passage about Christ.</p>	

Acts Chapter 8

Verses	Comments	Cross References
32-40	<p><i>Acts 8:32-40 — The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷<u>And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.</u> And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.</i></p> <p>Besides Psalms 22 – this is one of the best Old Testament passages that speaks of Christ being offered as our sacrifice for our sins to please the Lord as being sufficient!!!!</p> <p>Christ as the sacrificial lamb as a blood atonement for us! Here we see a transitional move toward believing what Jesus did through faith and not through signs and wanders and believing with <u>ALL THINE HEART</u> – not mind is the way of salvation for the Gentiles – and this is the first full Gentile mentioned after Pentecost – since Judea and Samaritans are part Jewish.</p> <p>Verse 37 is totally different than any previous discussion to receive salvation. Notice the eunuch ask what keeps me from being baptized since we have water? Believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God with all thine heart is the key to salvation!! The devils believe Jesus and know he raised from the dead – but with the heart man believeth to salvation.</p> <p>Verse has been removed from other translation or noted as not being in most reliable text. Once believing – He was baptized and then as quick as Phillip arrived – he was gone to be seen no more of the Eunuch. But the Eunuch now had the Holy Spirit just like Cornelius in Acts Chapter 10 or being baptized (without laying on of hands) and was rejoicing!</p>	

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-9	<p>Acts 9:1-9 — <i>And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.</i></p> <p>Saul is, as we described last week, a very zealous man and is active in seeking out anyone who is following the disciples and Christ. He is seeking approval from the high priest to get any in Damascus, bind them and bring them back to Jerusalem in bonds – and beaten for sure. He gets the papers to do as he requested and is on his way to Damascus.</p> <p>But then Jesus shows up and just as the men coming after him in the Garden of Gethsemane – they fell down. This occurrence was so much part of Paul’s life – he mentions it several times. In later passages (Acts 22, 26, 1 Cor. 15, Gal. 1). Another passage describing the occurrence is found later in Acts 26 and provides a little more detail of the commission Christ gave the apostle Paul.</p> <p>The recording in Acts 9 is fairly short and sweet and pretty much let’s know that Jesus is not happy with him and he will let him know more when he gets to Damascus. Paul recognizes Him as Lord. He understood what was said, but the rest of the men with him just heard noise. When Paul gets up – he is blind and can’t see and must be led to Damascus. Let’s see the more details discussion in Chap. 26.</p>	<p>Acts 22, 26, 1 Cor. 15, Gal. 1</p>

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-9 (cont)	<p>Acts 26:12-18 — <i>Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the <u>Hebrew tongue</u>, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a <u>minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee</u>: Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.</i></p> <p>Paul reveals more details of the conversation. Notice Christ speaks in the Hebrew tongue – since that is the language of the Old Testament and what God probably taught to Adam and from then on down through Abraham.</p> <p>Christ says Paul is to be a minister (helper/servant) and a witness (preacher) of both the things he has seen and the things that Christ will show him. Just as the apostles and the two men on the way to Emmaus – UNTIL THE HOLY SPIRIT OPENS THE HEART – Men can't grasp the things of God!!!</p> <p>Notice the details of the commission. Delivering from the people (Israel – Jews) and from the Gentiles – where he now ends him.</p> <p>He was to be a minister to the Jews scattered abroad – since the Apostles would not go and to the Gentiles. His ministry was to do 5 things as we see.</p>	Acts 26:12-18

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-9 (cont)	<p>1. Open their eyes</p> <p>2 Corinthians 4:1-4 — <i>Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.</i></p> <p>2. Turn them from darkness to light</p> <p>Similar to John the Baptist – Paul’s ministry was to focus men on the light of Christ</p> <p>John 1:5-9 — <i>And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.</i></p> <p>3. Turn men from the power of Satan to God</p> <p>We are a people “without hope,” “without strength,” “without excuse,” and “without God” (Rom. 5:6, 1:20; Eph. 2:12) in an “evil world” with an “evil imagination” (Gal. 1:4; Gen. 8:21) that has been taken captive by the Devil “at his will” (2 Tim. 2:26).</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 — <i>For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.</i></p> <p>4. Than man might receive forgiveness of their sins</p> <p>Not by water baptism, not by works, not by being circumcised – but <u>BY FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ.</u></p> <p>Galatians 3:26 — <i>For ye are all the children of God <u>by faith in Christ Jesus.</u></i></p>	<p>2 Cor. 4:1-4; John 1:5-9; 1 Thes. 1:9-10; Gal. 3:26</p>

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-9 (cont)	<p>Colossians 1:14 — <i>In whom we have <u>redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins</u>:</i></p> <p>5. Provide an inheritance</p> <p>Revelation 21:1-3 — <i>And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.</i></p> <p>Can you imagine the flashback Paul had when this vision came and him watching Stephen die – Asking God to forgive them? What conviction came down upon Saul!!!</p> <p>Notice the text of verse 5 – <i>I am Jesus WHOM thou persecutest</i> – Paul was persecuting believers – therefore – we represent Jesus here on earth and are part of his body.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:26 — <i>And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.</i></p>	<p>Col. 1:14 Rev. 21:1-3 1 Cor. 12:26</p>
10-16	<p>Acts 9:10-16 — <i>And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.</i></p> <p>So Paul gets up and is led by the other men with him on into Damascus where he goes to the house of Judas. Jesus appears to a man named Ananias and instructs him to go minister to Saul and deliver a message.</p>	

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
10-16 (cont)	<p>Once again – let’s get the other discussions on this passage for a full account.</p> <p>Acts 22:12-16 — <i>And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.</i></p> <p>Saul is praying awaiting an answer and I would venture to say that his prayers are more than rituals at this point. From this point forward, Saul is not going to be leaning on his learning from Gamliel, but from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit!! Ananias is to go out to the street call Straight and seek Paul at Judas’ place. But Ananias is afraid based on Saul’s reputation of delivering believers and knows that he came with papers from the high priest. But Jesus assures him that he will be a changed man. Christ uses Ananias to open Saul’s eyes that has been blinded. Christ has separated Saul for to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.</p> <p>Ananias touches Saul and he receives his sight and Ananias tells him what Jesus revealed to him and pretty much says – Now get up and get busy!! They arose and was baptized and Saul is now fixing to become the greatest apostle of the New Testament.</p>	Acts 22:12-16

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
17-22	<p>Acts 9:17-22 — <i>And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.</i></p> <p>Saul receives his sight and although not defined in detail, I believe Paul was pulled apart just like Elijah (1 Kings 19:8), Moses (Ex. 34:28), and Jesus (Luke 4:2) for forty days on Mount Sinai. As indicated he received meat and was strengthened. Galatians 4 has the account of this time of fasting and revelation for the apostle Paul.</p> <p>Galatians 4:21-31 — <i>Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gal. 4:21-31</p>

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
17-22 (cont)	<p>Paul refers to this time as an allegory – which are parallels. Notice the parallels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ishmael versus Isaac 2. Hagar versus Sarah 3. Mt Sinai versus Mt. Zion 4. Earthly Jerusalem versus New Jerusalem 5. Bondwoman versus Freewoman 6. Born after the flesh versus born of the promise 7. Old Testament versus New Testament 8. Children of Bondage versus Children of Promise 9. Law versus Grace <p>Praise God we are born of the promise and live in Grace and not under the law!!!</p>	

Acts Chapter 9

Verses	Comments	Cross References
23	<p>Acts 9:23 — <i>And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:</i> Although the next passage in Acts speaks about Paul still in Damascus, we read over in Galatians where he took a “sabbatical” for 3 years before returning to Damascus.</p> <p>Galatians 1:10-18 — <i>For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again into Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.</i></p> <p>The apostle Paul went into Arabia and spent a lot of time being taught about Jesus from the Holy Spirit and not by men. And this is where it was revealed unto him the dispensation of the grace of god.</p> <p>Ephesians 3:2-5 — <i>If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;</i></p> <p>If Paul had went to Jerusalem – he would have been tainted by the apostles still teaching to follow the law after salvation. Thank God for his Amazing Grace!!!</p>	<p>Gal. 1:10-18 Eph. 3:2-5</p>