

Memory Verses

February 19, 2021 3:11 PM

★ Test 1

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.

Acts 1:8 KJV

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:41 KJV

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12 KJV

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.

Acts 4:13 KJV

★ Midterm

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Acts 6:10 KJV

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.

Acts 7:59-60 KJV

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 8:4 KJV

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 10:43 KJV

Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Acts 11:23 KJV

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:39 KJV

★ Test 3

Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:30b KJV

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Acts 16:31 KJV

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:31 KJV

For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Acts 18:28 KJV

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Acts 19:20 KJV

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24 KJV

For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

Acts 22:15 KJV

★ Final Exam

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Acts 24:16 KJV

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.

Acts 26:18 KJV

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Acts 26:28 KJV

And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Acts 26:29 KJV

Finals Memory Verses

May 3, 2021 11:04 AM

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Acts 26:29 KJV

Chapter 1

January 27, 2021 11:02 AM

➤ Introduction

- Who/Author?
 - The Obvious - Holy Spirit
 - ★▪ The Accepted - Luke writing to Theophilus
 - The Evidence
 - Over 80 different geographical locations referenced in Acts
 - Over 100 people referenced by name
 - Gives more cities, titles, and significant information than any other writer in the New Testament
 - 28% (less than 30%) of the New Testament is the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts
- What?
 - ★▪ Bridge & Transition - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, utter most parts of the earth (UMPOTE)
 - Ecclesiastical
 - Connecting the gospels to the New Testament church
 - ★▪ Acts 1:8 Theme of the book - ye shall be witnesses unto me
- Where?
 - ★▪ Most likely from Rome
- When?
 - Included:
 - Expansion & Journeys
 - Not Included:
 - Paul before Caesar AD 62
 - Nero's Persecution AD 64
 - Paul & Peter's death AD 68
 - Destruction of Jerusalem AD 70

★➤ 1 Growing Church

- Church at Jerusalem (Chapter 1-7)
- Basic Theme Verses: Acts 1:3,4
 - 1) Opening Address (1-2)
 - "Treatise" = multiple volume work / exploits of a great man
 - Who/What work? "All that Jesus began to do and to teach"
 - The Acts of Jesus Christ, through the Spirit of God, in the lives of the Apostles
 - "Until the in day in which he was taken up" - picks up where the Gospel leaves off
 - 2) Assurance of the Disciples (3-8)
 - "His passion" = His suffering & death
 - "infallible proofs"
 - "But wait" & "ye shall be" - something that has not yet occurred, which is...?
 - Kingdom - they were eager for the kingdom, but something else was more urgent
 - "Witnesses" - literally, martyrs
 - 3) Ascension of Christ (9)
 - The cloud is symbolic of God's presence - Jesus was received into the presence of God
 - 4) Accord in Purpose (10-14)
 - "So come in like manner" - what coming is referred to here? See Rev. 1:7 - "

- Behold, he cometh with clouds...."
 - "Continued with one accord"
 - ◆ The disciples, the women, Mary, His brethren
- 5) Appointment of the Apostle (15-26)
 - The betrayal had been prophesied (Ps. 69:25, 109:8)
 - "His bishoprick let another take"
 - Who qualified? "Of these men..."
 - "With us" since the beginning
 - "The lot fell upon Matthias" - they chose Matthias to be the next apostle (26)
 - Was this a legitimate way to discover God's direction? Yes (Proverbs 16:33)
 - Is this for our day? No, because we have the Holy Spirit
- Discussion/Questions/Difficulties
 - What is the relationship between the Church...?
 - When does the Spirit begin to "indwell" believers?
 - Was Matthias God's choice?

Chapter 2

February 3, 2021 11:14 AM

➤ 2 The Powerful Proclamation

- Aim: Describe the Spirit's Coming on the Day of Pentecost
- Basic Theme Verses 2:4, 2:36
- 1) Manifestation of the Spirit (1-13)
 - Significance of "Pentecost"
 - Importance of "accord"
 - Characteristics of this fulfillment
- 2) Message of the Spirit (14-36)
 - Prophecy of Joel - The outpouring of the Spirit is connected to the Messianic prophecy
 - Person of Jesus Christ - Miracles, Vicarious Death, Resurrection
 - Prophecy of David - resurrection is tied to reign
 - Peter's conclusion - Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Christ - promised Messiah
 - Christ is the cause of the Spirit's coming
- 3) Ministry of the Spirit (37-47)
 - Conviction of the Holy Spirit
 - Content of Peter's Message - believe, be forgiven, baptized, be filled
 - "Save yourselves" - you cannot follow the crowd into heaven!
 - Conversion of Sinners
 - Job assignments - we must proclaim the gospel
 - Holy Spirit - conviction
 - Believers - evangelize
 - Sinners - "receive with gladness"
 - Continuing of the Saints
 - Integrity, fraternity, community, importunity
 - Conversation of the Church
- Discussion/Questions/Difficulties
 - Is the 1st century experience of Pentecost for us today?
 - How should we understand the phrase "repent and be baptized for the remission of sins"? - "for" means "because of"

Chapter 3

February 11, 2021 9:39 PM

➤ 3 The Message in the Miracle

- First miracle of the Church Age - the healing of the lame man at Gate Beautiful
- Basic Theme Verse: 3:16; 3:24
- 1) Illustration in the Miracle (1-11)
 - The Request
 - "Hour of prayer" = "ninth hour"
 - "Nones" - 'no-nez' Latin for "ninth" (our "noon")
 - The Expectation
 - Temporal treasure is "low expectation" where God is involved
 - Peter is not apologizing; he is redirecting the focus
 - What we have to offer is far more valuable than money
 - "In the name of Jesus" - that is, by His authority
 - "The responsibility of the faithful is to assist those who are weak"
 - "A lame humanity is the church's opportunity" (Morgan)
 - The Result
 - Direct: healing of the lame man
 - Indirect: wonder for them
- 2) Instruction from the Scripture (12-18)
 - The Cause of the Cure (Philippians 2:13)
 - The Christ of Divine Communication
 - Son, Holy One, Prince of Life
 - Peter spoke of Christ in terms that magnified Him before his listeners
 - The Cause of Sinner's Condemnation
 - Delivered, denied, killed
 - The Consistent Testimony of the Common Fishermen
 - "Ignorance" = willful ignorance
 - Not a lack of information
 - Not a lack of revelation
 - This ignorance was the result of rejecting the truth given
 - Spiritual blindness is always the result of rejecting God's revelation (I Corinthians 2:8)
- 3) Invitation to Sinful Men (19-26)
 - "Repent - be converted"
 - Faith/repentance = forgiveness, blessedness
 - Rejection = eternal damnation
 - This is the message of the prophets
 - forgiveness would require they reverse their previous judgment
 - through Christ they could still be included in the kingdom promises
 - if they failed to do this, they would be destroyed (v. 23)

Chapter 4

February 17, 2021 11:12 AM

★➤ 4 From Persecution to Praise

- Description of the first persecution of the Church (Peter and John's arrest); place of prayer and sharing ministry
- Basic Theme Verses: 4:2, 4:12
- 1) Testimony under Persecution (1-12)
 - The Apostles' Arrest
 - Temple "authorities"
 - Priests
 - Captain of the temple
 - Sadducees (friends & family of the "officials") - religious party/sect
 - ◆ Rejected supernatural/resurrection
 - ◆ (religious liberalism)
 - ◆ Jesus' teaching countered the Pharisees constantly
 - ◆ Jesus' resurrection countered the Sadducees
 - Those Added to the Church - by now 8,000+ have joined the church - opposite effect of their intentions
 - Challenge to Apostolic Authority
 - Acts 4:5-6 = Sanhedrin (entire ruling body of 70 leaders)
 - "Annas the high priest" - is this a contradiction to Gospels? No; Romans deposed him, but Jews still recognize his authority
 - After healing the lame man - "By what power...?" - who question
 - They are seeking cause against the Apostles (Deuteronomy 15:1-5)
 - ◆ If a prophet performs a miracle but leads to idolatry - stone him
 - ◆ If a prophet performs a miracle and glorifies God - believe him
- 2) Testimony of Peter (13-23)
 - In Defense of Mission - counter accusation (Psalms 118:22; Matthew 21:42; I Peter 2:3-8)
 - A miracle has been performed, under Christ's authority Whom God Himself resurrected
 - Counter affirmation: the One you rejected is the Messiah (Ps. 118:22; I Peter 2:3-8)
 - Rejecting Him is denying God Himself
 - Verse 12 - perhaps the clearest statement in Scripture on faith in Christ alone for salvation
 - ◆ Faith in Him is essential
 - ◆ Faith in Him is exclusive
 - Secret to Fearless Testimony - "boldness" = freedom of speech (confidence, frankness, forthrightness)
 - "Unlearned & ignorant" = lay persons (no rabbinical training; John 7:14-17)
 - The disciples had training directly from Jesus
 - "They had been with Jesus" - this is the point! (Exodus 34:29-35)
 - Sanhedrin: stumped, but still using cancel-culture
 - "We cannot deny it" - here the evidence was already public
 - "That is spread no further" - cancel-culture
 - Ethics of Obedience
 - Authority demands what God forbids - obey God
 - Authority forbids what God demands - obey God
 - Unassailable Evidence of Changed Lives

- The man was living proof of God's power - and Christ's authority
 - No attempt to deny - only to derail the movement of the Church
 - Irony - no connection is observed between the "believable miracle" and "believable message"
 - This is the strange logic of unbelief
- 3) Testimony of Praise (24-31)
 - His power, purpose, providence
 - Their petition
 - Boldness in speech
 - Signs of confirmation
 - NO request for deliverance
 - God's response
- 4) Testimony in Practice (32-37)
 - Example of Charitable Support
 - Communicating with Power
 - Christian Charity is not Civic Communism
 - Civic Communism is the dollar we don't have vs. The dollar we do - there is no such thing as hypothetical giving
 - God doesn't reward us for what we would do with what we don't have; God rewards us for what we actually do with what we actually have
 - Giving should be planned, purposeful, proportionate
 - Example Compassionate Christianity

Chapter 5

March 3, 2021 11:09 AM

➤ 5 Purging and Persistence

- Aim: description of events surrounding Ananias and Sapphira; arrest of the apostles
- Basic Theme Verses: Acts 5:11; 5:41-42
- 1) Purging the Saints (1-11)
 - Compare with Barnabas
 - Property sold
 - Gift to the Church
 - Peter/others observed characterization of the gift; the problem was representing the part given as the whole
 - Their sin was made known (Ps. 52:6)
 - God will always deal with sin
 - God's purging, rightly received, brings benefit to saints
- 2) Power on the Saints (12-16)
 - They continued their ministry
 - God authenticated through miracles (II Kings 4:29, Matthew 9:20-22, Acts 19:12)
- 3) The Imprisoning of the Saints (17-21a)
 - Wording may suggest "the apostles" = the twelve
 - Miraculous release & return to preach the gospel
- 4) Problem with the Sanhedrin (21b-28)
 - "The council" = the Sanhedrin or council of seventy
 - Their complaint:
 - What they did - "ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine"
 - What were the results - "bring this man's blood upon us" (Matthew 27:22-25)
- 5) Persistence of the Saints (29-32)
 - "We ought to obey God"
 - Not rebellion against all authority
 - Not even a claim to be "independent"
 - Recognition of God's higher authority
 - Repeats the previous principles
- 6) Protest of Gamaliel (33-40)
 - "Cut to the heart"
 - They were infuriated
 - The result is due to the condition of the heart not the content of the message
 - "A Pharisee named Gamaliel"
 - No ordinary Pharisee
 - Grandson of the famous Hillel
 - Teacher of Saul of Tarsus (Paul)
 - Advice = political expediency (given public reaction to death & resurrection of Christ, risk "tipping point")
 - The council is still determined to reject the apostles' message
- 7) Perpetual Preaching of the Saints (41-42)
 - ★ ▪ Judgement led to fear of God
 - ★ ▪ Fear of God led to favor with the people
 - ★ ▪ Favor led to influence among them

Chapter 6

March 8, 2021 11:36 AM

➤ 6 Ministry of the Deacons

- Aim: Description of the selection of the seven deacons
- Basic Theme Verses: Acts 6:3-4; 6:8
- 1) Disappointment (1-2)
 - Conditions of crisis = church growth
 - Congregation may have reached 10,000+ by this time
 - Crisis precipitated by obedient charity
 - Cause of contention = pre-existing prejudice
 - Grecian v. Hebrews
 - ★ □ Grecians = Greek speaking Jews (Hellenistic)
 - ★ □ Hebrews = Aramaic speaking Jews (native Palestinian)
 - Seeds of division sown in the culture, not the church
 - Caution in Ministry:
 - Understand primary responsibility
 - Avoid inappropriate expectations
- 2) Deacons (3-7)
 - Apostles' direction: "look ye out among you" -godly faithful, filled, able
 - Deacons' selection: congregational approval, action, attitude, appointment
 - The Lord's Protection: "increased - multiplied" - God protected them from further dissension - and enlarged the congregation
 - Some observations:
 - Biblical expectations
 - Essential organization
 - Problems are opportunities to express brotherly love/charity
- 3) Debate (8-10)
 - The source of the opposition indicates the emphasis of Stephen's ministry (Grecians)
- 4) Deception (11-15)
 - Paid perjury, another "fixed" trial is initiated

End of Midterm Content

Chapter 7

March 15, 2021 11:01 AM

★ ➤ 7 Testimony of the First Martyr

- ★ ○ Aim: Description of Stephen's Defense (sermon) and Martyrdom
 - Basic Theme Verses: Acts 7:5; 7:51-53
 - 1) Abraham & God's Promise (1-8)
 - Call from God
 - Two themes implied:
 - ★ □ GOD IS FAITHFUL
 - ★ □ ISRAEL IS REBELLIOUS
 - Coming out from his idolatrous people
 - Adverse circumstances - too old to have children
 - Consciousness of nation's future
 - Covenant & its initial fulfillment
 - 2) Joseph and God's Provision (9-19)
 - Treachery of the Patriarchs
 - Fulfillment of his vision
 - Providential provision
 - Revelation of Divine Deliverance
 - Gathering Israel in Land of Plenty
 - Return to Promise Land
 - Setting for national deliverance
 - 3) Moses & God's Protection (20-41)
 - Babe in the bull rushes
 - Brawl on the Job Site
 - Bush on the backside of desert
 - Brush with supernatural
 - Big announcement about Messiah
 - "a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up" = Messianic prophecy
 - That "prophet" was Jesus Christ
 - "the church in the wilderness"
 - "ekklesia" translated "church"
 - Means "called out" or "separated"
 - The nation was called out of Egypt, just as you and I are called out of this world, as part of the Church
 - Backward look to Egypt
 - 4) Solomon & God's Patience (42-50)
 - Short History
 - Build the Tabernacle
 - "The tabernacle of witness"
 - ◆ As a witness is testified of God's work on their behalf
 - ◆ It testified to the obedience they owed Him alone
 - ◆ It testified for God - and against them!
 - God's presence in the Tabernacle
 - God's presence among the people
 - Solomon builds the Temple
 - 5) Stephen & Christ's Pre-eminence (51-60)
 - Confrontation with the facts
 - Characterized by their rejection
 - "Stiffnecked" = rebellion

- "Uncircumcised" - state of the heart
 - "Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost" = sinful man's constancy tendency
 - Problem being a prophet - "but the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God"
- Contempt of the crowd
 - Their reactions shows divine conviction
 - Their reaction shows human rebellion
- Composure of the accused
 - Fullness of the Spirit is: strength for living
 - Illumination of the Spirit
- Consent of the persecutors
 - They could not stop the speech but not the Spirit
- Communion with the Master (I Cor. 16:5)
 - The Spirit in Stephen's speech - "lay not this sin to their charge"
 - The Seal of God in surrender - "he fell asleep"
 - The Spirit's New Center - the Church

Chapter 8

March 24, 2021 11:04 AM

- Church in Judea/Samaria (Chapter 8-10)
- 8 The Effective Evangelist
 - ★ ○ Aim: Description of Philip's ministry in Samaria, then to the Ethiopian Eunuch
 - Basic Theme Verses: Acts 8:48; 8:26
 - 1) Persecution Providentially Promotes Preaching (1-8)
 - "Consenting" = strong approval
 - "Havock" = bringing bodily harm
 - God can cause man's wrath to accomplish His will (Psalms 76:10)
 - Persecution spreads the Gospel
 - Samaritans religion = truth + error
 - Samaritans rival temple & system
 - Samaritans expected a Messiah
 - Samaritans response = "with one accord gave heed" (received & believed the preaching of Gospel)
 - 2) Convert Covets Control Over the Comforter (9-25)
 - Samaritans converted
 - Simon Magnus - charlatan messiah
 - Lost ability to profit from people
 - Simon's ambition
 - Delegation from Jerusalem - marks of authority
 - Extraordinary example of Spirit's indwelling
 - Simon's old temptation
 - "Simony" refers to making merchandise of the gifts of God
 - Profit making in spiritual things is likewise simony
 - Peter's pointed response
 - 3) Evangelist Enlightens the Ethiopian Eunuch (26-40)
 - Philip's submission to the Spirits leading
 - God's value on the souls of men
 - Planting & watering
 - Identity of the Eunuch - servant
 - Identity of the Man - Jesus
 - Initial Steps of Obedience
 - Understand the obligation
 - Public baptisms = identification with Christ
 - Qualification for baptism - believer
 - Common qualification for membership in a church
 - Philip's sudden departure
- Discussion
 - Spiritual condition of Simon the Sorcerer - saved
 - Question on the Eunuch's Baptism
 - Traditional acceptance or manuscript evidence?

Chapter 9

March 29, 2021 11:25 AM

- 9 Persecutor Becomes Proclaimer

- ★ ○ Aim: Description of Saul's conversion; Peter's ministry of healing Aeneas & Tabitha (aka, Dorcas)
- Basic Theme Verses: Acts 9:6; 9:23
- 1) Paul's Conversion (1-9)
 - Paul Persecutes the Church
 - Official Lead Persecutor (like an inquisitor)
 - What We Know About Saul:
 - Native of Tarsus
 - Son of a wealthy family (tent makers)
 - Contemporary of Jesus (no personal contact)
 - Roman citizenship
 - Jewish Upbringing
 - Tarsus' leading university
 - Train in Jerusalem (Gamaliel)
 - Pharisee as his father was possibly a member of the Sanhedrin
 - Devout (zeal without knowledge)
 - Paul Persecutes the Church
 - Paul sees the Light
 - Personal appearance of risen Christ (3, 17, 27, 26:16, I Corinthians 15:8,9)
 - Three questions:
 - Why persecutest thou me?
 - Who art thou, Lord?
 - What wilt thou have me to do? - he immediately surrendered to Christ
 - Paul Begins the Path of Obedience
 - Saul goes from physically seeing & spiritually blind to spiritually seeing & physically blind
 - Unbelief Meets Grace
 - He personified Jewish blindness (rejection in the face of divine evidence)
 - He became a pattern of Jewish faith (I Timothy 1:16)
- 2) Ministry of Ananias (10-19)
 - The Call of Ananias
 - God used an obscure disciple to minister to one of the most powerful men in Israel
 - Out of relative obscurity
 - Ananias (aka Hananiah) = "The Lord is gracious"
 - The Reservation of Ananias
 - Obedient, but not eager
 - The Healing of Paul
- 3) Paul's Ministry Begins (20-31)
 - Paul Proclaims the Gospel
 - "And straightway preached Christ... that he is the Son of God"
 - Paul's exile to Arabia occurred this time (Galatians 1:17)
 - Paul's Escape from Damascus
 - The Reservation of the Disciples
 - True convert or wolf in sheep's clothing
 - Paul would have to "live down" his previous reputation
 - Paul's Escape from Jerusalem

- This early pattern would re-emerge during his missionary journeys (Grecian Jews)
 - The State of the Church - rest
- 4) Peter's Ongoing Ministry (32-43)
 - The Healing of Aeneas
 - Peter has adopted an itinerate ministry, visiting towns and villages (where have we seen that before?)
 - The same pattern of apostolic gifts confirm the message of the Gospel
 - The Raising of Tabitha
 - This incident occurs in the port town of Joppa (modern Jaffa)
 - Fulfills commission (Matthew 10:8)
 - Peter Stays in Joppa

Chapter 10

April 7, 2021 11:12 AM

- 10 Gospel Goes to the Gentiles
 - Aim: Description of Peter's vision of the sheet of animals & his visit to the household of Cornelius
 - Basic Theme Verse: Acts 10:15; 10:34
 - 1) Heavenly Messenger (1-8)
 - Devout man at Caesarea
 - 2 cities named Caesarea
 - This one is on the Mediterranean coast
 - Roman city
 - Headquarters for Roman officials
 - A "centurion" - over 100 men
 - ◆ Century = 100
 - ◆ Cohort = 6 centuries (aka "band")
 - ◆ Legion = 10 cohorts (6000 men)
 - Apparently pursuing truth he had
 - Man of God at Joppa (Matthew 15:21-28; 16:18-19)
 - 2) Message from Heaven (9-23)
 - Preparing the messenger
 - 3-fold repetition
 - Picture of the Church
 - Dullness of God Preparing His Work
 - 3) Apostolic Messenger (24-33)
 - Scene in Caesarea
 - Readiness to Hear
 - 4) Apostle's Message (34-48)
 - Unrestricted Gospel
 - Providential Plan for Progressing Church
 - Providential Purpose to Spread the Gospel
 - Sowing, Watering, God Given Increase
 - Proof of Divine Work
 - First Steps of Obedient Discipleship

Chapter 11

April 12, 2021 11:17 AM

- Church Abroad (11-12)
- 11 Dealing with Doubters & Growth Among the Grecians
 - Aim: Description of Believers called Christians at Antioch
 - Basic Theme Verses: Acts 11:18; 11:20
 - 1) Suspicion of Circumcised Saints (1-3)
 - 1st Century "Party Line"
 - Hebrew Objection & Origin of the Judaizers
 - 2) Rehearsal of the Reluctant Evangelist (4-18)
 - Peter's account of the incident
 - Peter's assessment of the situation
 - 3) Growing Grecian Church (19-26)
 - Exclusive Evangelism - to the Jews only
 - Antioch of Syria - 300 miles north
 - 500,000 population (3rd largest)
 - Called "Queen of the East"
 - Antioch of Syria - key launching point for Gentile evangelism
 - Reports Return to the Apostles
 - Need to shepherd
 - Barnabas' commission
 - Need for discipleship
 - Spiritual profile - example
 - Barnabas Assesses Need & Recruits Saul
 - Understood God's special call on Paul
 - Mature believer enlisting younger
 - Evolution of the Label
 - "Galileans" (Acts 2:7)
 - "The way" (Acts 9:2 & 22:4)
 - "Christians" (Acts 11:26 & 26:28; cf: I Peter 4:16) - acknowledged a lifestyle that imitated Christ
 - 4) Agabus & Future Famine (27-30)
 - New Testament Prophet
 - New Testament Charity
 - Ministry of Recompense - Making Amends

Chapter 12

April 14, 2021 11:14 AM

- 12 Peter's Arrest & Miraculous Release
 - Aim: Description of James' death, Peter's arrest & release, & Herod's decease
 - Basic Theme Verses: Acts 12:1, 12:5
 - 1) Herod's Devilish Persecution (1-5)
 - Herod
 - Herod the Great - patriarch & Herod of the Nativity
 - Herod Antipas - adulterous king who beheaded John the Baptist
 - Herod Agrippa I - Herod who persecutes the church (Acts 12)
 - Herod Agrippa II - heard Paul's defense (Acts 25-26)
 - Martyrdom of James the Great by Herod Agrippa I
 - James the Less
 - ◆ Disciple of Christ
 - ◆ Apostle of the early church
 - ◆ May have been involved in the Syrian church
 - ◆ Stoned in Jerusalem (tradition)
 - James the Great
 - ◆ Disciple of Jesus
 - ◆ Apostle of the church
 - ◆ Brother of John
 - ◆ Only Apostle whose martyrdom is recorded (Acts 12)
 - James the Elder
 - ◆ Half brother of Jesus
 - ◆ Pastor in Jerusalem
 - ◆ Mediator at Council
 - ◆ Writer of Epistle of James
 - ◆ Martyred in Jerusalem (thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple)
 - Herod's Murderous Intent - "intending . . . But prayer was made"
 - A PASTOR'S PRAYER LIST
 - ◆ Pray for protection
 - ◆ Pray for perception
 - ◆ Pray for power
 - ◆ Pray for participation
 - 2) Peter's Incredible Release (6-17)
 - Peter's Repose
 - Peter's Release - "Gird thyself"
 - Peter's Return
 - Rhoda's Panic - excited to loss of reason, vs. shocked to loss of faith
 - Insistence on fact vs. Superstition
 - Peter's Report
 - Peter's Retreat - "departed and went to another place" (v. 17b)
 - Exits the Acts account except for brief appearance in Acts 15
 - Where is Peter after Acts 12?
 - ◆ Visited Corinth (I Cor. 1:12)
 - ◆ Traveled with his wife (I Cor. 9:5)
 - ◆ Ministered in Babylon (I Peter 5:13)
 - ◆ No evidence of ministry in Rome
 - ◆ Martyred in Rome (after Acts account)
 - 3) God's Divine Judgment (18-23)

- Great Escape Discovered
- Soldiers Examined & Executed (Proverbs 11:8)
- Trouble in Tyre & Sidon
- Tables are Turned (Herod is eaten of worms)
- 4) The Church's Progress (24-25)
 - Always Advancing
 - Barnabas, Paul, & the Protégé

Chapter 13

April 26, 2021 11:11 AM

Church on a Mission

- First Missionary Journey
- 13 The Inaugural Venture
 - Aim: Description of Call of Paul, etc.
 - Basic Theme Verses: Acts 13:2; 13:46
 - 1) Spirit Singles Out His Servants (1-3)
 - Spiritual Service
 - *Antioch - communications & commercial something
 - "Prophets & teachers" - evangelism & discipleship
 - Multiple active leaders
 - Spirit Speaks
 - *active in ministry & prayer
 - *Goes does the calling even when we volunteer
 - Sanction, Support, & Supplication
 - *The Commission - recognition
 - *The Commitment - partnership
 - 2) The Journey Begins (4-13)
 - Gentile mission by Gentile church
 - *accompanied by John Mark
 - Making Contact
 - *150 miles travelled
 - *Paphos is the capital / Sergius Paulus
 - Bar Jesus - Elymas
 - ◆ "Bar" = son; Jesus, a common name
 - ◆ "Elymas" = sorcerer (wise man)
 - Satanic Opposition
 - *opposed to the Gospel
 - *this is spiritual warfare
 - *first place Saul is called Paul
 - *theories:
 - ◆ Names represent dual citizenship
 - ◆ Honoring 1st convert / 1st journey
 - ◆ Adopted to facilitate acceptance
 - Paul: "thou child of the devil" (v.10)
 - ◆ *source of opposition / Elymas is just a tool
 - ◆ *"Enemy of all righteousness" - God's judgment on opposition to Gospel
 - Paul: "thou shalt be blind" (v.11)
 - ◆ *Paul's apostolic / sign gifts authenticated his authority & God's message
 - Sergius Paulus Saved/Saul Paulus Moves On
 - *John Mark moves out
 - 3) Into Asia (14-43)
 - To the Jew First (14-16)
 - *Antioch in Pisidia - 100 miles off the coast
 - *"into the synagogues" - fits with strategy to evangelize Jews first
 - *common custom to invite devout Jews to participate (read/discuss)
 - *common custom to invite visiting rabbis to give homily (Paul)
 - Paul's Sermon (17-41)
 - Review of Jewish history

- Reliance on Hebrew Prophecy
 - Reliable testimony to facts
 - Resurrection is central (as fulfilled promise)
 - Real invitation of Gospel
 - Reality check / warning given
- Response of Eager Listeners (42-43) - "the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them" indicating their openness
- 4) Shift from Jews to Gentiles (44-52)
 - A Bad Reaction to Good Medicine (44-45) - "filled with envy"
 - Powerful Preaching of the Gospel
 - ◆ The Holy Spirit empowered preaching of the Gospel is both polarizing and revealing - it exposes heart condition and motive - of those who believe and those who reject
 - Making It Official (46-47)
 - *Apostle's pattern - to the Jew first
 - *"ye put it from you" - deliberately rejected it
 - *The Apostles make it plain: God's judgment would be against them, as they turned to the Gentiles
 - Gladness of the Gentiles (48-49)
 - *at their gain, not Israel's loss
 - *"ordained to eternal life" here likely means literally "enrolled" (Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 20:15) - Lamb's Book of Life
 - Enemies Can't Leave Alone (50-52)

Chapter 14

April 28, 2021 11:48 AM

- 14 The Witness and The Report
 - Aim: description of Paul & Barnabas at Iconium, Lystra, & Derbe (conclusion of 1st journey)
 - Basic theme verses: Acts 14:7; 14:22,23
 - 1) Attack at Iconium (1-6a)
 - A multitude believes
 - *Gospel preaching works
 - Opposition unites
 - *Unbelieving Jews & Gentiles unite
 - Christs divides asunder
 - *Truth divides - the Gospel divides
 - Imminent attack & flight
 - *the "assault" planned was a mob action - there were a lynch mob
 - 2) Lame Man at Lystra (6b-18)
 - Gospel goes onward
 - Lystra
 - ◆ *20 miles from Iconium
 - ◆ *pantheistic (many gods)
 - ◆ *no synagogue / completely pagan
 - ◆ *1st of 3 visits to this community
 - Miracle of healing - lame man overheard Paul & believed (Rom. 10:17)
 - Aborted worship & case of mistaken identity
 - *Response in keeping with pagan beliefs "gods are come down"
 - Rent clothes & Gospel witness
 - 3) Relentless Opposition / from Death to Derbe (19-21a)
 - Stoned to "death"? (II Corinthians 12:2-4)
 - Raised to work again - whether Paul died or not his recovery was supernatural
 - 4) Review and Report (21b-28)
 - Indestructible & undeterred
 - *Derbe becomes the pivot point for the return
 - Other half of the commission
 - Evangelism + discipleship
 - Electing leaders / Establishing churches
 - Conclusion of the Mission
 - Return & Report Before the Church
 - *Believers at Antioch eager to hear
 - *The mission trip had taken possibly a year to year & 1/2 (AD 47-48)
 - Discussion and Questions
 - *Paul's Principles of Operation
 - ◆ Evangelism
 - ◆ Discipleship
 - ◆ Organization
 - ◆ Report to Sponsors / Senders

Chapter 15

May 3, 2021 11:48 AM

Third Missionary Journey

- 15 Disagreement & Division
 - Aim: description of Jerusalem council
 - Basic Theme Verses: Acts 15:14; 15:39
 - 1) Cause of Conflict (1-6)
 - Law vs. Grace
 - Is salvation by Christ alone, or is salvation by faith in Christ plus keeping the law?
 - The Council is Called
 - *conflict from within, not without
 - 2) Deliberation of the Council (7-12)
 - Peter's Testimony - experience with Cornelius made it plain, salvation by faith, not faith + works
 - Report from Paul & Barnabas
 - 3) Determination of the Council (13-29)
 - In Summary & in Scripture
 - *James, "first bishop of Jerusalem"
 - *God's purpose with the Gentiles
 - *Prophetic fulfillment of the Church Age (Amos 9:11-12)
 - *Rebuild the "tabernacle of David"
 - Judgement of James - "abstain" from things associated with idolatry, so as to not offend Jews
 - Letters of Confirmation - "Judaizers" had no authority
 - 4) Return to the Work (30-41)
 - Restoring Order & Fellowship
 - Continuing Ministry
 - Dividing Conflict
 - Idealistic vs. Realistic
 - *Ministry involves people and that means there will be disagreements
 - *It is important how those disagreements are handled
 - *Christian spirit can & should prevail