

# THE BOOK OF ACTS:

## The birth, growth, and progress of the church

Original Author: Luke, Ph.D Sunday, AD 60 - 62 Sugar Land BC Press

### THE LINK BETWEEN THE GOSPELS & THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES.

CHAPTER 1: The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 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. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem

from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.'" Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." So they



And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4

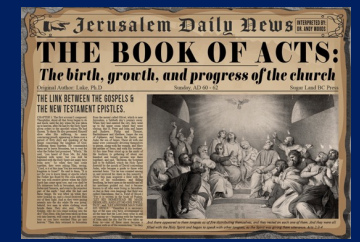


Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Introductory Matters



- Title
- Authorship
- Biography
- Place of writing
- Recipient
- Purpose
- Message
- Method
- Sources
- Date
- Structure
- Scope
- Themes
- Unique characteristics

# Acts 1

## Chapter Summary

- I. Prologue (1-5)
- II. Jesus' Ascension (6-11)
- III. Return to Jerusalem (12-14)
- IV. Matthias Chosen (15-26)



# Acts 1

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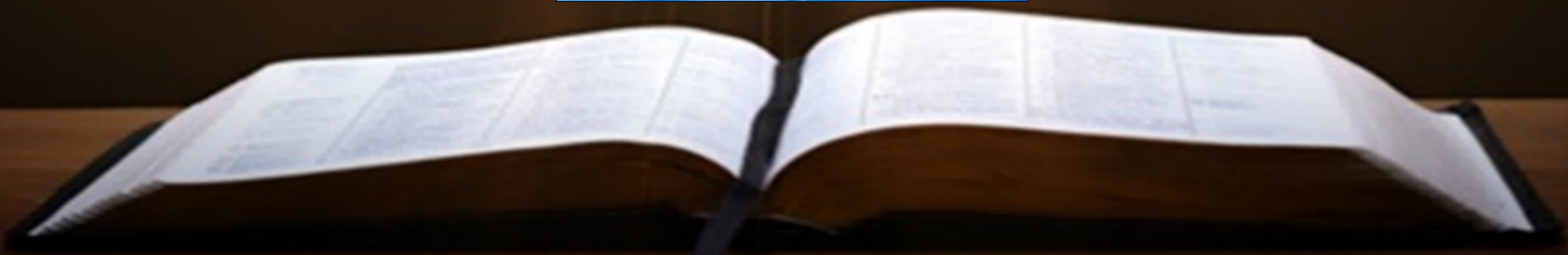
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# 1 Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”



# Acts 1

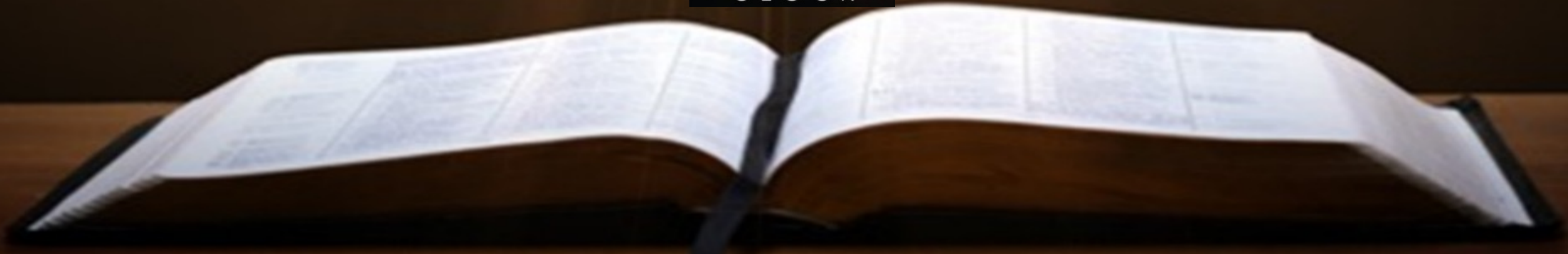
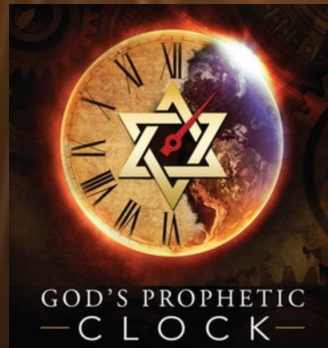
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## Acts 1:6-7

“6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup> He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.’”





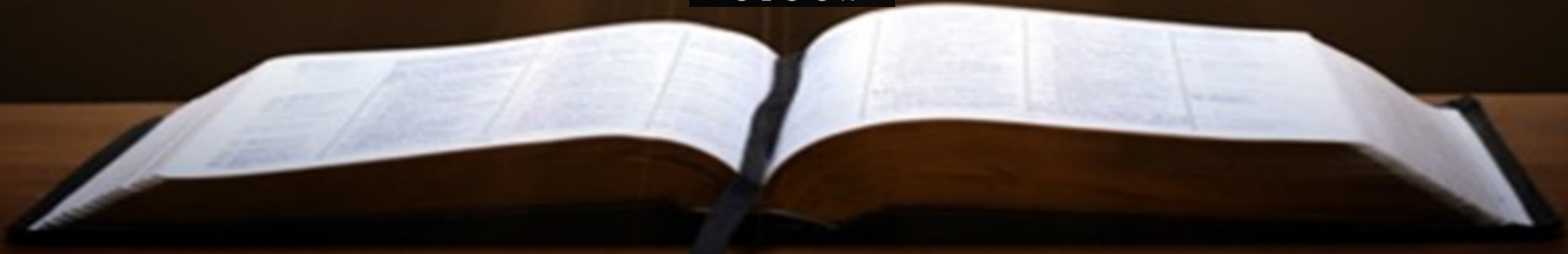
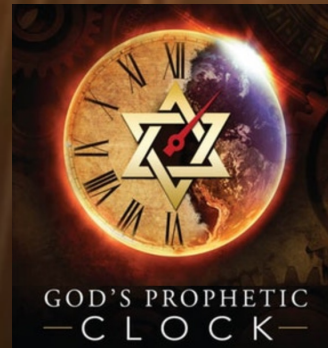
## Ezekiel 36:24-28

“For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. <sup>28</sup> You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.”



## Acts 1:6-7

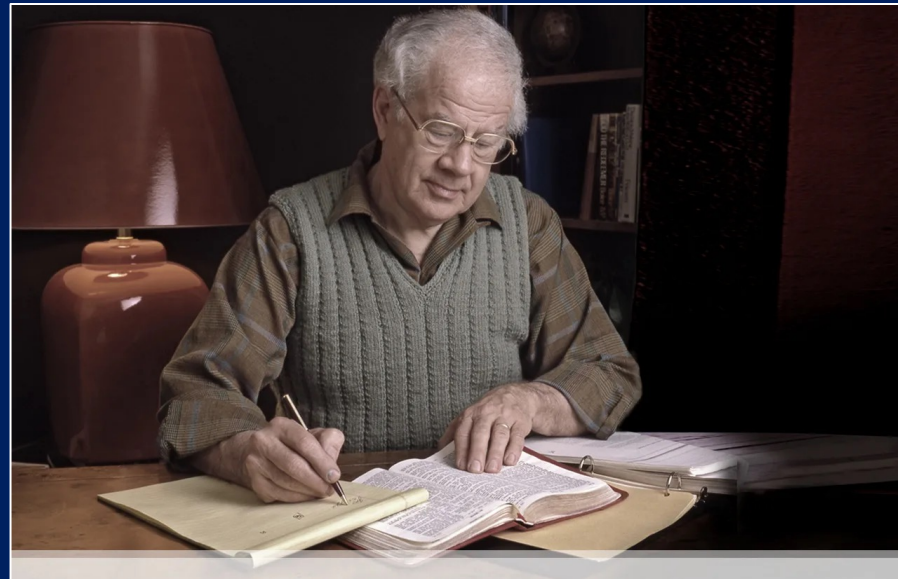
“<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup> He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.’”



# J. Dwight Pentecost

Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990), 269.

“This passage makes it clear that while the covenanted form of the Theocracy has not been cancelled and has only been postponed, this present age is definitely *not* a development of the Davidic form of the kingdom.”





# John Calvin

Commentary on Acts 1:6

“He showeth that the apostles were gathered together when as this question was moved, that we may know that it came not of the foolishness of one or two that it was moved, but it was moved by the common consent of them all; but marvellous is their rudeness, that when as they had been diligently instructed by the space of three whole years, they betray no less ignorance than if they had heard never a word. There are as many errors in this question as words. They ask him as concerning a kingdom; but they dream of an earthly kingdom, which should flow with riches, with dainties, with external peace, and with such like good things...”



# John Calvin

Commentary on Acts 1:6

“They are also greatly deceived herein, in that they restrain Christ’s kingdom unto the carnal Israel, which was to be spread abroad, even unto the uttermost parts of the world...but, in the meantime, they declared thereby how bad scholars they were under so good a Master. Therefore doth Christ briefly comprehend in this short answer all the errors whereinto they fell in this their question, as I shall straightway declare.”



## Hank Hanegraaff

*The Apocalypse Code: Find out What the Bible Really Says About the End Times and Why It Matters* (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2007), 199.

“The quintessential point of understanding for John as well as for the rest of the disciples began to dawn at the time of Christ’s post-resurrection appearances. Previously they had been under the same misconceptions as modern-day Christian Zionists. They had expected Jesus to establish Jerusalem as the capital of a sovereign Jewish empire. The notion was so ingrained in their psyches that even as Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, they asked, ‘Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ (Acts 1:6). Jesus not only corrects their erroneous thinking, but expands their horizons from a tiny strip of land on the east coast of the Mediterranean to the farthest reaches of the earth.”



## Hank Hanegraaff

*The Apocalypse Code: Find out What the Bible Really Says About the End Times and Why It Matters* (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2007), 199.

“‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you,’ said Jesus, as he was about to be taken up into heaven; ‘and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth’ (Acts 1:8). In effect, Jesus left his disciples with instructions to exit Jerusalem, embrace the earth, and never again entertain the thought of establishing an earthly Jerusalem. The disciples are no longer permitted to view Israel in exclusivistic parochial categories; their sights instead must be elevated to an inclusive Israel. As Paul put it in the book of Romans, ‘Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children’ (Romans 9:6–7). True Israel consists of people from ‘from every tribe and language and people and nation’ (Revelation 5:9).”



## Rick Warren

*Purpose Driven Life, 285-86.*

“When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus quickly switched the conversation to evangelism. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the world. He said in essence, ‘The details of my return are none of your business. What is your business is the mission I have given you. Focus on that!’ If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy. Speculating on the exact timing of Christ’s return is futile, because Jesus said, ‘No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.’ Since Jesus said He didn’t know the day or hour, why should you try to figure it out? What we do know for sure is this: Jesus will not return until everyone God wants to hear the Good News has heard it.”





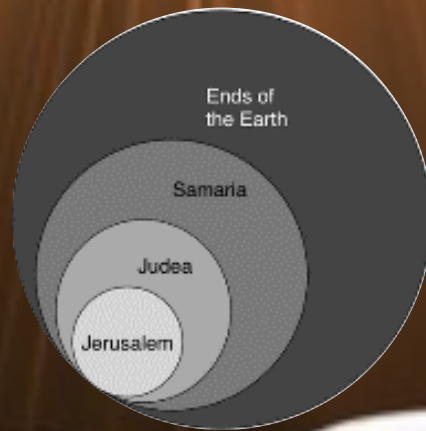
## Rick Warren

*Purpose Driven Life, 285-86.*

“Jesus said, ‘The Good News about God’s kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come.’ If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy. It is easy to get **distracted** and sidetracked from your mission because **Satan** would rather have you do anything besides sharing your faith. He will let you do all kinds of good things as long as you don’t take anyone to heaven with you. But the moment you become **serious about your mission**, expect the Devil to throw all kinds of diversions at you. When that happens, remember the words of Jesus: ‘Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is **not fit for the Kingdom of God.**’”

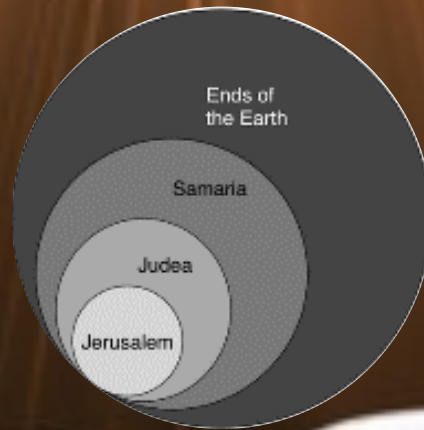
## Acts 1:8

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



## Acts 1:8

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



## Revelation 20:4-6

“<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life [zaō] and reigned with Christ for ...



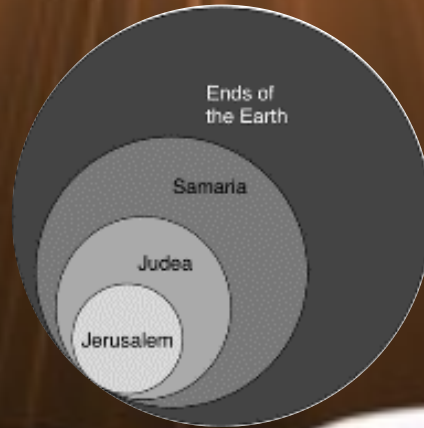
## Revelation 20:4-6

... a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life [zaō] until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection [anastasis]. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection [anastasis]; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

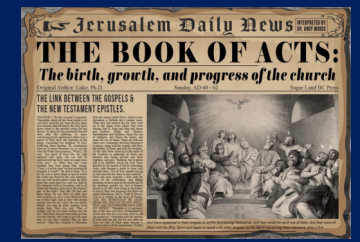


## Acts 1:8

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



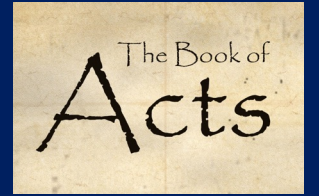
# Structure (Acts 1:8)



- Jerusalem (Acts 1–7)
- Judea and Samaria (Acts 8–12)
- Remotest part of the earth (Acts 13–28)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (Acts 13–14)
  - Jerusalem council (Acts 15:1-35)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 15:36 –18:22)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 18:23–21:17)
  - Trip to Rome (Acts 21:18–28:31)



# Christ's Return (Acts 1:11)



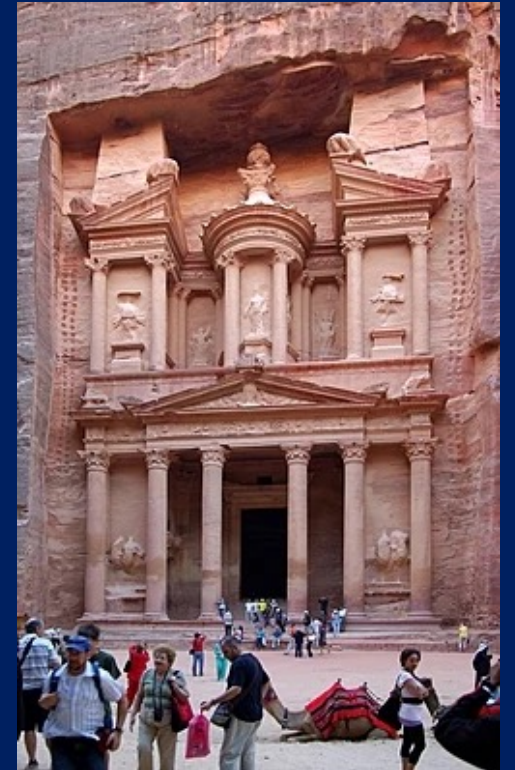
- Physical
- Visible
- Bodily
- Earthly (Job 19:24-25)
- To the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4)



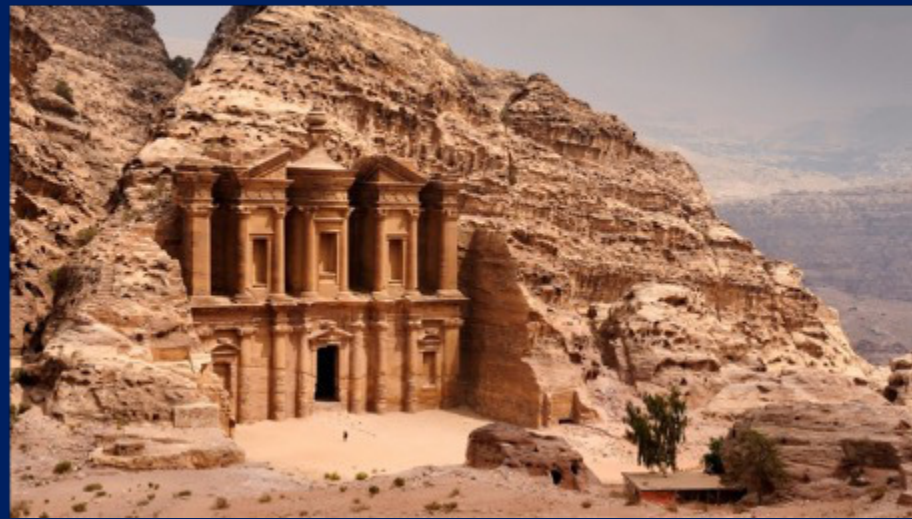


# Place of Hebrew Refuge: Petra in Mt. Seir in S. Jordan

1. Prepared by God (Rev. 12:6)
2. Divine provision of food & water (Isa. 33:16; Rev. 12:6)
3. Wilderness (Rev. 12:6, 14)
4. Mountains (Isa. 33:16; Matt. 24:16)
5. Defensible (Isa. 33:16)
6. Jordan (Dan. 11:41)
7. Bozrah (Micah 2:12)









## Arnold Fruchtenbaum

*Footseps of the Messiah, Page 296-97*

“Another suggestion is the city now known as Petra...this author prefers the identification with Petra. Petra is located in a basin within Mount Seir, and is totally surrounded by mountains and cliffs. The only way in and out of the city is through a narrow passageway that extends for about a mile and can only be negotiated by foot or by horseback. This makes the city easy to defend, and its surrounding high cliffs give added meaning and confirmation to Isaiah 33:16. Only a few abreast can enter through this passage at any one time, giving this city even greater defensibility.”



## Arnold Fruchtenbaum

*Footseps of the Messiah, Page 296-97*

“The name *Bozrah* means ‘sheepfold.’ An ancient sheepfold had a narrow entrance so that the shepherd could count his sheep. Once inside the fold, the sheep had more room to move around. *Petra* is shaped like a giant sheepfold, with its narrow passage opening up to a spacious circle surrounded by cliffs...Furthermore, by modern *Petra* is a site known as *Butzeira*, which retains the Hebrew *Botzrah*...It will be a very defensible city located in Mount Seir...Furthermore, as they flee and while they are living there, food and water will be miraculously provided.”

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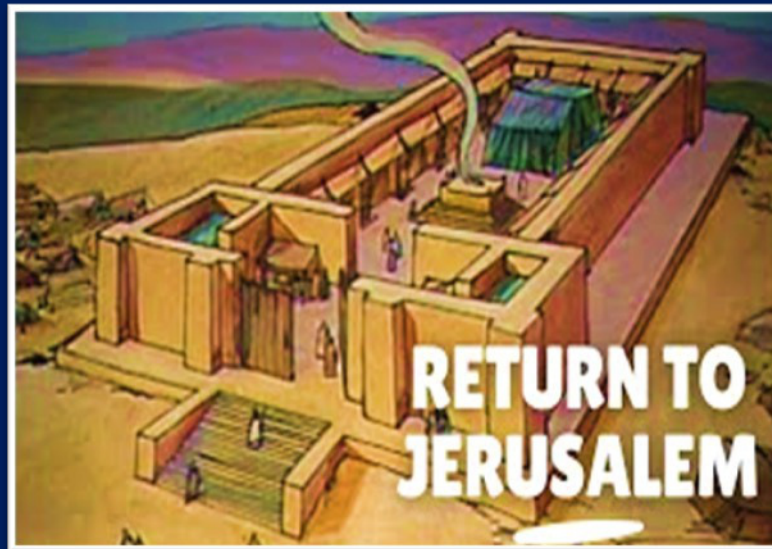




## Charles Ryrie

*Ryrie Study Bible*, page 1340

**Acts 1:12:** “(RSB:NASB1995U): 1:12 a Sabbath day’s journey. About 2,000 cubits, or a little more than half a mile (almost one km)—the distance the rabbis allowed Jews to journey on the Sabbath. This limitation was apparently arrived at on the basis of Ex. 16:29 interpreted by Num. 35:5.”



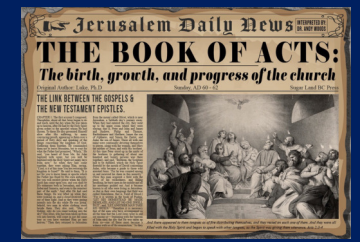
## Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“<sup>15</sup> Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) <sup>16</sup> then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...<sup>20</sup> But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.”





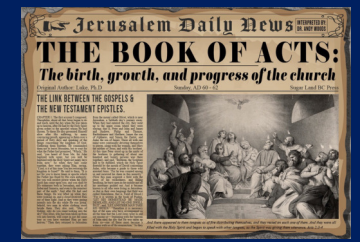
# Message



- Birth and growth of the church numerically, geographically, ethnically.
- Components
  - Numerically (progress reports)
  - Geographically (From Jerusalem to Rome)
  - Ethnically (From Judaism to Gentile domination)



# Progress Reports



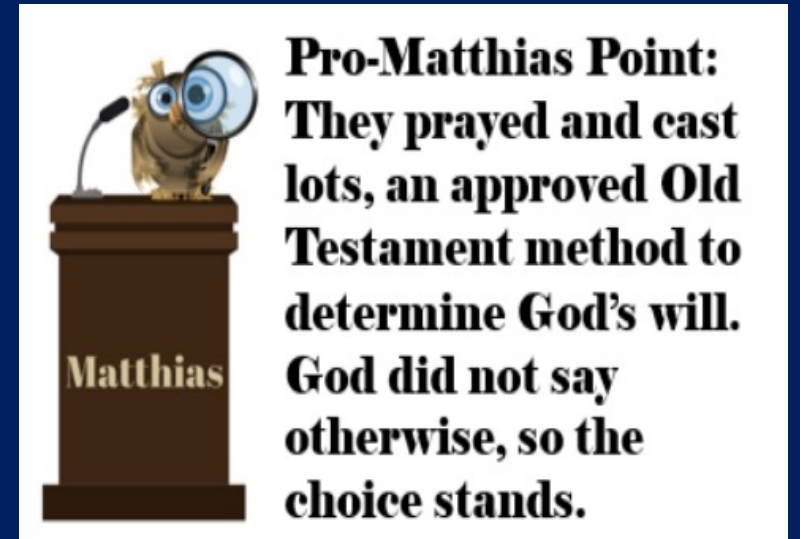
- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:13, 15; 2:41; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6



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# IV. Matthias Chosen

## Acts 1:15-26

A. Peter's Proposition (15-20)

B. Apostolic Qualifications (21-22)

C. Matthias Selected (23-26)

INTERPRETED BY:  
DR. ANDY WOODS

# Jerusalem Daily News

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## THE BOOK OF ACTS: *The birth, growth, and progress of the church*


Original Author: Luke, Ph.D.      Sunday, AD 60 - 62      Sugar Land BC Press

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From the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were sitting, that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew and Thomas and Matthias, the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one accord were constantly attending themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren. At this time Peter stood up in the middle of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there assembled), and said, "Brethren, let us choose a man to be witness with us of these things concerning Jesus, who has become a guide to those who entered Jerusalem. For he must have been one and known all that we did and all that we saw and received from the Lord in His ministry. One of our brethren must stand up and bear witness with us of these things." And all the multitude, including the women, stood up together to choose a man. And they had written the names of all who were living in Jerusalem, so that all their own language might be used. Then they gave their votes for the following: Matthias, the son of Alphaeus, Nicanor, Gersam, Parmanes, and Nephthali, the son of Joseph, and Nicolas, a man from Antioch, who became a guide to those who entered Jerusalem. For he was questioned many times and received his share in this ministry. These their names appeared at first with the names of the multitude, and after the election he had been given in the middle and all his brethren, granted him. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem, so that all their own language might be used. These qualifications meet in Paul of Tarsus. They are in evidence in the book of Pauline EPISTLES, and in the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Therefore it is necessary that the man who has been chosen to be witness with us of these things concerning Jesus, who has become a guide to those who entered Jerusalem, should be one of them who were living in Jerusalem, so that all their own language might be used. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem, so that all their own language might be used.



*And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4*

# IV. Matthias Chosen

## Acts 1:15-26

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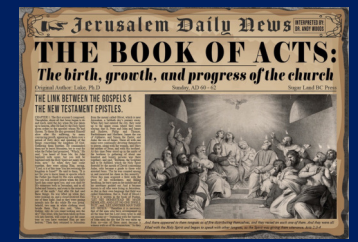
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*And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4*

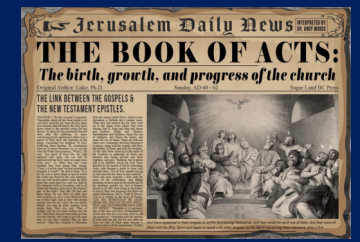
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## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is inspired by God [*theopneustos*] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”





## 2 Peter 1:19-21

“<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved [pherō] by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”



# INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

V. 20-21

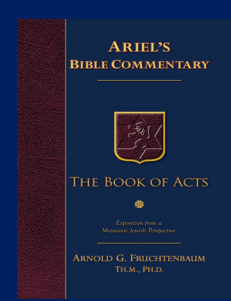
- Men Wrote as they were inspired by Holy Spirit
  - *“pherō” = to carry*
  - *Acts 27:15,17*
- Opposite of Knowledge of False Teachers
  - *Which is their own imagination*
  - *Jer. 23:16*





# Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*The Book of Acts, 55*

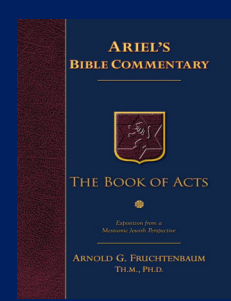


“The price offered to him was thirty pieces of silver. This bribe was the money used to purchase the field, and according to Matthew, it was the chief priests who purchased it (Mt. 27:7-8). Yet, Luke stated: Now this man [Judas] obtained a field with the reward of his iniquity (Acts 1:18). From a Jewish viewpoint, both statements are true. By Jewish law, money wrongfully gained could not be put into the Temple treasury: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood (Mt. 27:6)...”



# Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*The Book of Acts, 55*

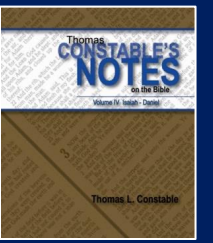


“However, in the case of Judas and his bribe, the donor was dead. Although the money could not be placed in the Temple treasury, it could be used for purchasing something to benefit the whole community in the name of the donor. So, the religious leaders purchased the field for the public, as a place to bury strangers, and despite Judas’ death, all legal documents of sale reflected his name. Matthew recorded the events as they occurred, and Luke documented the fact that, legally, Judas purchased the field.”



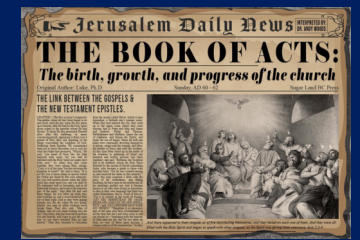
# Thomas L. Constable

*Constable's online notes on Acts, p. 36.*

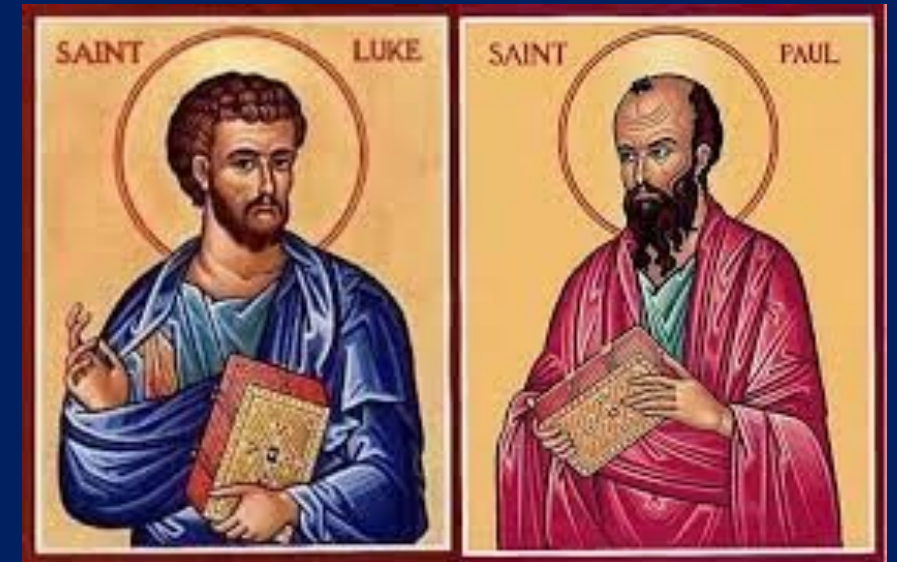


“This account of Judas' death differs from Matthew's, who wrote that Judas hanged himself (Matt. 27:5). The two events are easy to combine, and undoubtedly both accounts were true. Perhaps Judas hanged himself and in the process also fell ‘headlong’ (lit. flat on his face) and tore open his abdomen. Perhaps the rope or branch with which he hanged himself broke. Or perhaps when others cut his corpse down it fell and broke open, as Luke described. Another view is that Judas defiled the city when he hanged himself, so the priests threw his body over the wall facing the Hinnom Valley and his ‘guts gushed out.’”

# Biography



- Paul's companion (2 Tim 4:11)
- Physician (Col 4:14)
- Gentile
  - Col 4:11
  - Acts 1:19



# IV. Matthias Chosen

## Acts 1:15-26

### A. Peter's Proposition (15-20)

### B. Apostolic Qualifications (21-22)

### C. Matthias Selected (23-26)

Jerusalem Daily News INTERPRETED BY DR. ANDY WOODS

# THE BOOK OF ACTS:


*The birth, growth, and progress of the church*

Original Author: Luke, Ph.D. Sunday, AD 60 - 62 Sugar Land BC Press

## THE LINK BETWEEN THE GOSPELS & THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES.

**CHAPTER 1:** The first account composed, Theophilus, show all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after he had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom he had chosen. In that day he 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. He said to them, "I have not left you orphans, for I am now going to send you the promise of my Father, which you have heard and seen me do: but now I will receive power, and you shall be witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. And when he had said these things, he was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight, and as they were gazing steadily into the sky while he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched him go into heaven. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

From the house called Cloves, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying, and Peter and John and James and Andrew and Philip and Thomas, Barnabas and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one accord were praying, saying, "O Lord, do not let this place be left desolate, or the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred) and us, whom you have chosen to serve, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with the brothers." At this time Peter stood up to the right of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred) and saying, "Brethren, we have heard that the Holy Spirit has testified by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who captured Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry. His lot was cast with us, and he was numbered among us. And he became a betrayer, and he went out of the world, and he perished miserably. And of those who were living at Jerusalem, and who were of the same language and kind as we are, which is a multitude, let one be chosen to take the place of this betrayer, and thus become to all who were living at Jerusalem, and who were of the same language and kind as we are, a witness, both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Therefore it is necessary that one of the men who have accompanied us all the time that Jesus lived with us and ate and drank with us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection. The list



And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4

## Ephesians 2:20 (NASB)

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*.”





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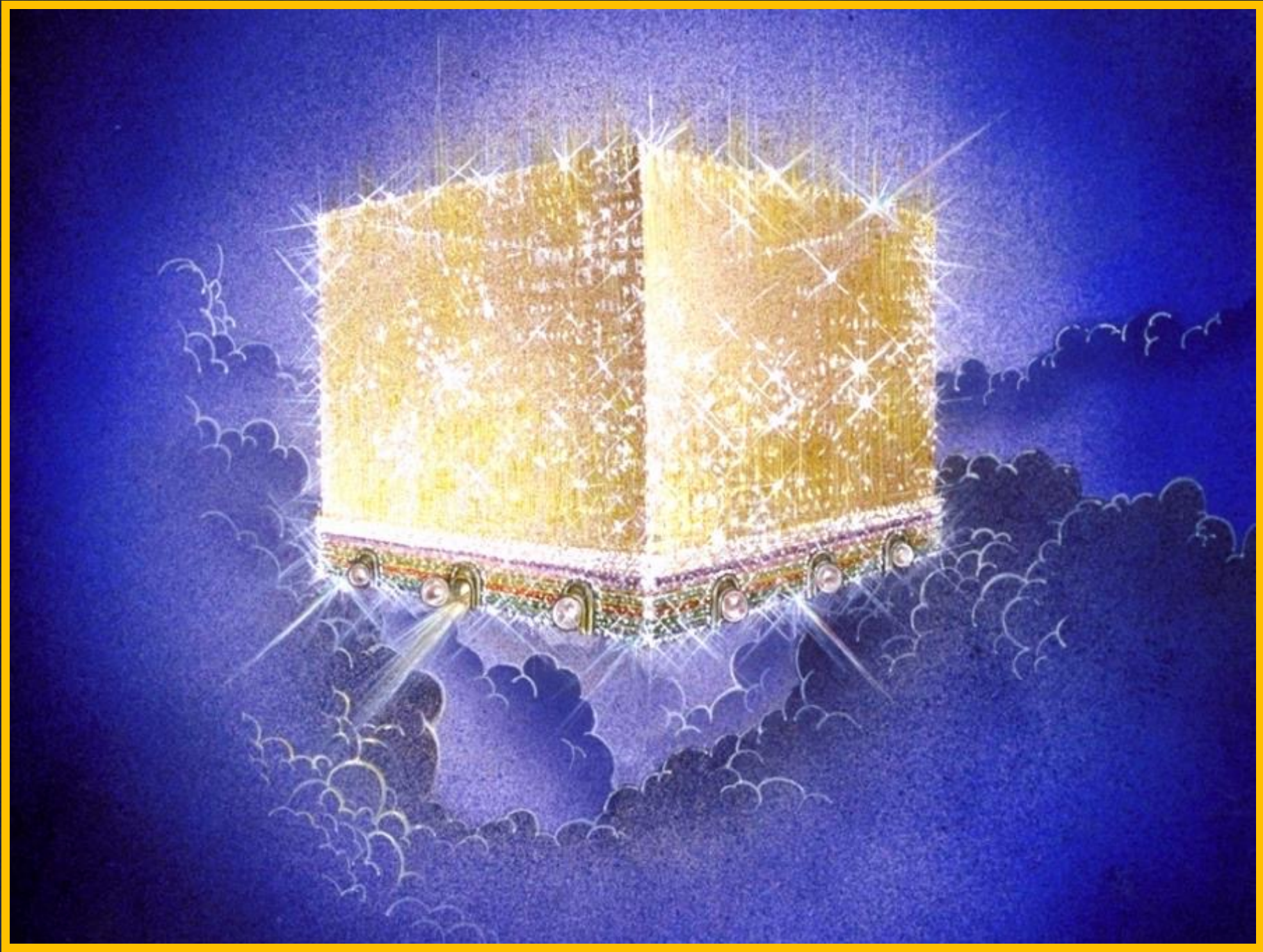
*And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4*

## 2 Thessalonians 2:3

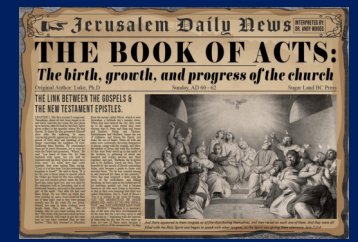
“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy [*apostasia*] comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”







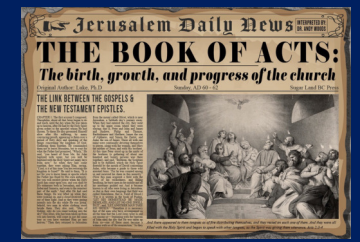
# Message



- Birth and growth of the church numerically, geographically, ethnically.
- Components
  - Numerically (progress reports)
  - Geographically (From Jerusalem to Rome)
  - Ethnically (From Judaism to Gentile domination)



# Mistaken Replacement?



## Pro

- No Spirit yet
- Lots
- Matthias disappears
- Paul

## Con

- No textual indication of an error
- Twelve esteemed (2:14; 6:2)
- God's choice (1:24)
- Prov 16:33
- Paul unqualified (1:21-22)
- Focus on Peter & Paul

Conclusion

# Acts 1

## Chapter Summary

- I. Prologue (1-5)
- II. Jesus' Ascension (6-11)
- III. Return to Jerusalem (12-14)
- IV. Matthias Chosen (15-26)

