

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

From Peter to Paul

Reference	Center	Person	Place	Outreach
Acts 1–12	Jerusalem	Peter	Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria	Jewish
Acts 13–28	Antioch	Paul	Uttermost parts	Gentiles

From Peter to Paul

Peter

Heals a man lame from birth (3:1-11)

Heals by shadow (5:15-16)

Success is a cause of jealousy (5:17)

Confronts a sorcerer (8:9-24)

Raises Dorcas (9:36-41)

Jailed and miraculously freed (12:3-19)

Paul

Heals a man lame from birth (14:8-18)

Heals by handkerchief (19:11-12)

Success is a cause of jealousy (13:45)

Confronts a sorcerer (13:6-11)

Raises Eutychus (20:9-12)

Jailed and miraculously freed (16:25-34)

Acts 6:8–8:4

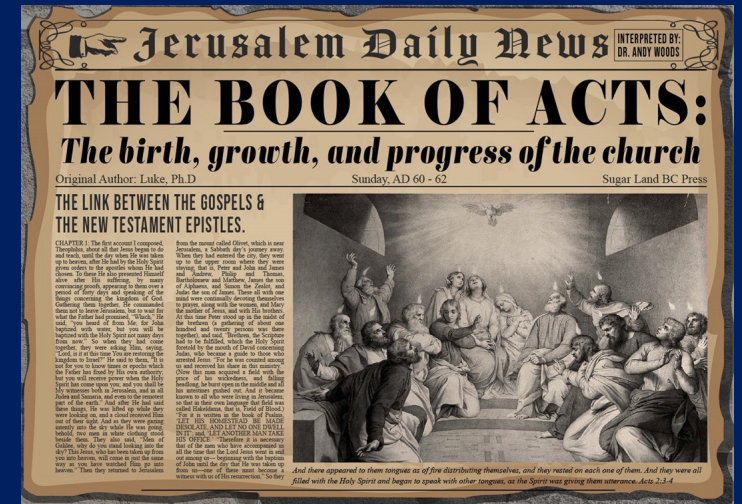
Stephen

I. Stephen's Arrest (6:8–7:1)

II. Stephen's Defense (Acts 7:2-53)

III. Stephen's Stoning (7:54-60)

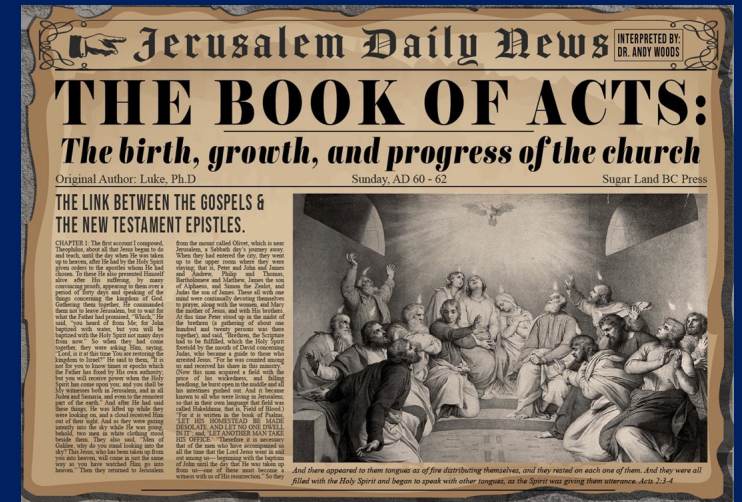
IV. Third Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)



II. Stephen's Arrest

Acts 6:8-15

- A. Description of Stephen (8)
- B. Disputations against Stephen (9-10)
- C. Conspiracy against Stephen (11)
- D. Arrest of Stephen (12)
- E. Charges against Stephen (13-14)
- F. Face of Stephen (15)
- G. Opportunity of Stephen (7:1)



Acts 6:8–8:4

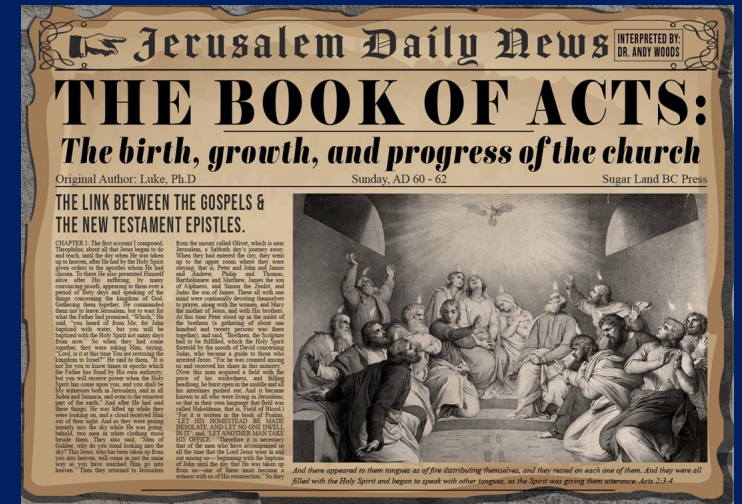
Stephen

I. Stephen's Arrest (6:8–7:1)

II. Stephen's Defense (Acts 7:2-53)

III. Stephen's Stoning (7:54-60)

IV. Third Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)



Acts 7 – Stephen's Speech

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. 7:2-5 | Abraham's partial obedience |
| 2. 7:6-38 | Israel's initial rejections and later acceptances |
| 3. 7:39-41 | Israel's early rebellion against Moses |
| 4. 7:42-45 | Israel reinterpreted Moses' teachings through a polytheistic framework |
| 5. 7:46-50 | Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God |
| 6. 7:51-53 | Current generation imitating these same rebellions |

Acts 7 – Stephen’s Speech

1. 7:2-5

Abraham’s partial obedience

2. 7:6-38

Israel’s initial rejections and later acceptances

3. 7:39-41

Israel’s early rebellion against Moses

4. 7:42-45

Israel reinterpreted Moses’ teachings through a polytheistic framework

5. 7:46-50

Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God

6. 7:51-53

Current generation imitating these same rebellions

Acts 7 – Stephen’s Speech

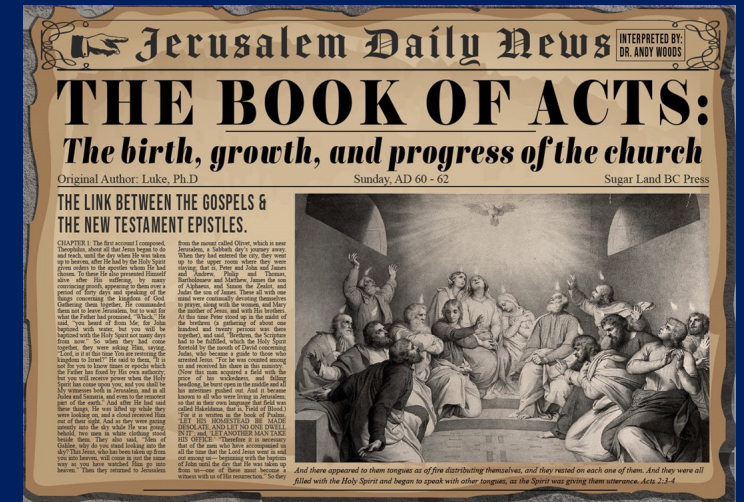
1. 7:2-5	Abraham’s partial obedience
2. 7:6-38	Israel’s initial rejections and later acceptances
3. 7:39-41	Israel’s early rebellion against Moses
4. 7:42-45	Israel reinterpreted Moses’ teachings through a polytheistic framework
5. 7:46-50	Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God
6. 7:51-53	Current generation imitating these same rebellions

2. Israel's Initial Rejections & Later Acceptances

Acts 7:6-38

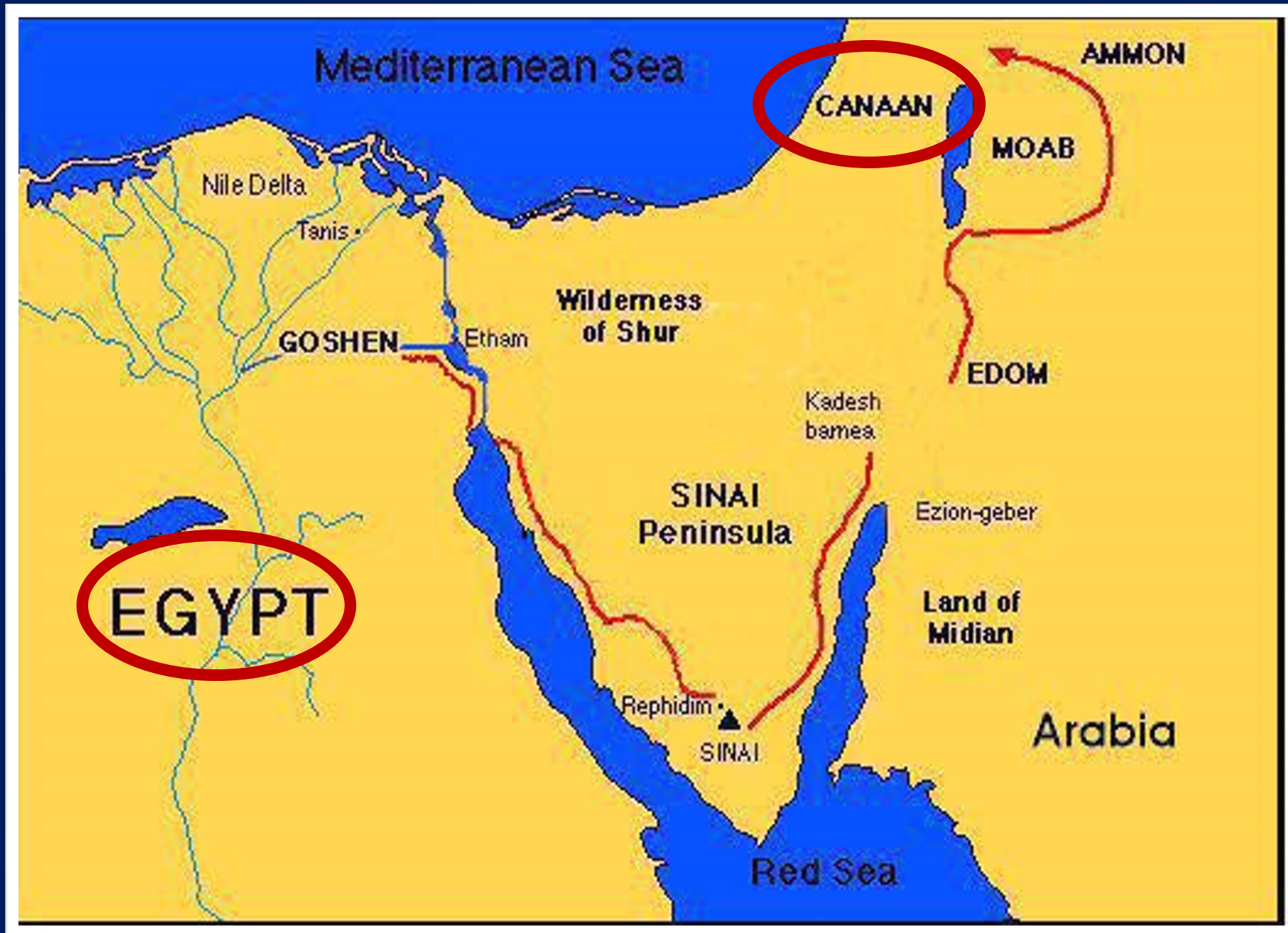
A. Example of Joseph (6-16)

B. Example of Moses (17-38)



Acts 7 – Stephen’s Speech

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. 7:2-5 | Abraham’s partial obedience |
| 2. 7:6-38 | Israel’s initial rejections and later acceptances |
| 3. 7:39-41 | Israel’s early rebellion against Moses |
| 4. 7:42-45 | Israel reinterpreted Moses’ teachings through a polytheistic framework |
| 5. 7:46-50 | Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God |
| 6. 7:51-53 | Current generation imitating these same rebellions |



Deuteronomy 6:4-7

“⁴ Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!... ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”





APOSTASY CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY



Galatians 1:6

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel.” (Italics mine)

Exodus 32:8

“They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I have commanded them” (Italics mine; see also Exod 24:18).



Acts 7 – Stephen’s Speech

1. 7:2-5	Abraham’s partial obedience
2. 7:6-38	Israel’s initial rejections and later acceptances
3. 7:39-41	Israel’s early rebellion against Moses
4. 7:42-45	Israel reinterpreted Moses’ teachings though a polytheistic framework
5. 7:46-50	Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God
6. 7:51-53	Current generation imitating these same rebellions

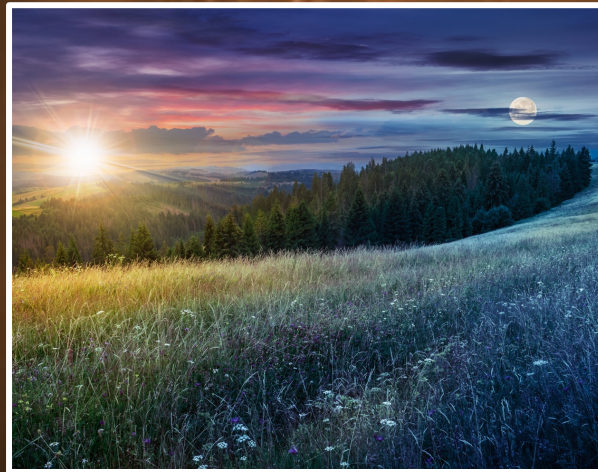
Genesis 1:1-3

“¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”



Genesis 1:14

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.”



Eternal State is Future

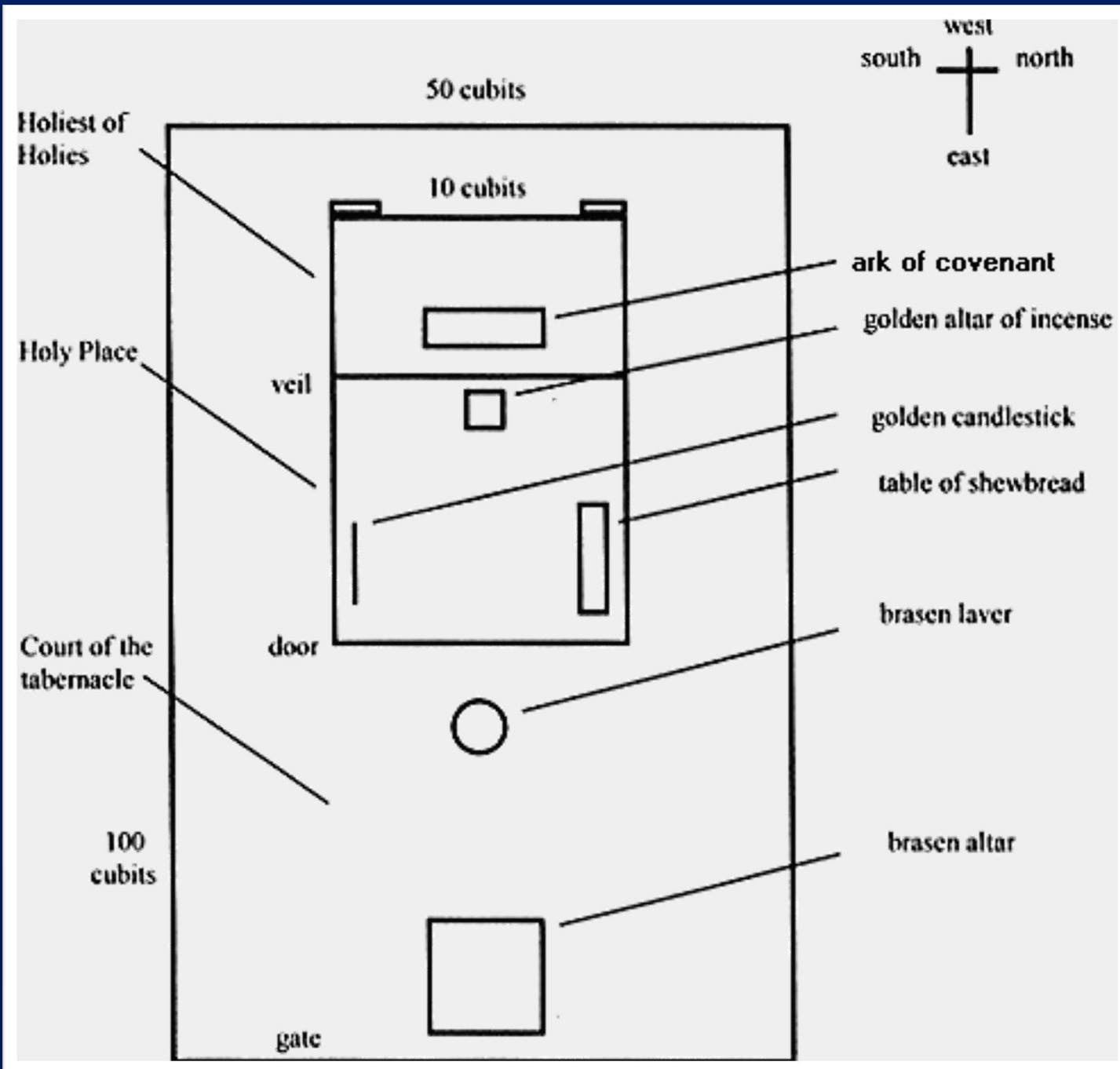
- I. No Satan (Rev 20:10)
- II. No sea (Rev 21:1)
- III. No death, crying, or pain (Rev 21:4)
- IV. No Sun (Rev 22:5)**
- V. No Moon (Rev 21:23)**
- VI. No temple (Rev. 21:22)
- VII. No night (Rev 21:25)
- VIII. No evil (Rev 21:27)
- IX. No curse (Rev 22:3)





THE CHEBAR RIVER
Ezekiel 1:1





Ark of the Covenant





Matthew 5:21-22

“²¹ **You have heard** that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ ²² **But I say to you** that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.’”



Matthew 5:27-28

²⁷ You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; ²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

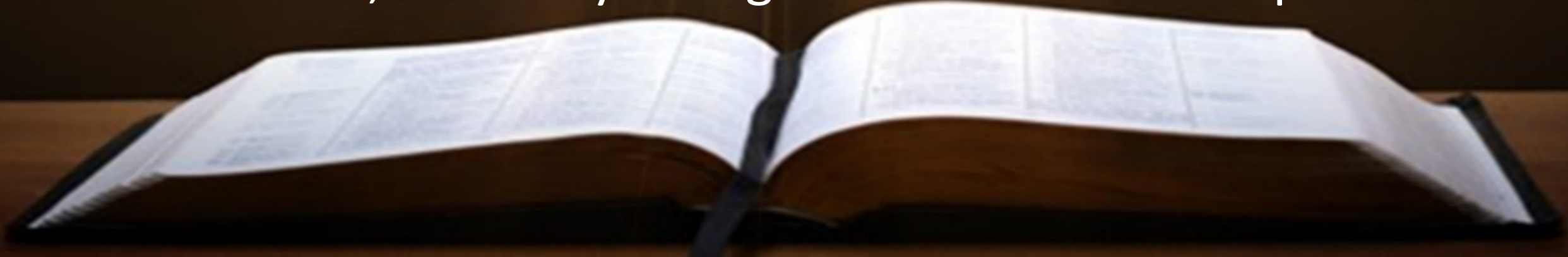


Acts 7 – Stephen’s Speech

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. 7:2-5 | Abraham’s partial obedience |
| 2. 7:6-38 | Israel’s initial rejections and later acceptances |
| 3. 7:39-41 | Israel’s early rebellion against Moses |
| 4. 7:42-45 | Israel reinterpreted Moses’ teachings through a polytheistic framework |
| 5. 7:46-50 | Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God |
| 6. 7:51-53 | Current generation imitating these same rebellions |

2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹² “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart . . .



2 Samuel 7:12-16

. . .from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.”



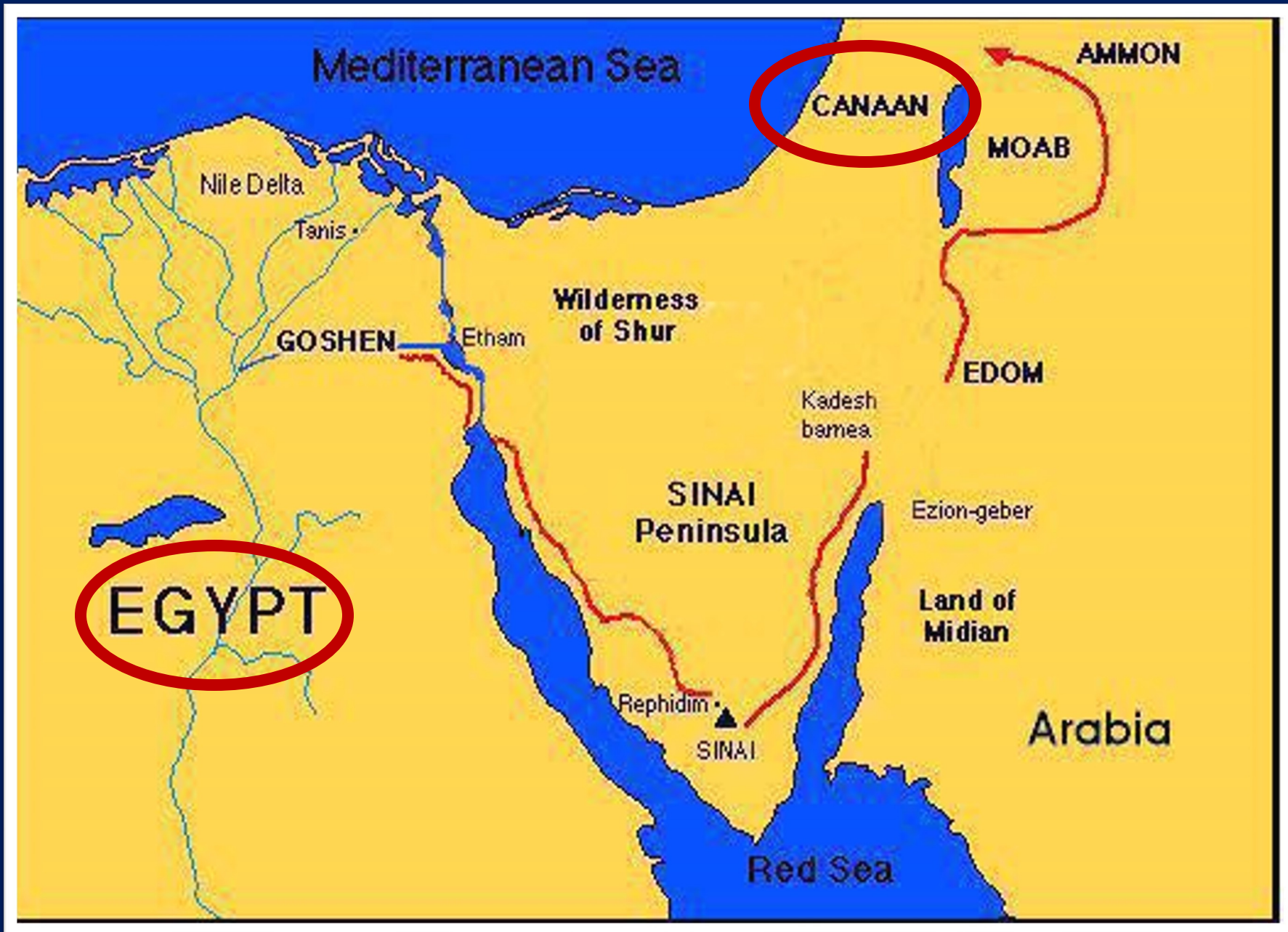
ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

1. Solomon's pre-exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
2. Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
3. Antichrist's temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2)
4. Millennial temple (Ezek. 40-48)

ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

1. Solomon's pre-exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
2. Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
3. Antichrist's temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2)
4. Millennial temple (Ezek. 40-48)









Matthew 24:1-2

“¹ Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ² And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”



Luke 19:42-44

“⁴² saying, ‘If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and **they will not leave in you one stone upon another**, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.’”





1 Samuel 16:13-14

“¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. ¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.”



John 14:16-17

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.



WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN THE OT

	OT/GOSPELS/ACTS 1	ACTS 2/TODAY
External vs. Internal	Upon (1 Sam. 16:13)	Within (John 14:17)
Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?	Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)	At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)
How long is the indwelling?	Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)	Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)
Who is indwelt?	Selective indwelling (Joel 2:28)	Universal indwelling (1 Cor 12:13)

Acts 7 – Stephen's Speech

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. 7:2-5 | Abraham's partial obedience |
| 2. 7:6-38 | Israel's initial rejections and later acceptances |
| 3. 7:39-41 | Israel's early rebellion against Moses |
| 4. 7:42-45 | Israel reinterpreted Moses' teachings through a polytheistic framework |
| 5. 7:46-50 | Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God |
| 6. 7:51-53 | Current generation imitating these same rebellions |

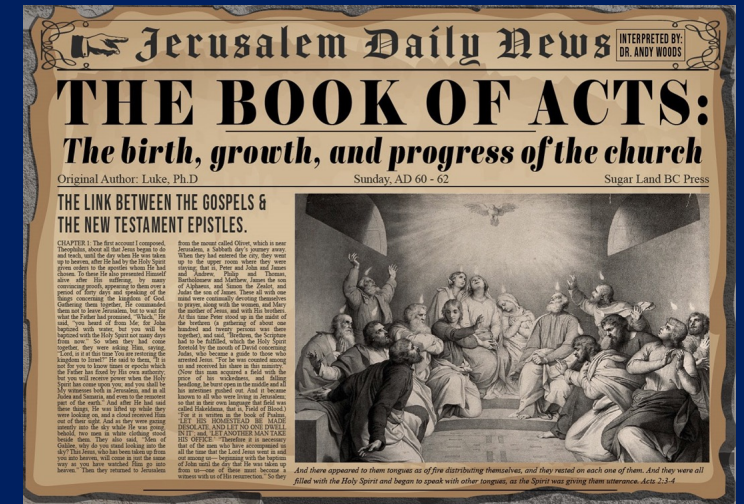
6. Current Generation Imitating These Rebellions

Acts 7:51-53

A. Resisting the Spirit (51)

B. Prophet Killers (52)

C. Law Breakers (53)



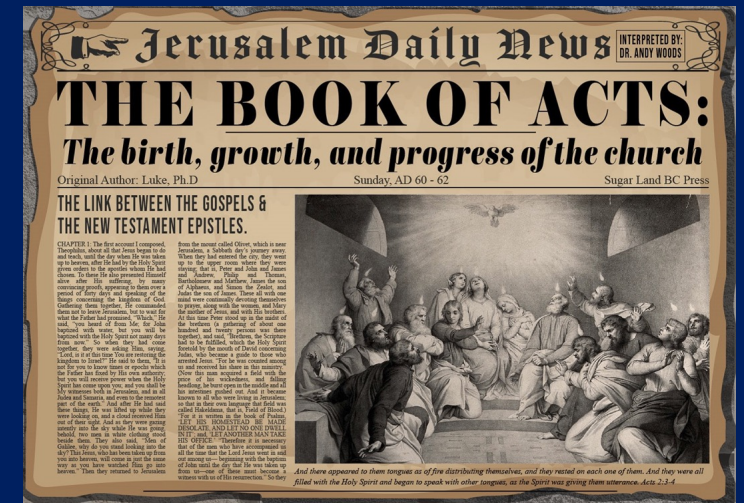
6. Current Generation Imitating These Rebellions

Acts 7:51-53

A. Resisting the Spirit (51)

B. Prophet Killers (52)

C. Law Breakers (53)



Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irrresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



David N. Steele & Curtis C. Thomas

The “efficacious call of the Spirit or irresistible grace” is “the special inward call of the Spirit [that] never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made. This special call is not made to all sinners what is issued to the elect only.”

David N. Steele, Curtis C. Thomas, and S. Lance Quinn, *The Five Points of Calvinism*, 2nd ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1963), 52-53.

Genesis 6:1-3

“¹ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.””



Zechariah 12:10

“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”



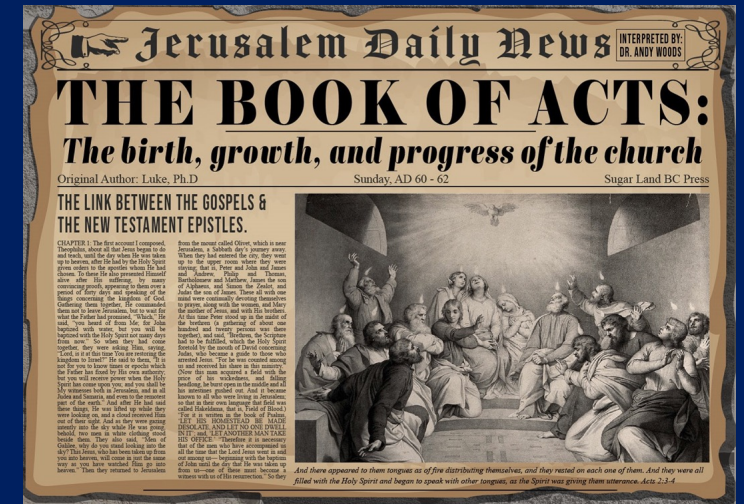
6. Current Generation Imitating These Rebellions

Acts 7:51-53

A. Resisting the Spirit (51)

B. Prophet Killers (52)

C. Law Breakers (53)



Luke 24:27, 44

“²⁷Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures...⁴⁴ Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”



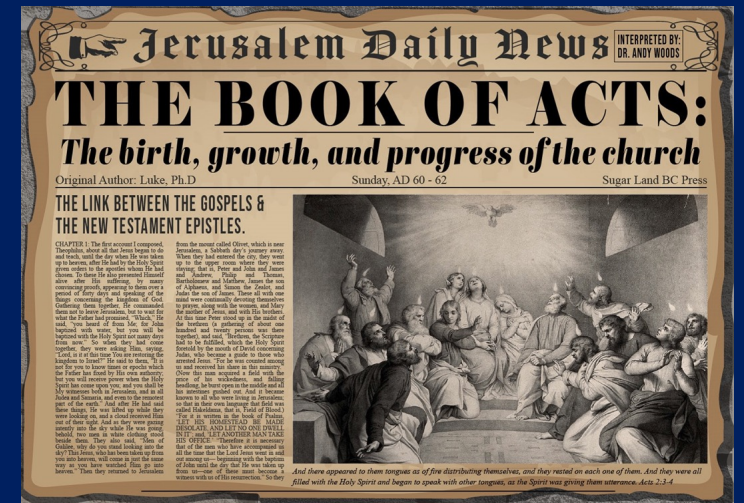
6. Current Generation Imitating These Rebellions

Acts 7:51-53

A. Resisting the Spirit (51)

B. Prophet Killers (52)

C. Law Breakers (53)



And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves; and they raised up 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 2:2-4



John 5:39, 46

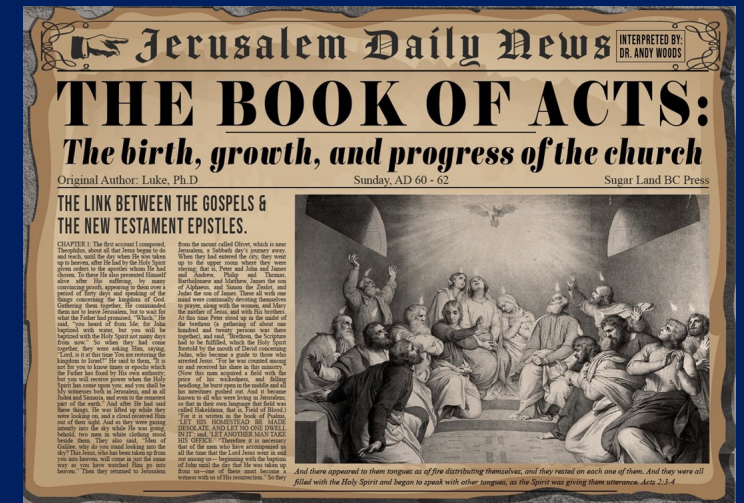
“³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.”



Acts 6:8–8:4

Stephen

- I. Stephen's Arrest (6:8–7:1)
- II. Stephen's Defense (Acts 7:2-53)
- III. Stephen's Stoning (7:54-60)
- IV. Third Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)



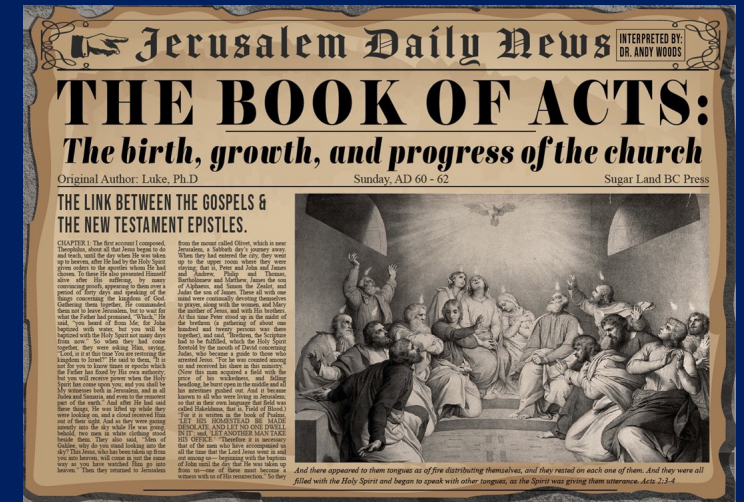
III. Stephen's Stoning

Acts 7:54-60

A. Audience's reaction (54)

B. Stephen's dying vision (55-56)

C. Stephen's death (57-60)



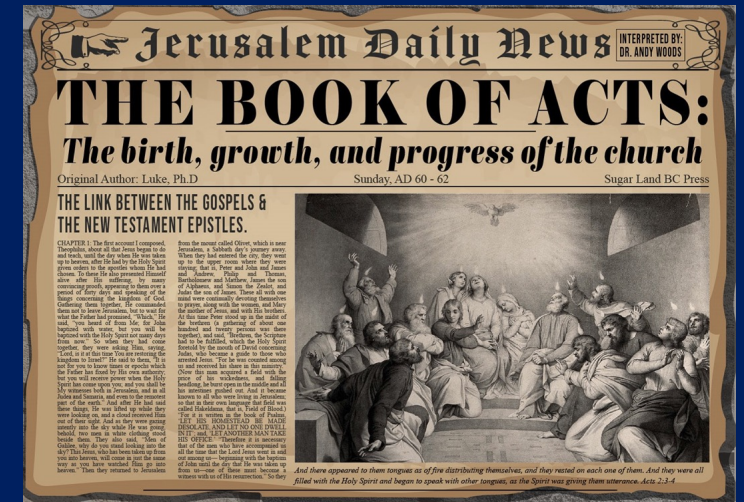
III. Stephen's Stoning

Acts 7:54-60

A. Audience's reaction (54)

B. Stephen's dying vision (55-56)

C. Stephen's death (57-60)



John 16:7–11

⁷ “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.



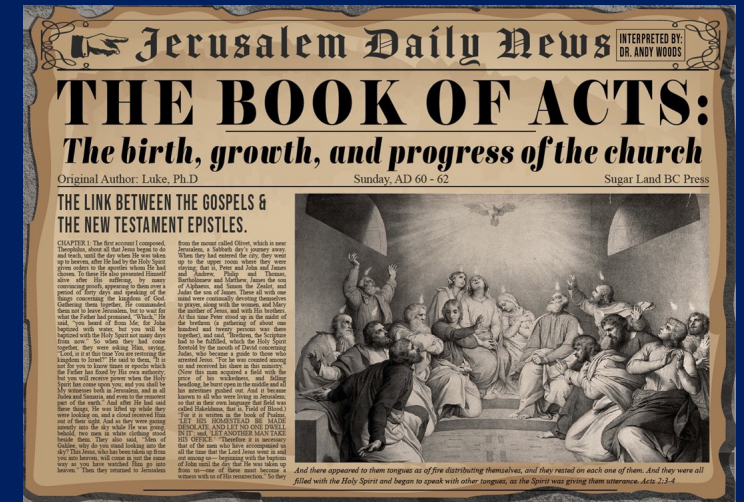
III. Stephen's Stoning

Acts 7:54-60

A. Audience's reaction (54)

B. Stephen's dying vision (55-56)

C. Stephen's death (57-60)



Revelation 3:21

Promise to the Overcomers

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”



The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Patmos

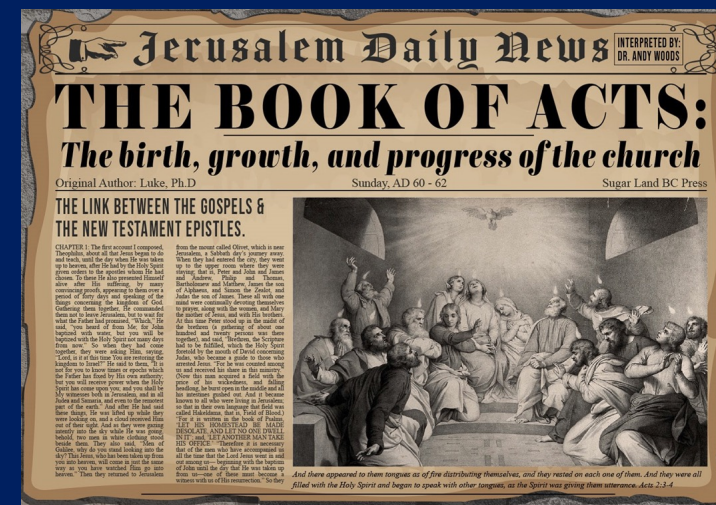
III. Stephen's Stoning

Acts 7:54-60

A. Audience's reaction (54)

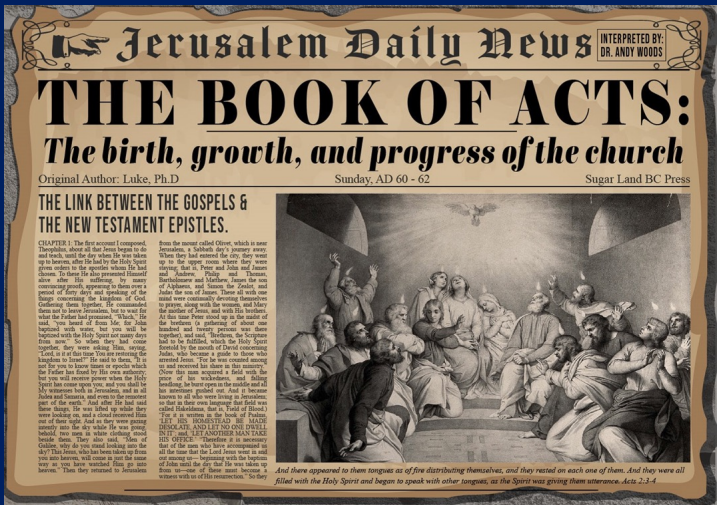
B. Stephen's dying vision (55-56)

C. Stephen's death (57-60)



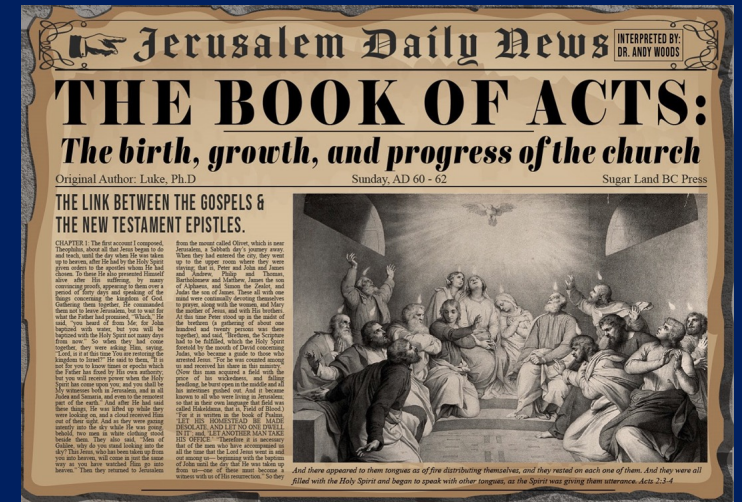
C. Acts 7:57-60 Stephen's Death

- 1. Mob response (57)
- 2. Stephen's stoning (58)
- 3. Stephen's response (59)
- 4. Stephen's death (60)



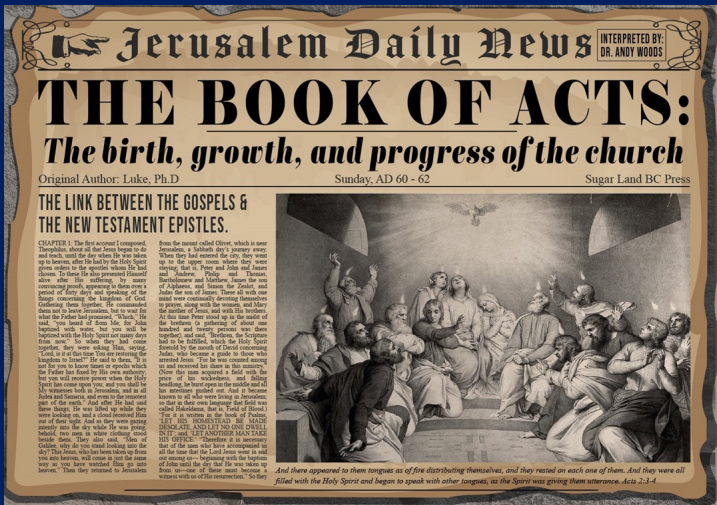
C. Acts 7:57-60 Stephen's Death

- 1. Mob response (57)
- 2. Stephen's stoning (58)
- 3. Stephen's response (59)
- 4. Stephen's death (60)



C. Acts 7:57-60 Stephen's Death

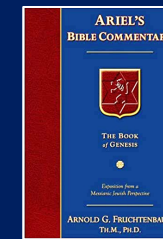
- 1. Mob response (57)
- 2. Stephen's stoning (58)
- 3. Stephen's response (59)
- 4. Stephen's death (60)





Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

The Book of Acts, 176-77



“A second explanation is that this event may have occurred in A.D. 36. In that year, Vitellus became the new imperial legate of the Province of Syria, which included Judea. He deposed Pontius Pilate from his procuratorship in A.D. 36. Pilate’s successor, Marullus, did not arrive until A.D. 38. So there may have been a hiatus or a break between the deposing of Pilate and the arrival of the new procurator. It could very well be that the stoning of Stephen occurred during this time, which would have left the Sanhedrin without tight Roman oversight. A third explanation is that this was a mob scene, and mobs do not regard the rules of law.”

From Peter to Paul

Reference	Center	Person	Place	Outreach
Acts 1–12	Jerusalem	Peter	Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria	Jewish
Acts 13–28	Antioch	Paul	Uttermost parts	Gentiles

From Peter to Paul

Peter

Heals a man lame from birth (3:1-11)

Heals by shadow (5:15-16)

Success is a cause of jealousy (5:17)

Confronts a sorcerer (8:9-24)

Raises Dorcas (9:36-41)

Jailed and miraculously freed (12:3-19)

Paul

Heals a man lame from birth (14:8-18)

Heals by handkerchief (19:11-12)

Success is a cause of jealousy (13:45)

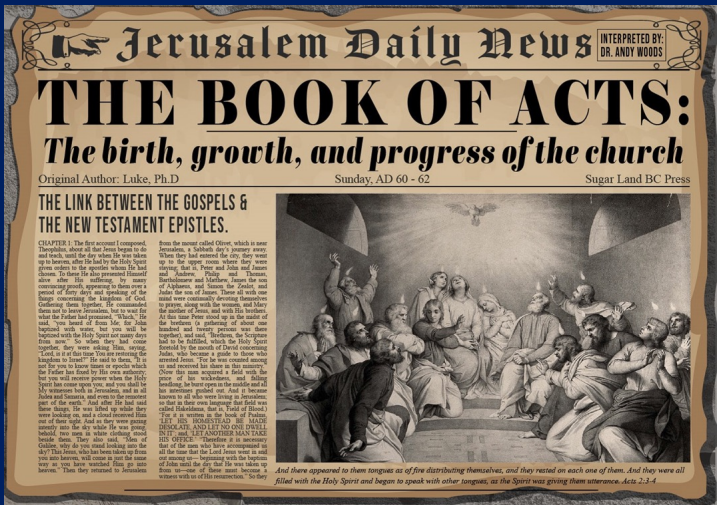
Confronts a sorcerer (13:6-11)

Raises Eutychus (20:9-12)

Jailed and miraculously freed (16:25-34)

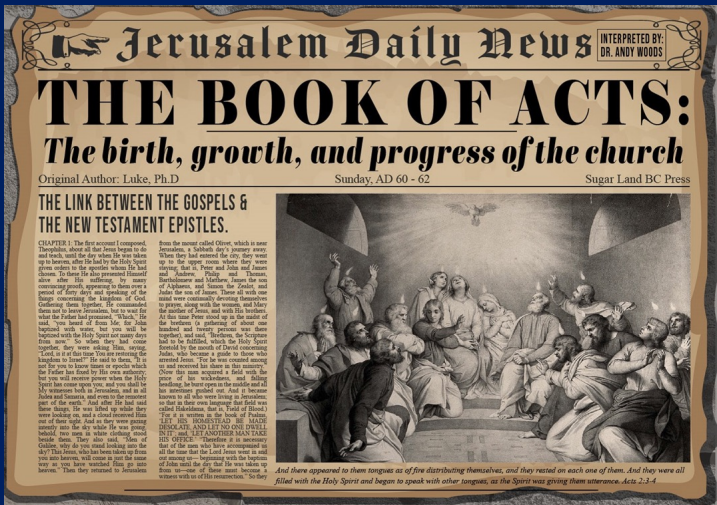
C. Acts 7:57-60 Stephen's Death

- 1. Mob response (57)
- 2. Stephen's stoning (58)
- 3. Stephen's response (59)
- 4. Stephen's death (60)



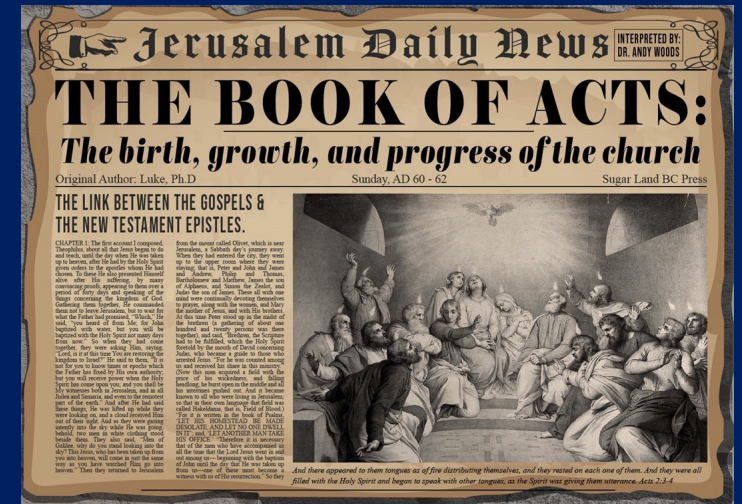
C. Acts 7:57-60 Stephen's Death

- 1. Mob response (57)
- 2. Stephen's stoning (58)
- 3. Stephen's response (59)
- 4. Stephen's death (60)



4. Acts 7:60 Stephen's Death

- a) Kneeling (60a)
- b) Cried out (60b)
- c) Fell asleep (60c)

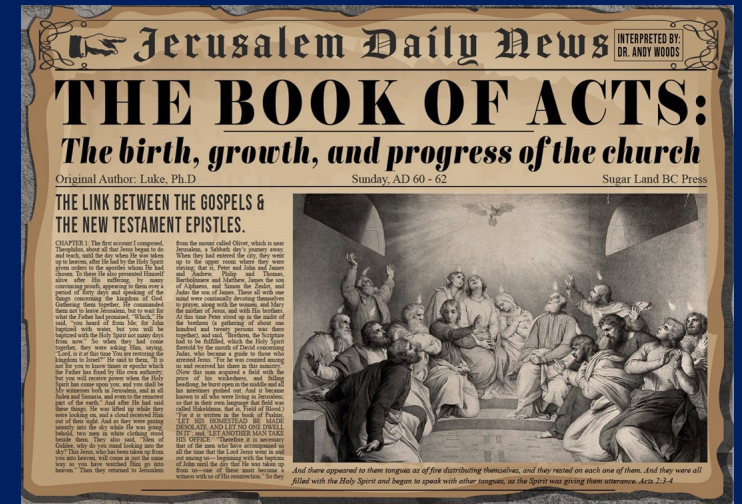


4. Acts 7:60 Stephen's Death

a) Kneeling (60a)

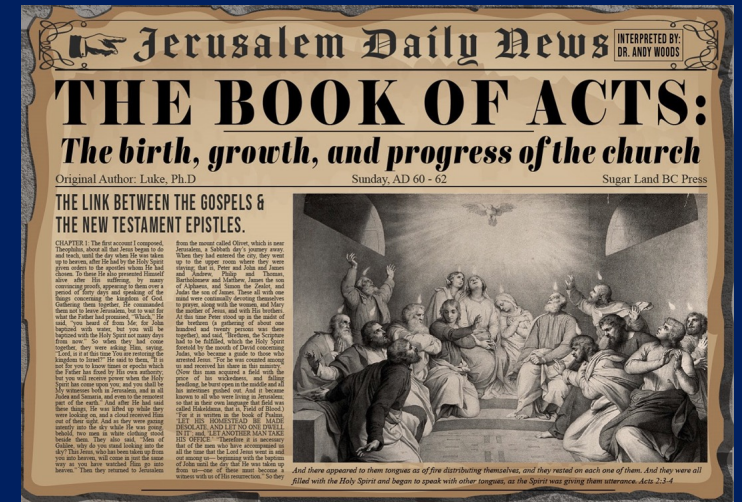
b) Cried out (60b)

c) Fell asleep (60c)



4. Acts 7:60 Stephen's Death

- a) Kneeling (60a)
- b) Cried out (60b)
- c) Fell asleep (60c)



4. Acts 7:60 Stephen's Death


- a) Kneeling (60a)
- b) Cried out (60b)
- c) Fell asleep (60c)

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 of Pentecost, which is sometimes called the day of tongues, is found in Acts 2:1-4. It is a very important event in the history of the church, and it is the only account of it in the Bible. The story is told in a very dramatic way, and it is one of the most beautiful and inspiring passages in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles, and they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. This was the beginning of the church's mission to all people, and it was a powerful sign of God's love and grace. The apostles were filled with joy and wonder, and they began to sing and praise God with their hearts, minds, and voices. The sound of their voices was heard throughout the city, and many people were drawn to the apostles to hear them speak. This was the birth of the church, and it was a wonderful day for all who were present. The church has grown ever since that day, and it continues to spread the message of the Gospel to all corners of the earth. The Holy Spirit is still at work in the world today, and He is calling people to repent and believe in Jesus Christ. We should all strive to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and we should all seek to be used by Him in our lives. The church is the body of Christ, and it is the only way to salvation. We should all love one another, and we should all seek to glorify God in all that we do. The church is the light of the world, and it is the hope of all who are lost. We should all strive to be faithful and obedient to God, and we should all seek to be instruments of His love and grace. The church is the family of God, and it is the place where we can find true life and joy. We should all love one another, and we should all seek to be united in the same mind and the same judgment. The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and it is the place where we can worship God in spirit and in truth. We should all strive to be holy and righteous, and we should all seek to be filled with the fruit of the Spirit. The church is the pillar and foundation of truth, and it is the place where we can find the truth that sets us free. We should all strive to be faithful and obedient to the truth, and we should all seek to be instruments of the truth. The church is the body of Christ, and it is the only way to salvation. We should all love one another, and we should all seek to glorify God in all that we do. The church is the light of the world, and it is the hope of all who are lost. We should all strive to be faithful and obedient to God, and we should all seek to be instruments of His love and grace. The church is the family of God, and it is the place where we can find true life and joy. We should all love one another, and we should all seek to be united in the same mind and the same judgment. The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and it is the place where we can worship God in spirit and in truth. We should all strive to be holy and righteous, and we should all seek to be filled with the fruit of the Spirit. The church is the pillar and foundation of truth, and it is the place where we can find the truth that sets us free. We should all strive to be faithful and obedient to the truth, and we should all seek to be instruments of the truth.

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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede . . .



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

... those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



Conclusion

Acts 6:8–8:4

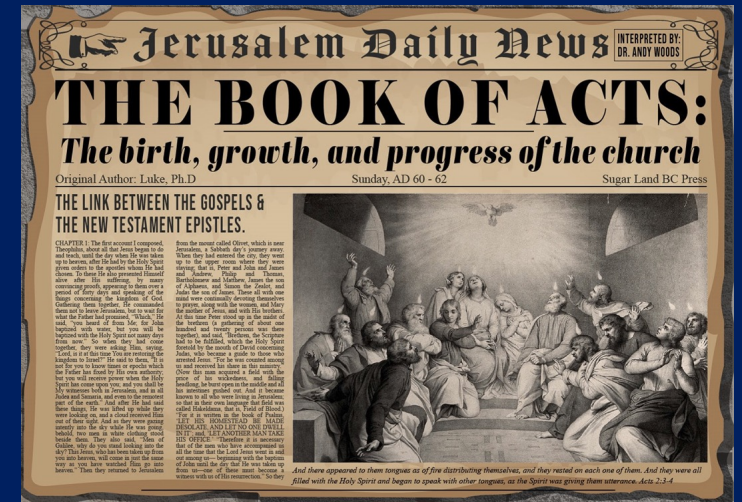
Stephen

I. Stephen's Arrest (6:8–7:1)

II. Stephen's Defense (Acts 7:2-53)

III. Stephen's Stoning (7:54-60)

IV. Third Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)



Acts 7 – Stephen's Speech

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. 7:2-5 | Abraham's partial obedience |
| 2. 7:6-38 | Israel's initial rejections and later acceptances |
| 3. 7:39-41 | Israel's early rebellion against Moses |
| 4. 7:42-45 | Israel reinterpreted Moses' teachings through a polytheistic framework |
| 5. 7:46-50 | Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God |
| 6. 7:51-53 | Current generation imitating these same rebellions |