

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

THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Jay Adams

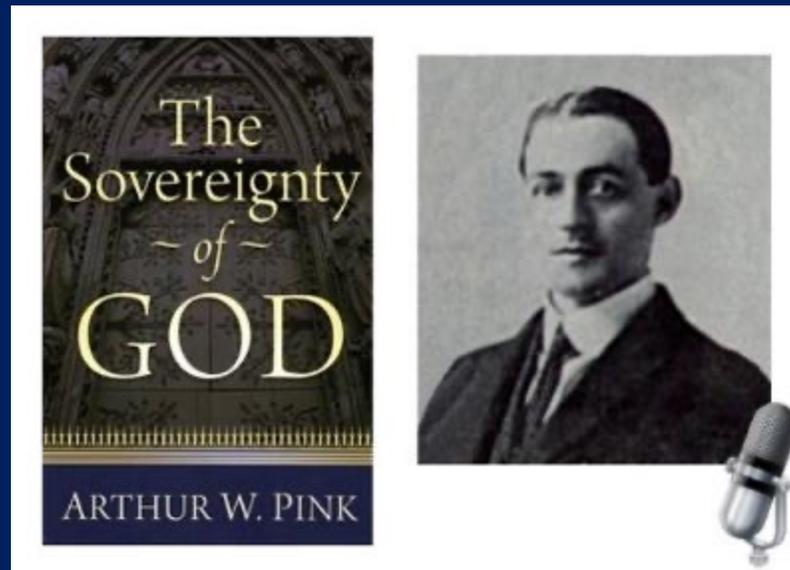
Competent to Counsel, 70.

“But counselors, as Christians, are obligated to present the claims of Christ. They must present the good news that Christ Jesus died on the cross in the place of His own, that He bore the guilt and suffered the penalty for their sins. He died that all whom the Father had given to Him might come unto Him and have life everlasting. As a reformed Christian, the writer believes that counselors must not tell any unsaved counselee that Christ died for him, **FOR THEY CANNOT SAY THAT.** No man knows except Christ Himself who are His elect for whom He died.”
[emphasis mine]

A. W. Pink

Sovereignty of God, p. 160, 163.

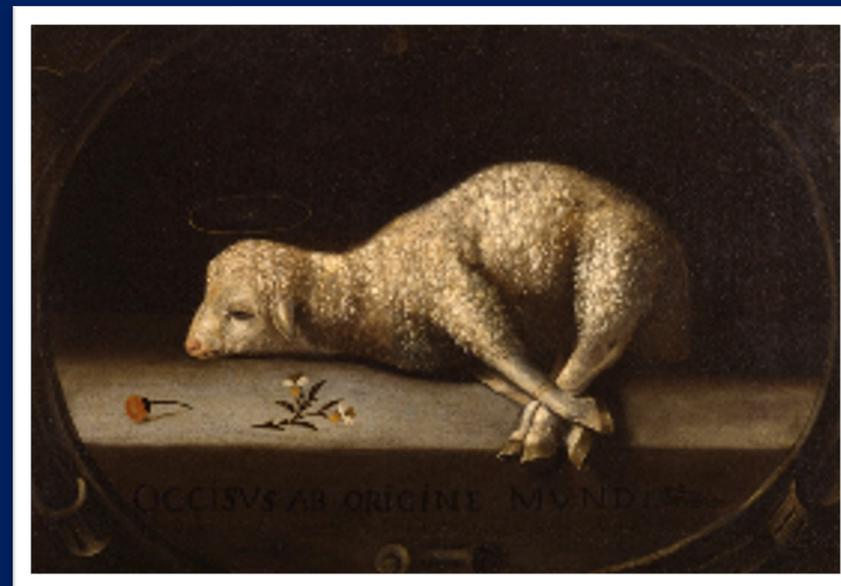
“The fact is, that the love of God, is a truth for the Saints only...In like manner, the ‘world’ in John 3:16 must, in the final analysis, refer to the world of God’s people.”



Extent of the Atonement

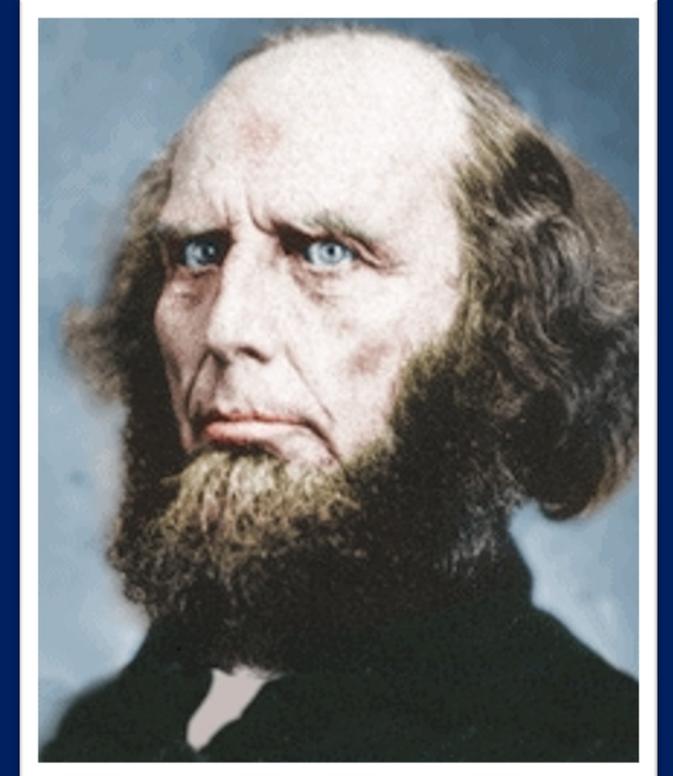
Unlimited

- Biblical support
 - John 1:29; 3:16-17; 4:42; 6:51; 12:32, 47
 - Acts 17:30
 - 2 Cor 5:19
 - 1 Tim. 2:4, 6; 4:10
 - Titus 2:11
 - Heb. 2:9
 - 2 Pet. 2:1
 - 1 John 2:2; 4:14



Poor Word Choices

- ABC method – Admit, Believe, Call
- Miscellaneous poor word choices – confess, deny, yield, surrender, sorrow, make, ask, forsake, receive, accept, invite
- Negative influence of Charles Finney



Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather [*episynagō*] your children together, the way a hen gathers [*episynagō*] her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”



Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Where's **sanctification**?



Romans Outline

- I. Salutation (1:1-17)
- II. Sin (1:18–3:20)
- III. Salvation (3:21–5:21)
- IV. Sanctification (6–8)
- V. **Sovereignty (9–11)**
- VI. Service (12:1–15:13)
- VII. Summation (15:14–16:27)



Romans 9–11

Theme:

How can God be trusted to be faithful to us if He has been unfaithful to Israel?

V. Sovereignty (Rom 9–11)

- A. Israel in the past: elected (Rom 9)
- B. Israel in the present: rejected (Rom 10)
- C. Israel in the future: accepted (Rom 11)



Belief-God's One Condition for Justification



“...because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology*
(Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

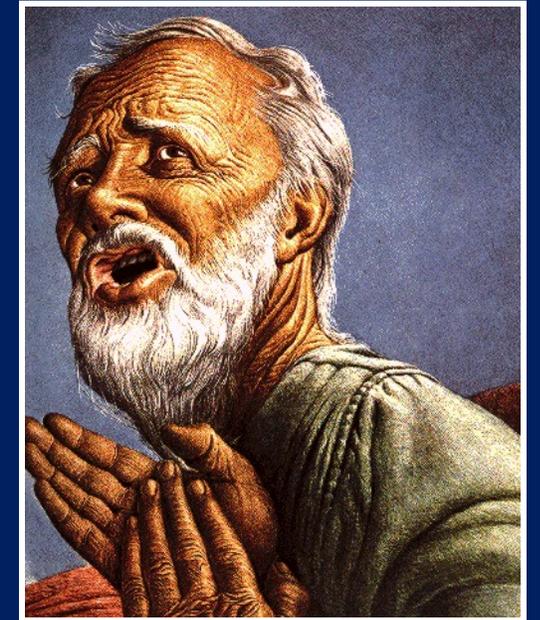
Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."





Six Parts of a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty in Deuteronomy

- Preamble (1:1-5)
- Prologue (1:6–4:40)
- Covenant obligations (5–26)
- Storage and reading instructions (27:2-3; 31:9, 24, 26)
- Witnesses (32:1)
- Blessings and curses (28)



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- ***Blessings and curses (28)***



Deuteronomy 28:49-50

⁴⁹ “The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, ⁵⁰ a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young.”



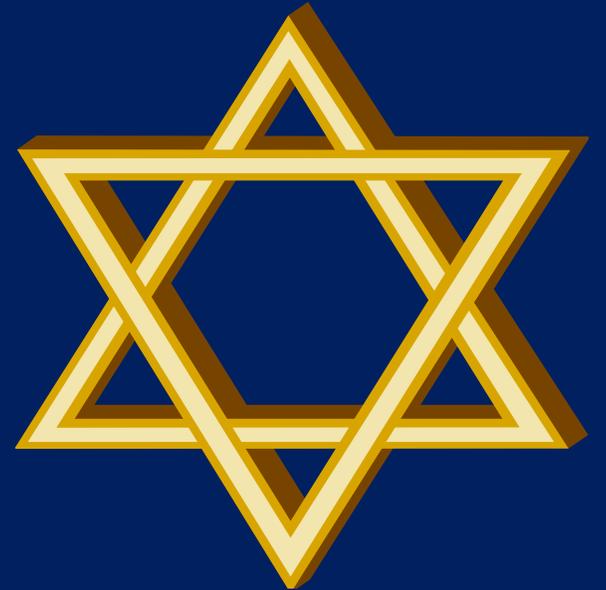
ISRAEL'S JUDGMENTS

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Kgs. 12)
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17)
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kgs. 25)
- Rome *Diaspora* in A.D. 70 (Luke 19:41-44)



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Eusebius (A.D. 260-340)

Ecclesiastical History, 3.5.3

"But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella. And when those that believed in Christ had come thither from Jerusalem, then, as if the royal city of the Jews and the whole land of Judea were entirely destitute of holy men, the judgment of God at length overtook those who had committed such outrages against Christ and his apostles, and totally destroyed that generation of impious men."

Epiphanius (*De pond. et mens.* 15) also records this flight of the Christians to Pella.)

Pella

Pella was a town situated beyond the Jordan, in the north of Perea, within the dominions of Herod Agrippa II. The surrounding population was chiefly Gentile. See Pliny V. 18, and Josephus, *B. J.* III. 3. 3, and I. 4. 8.



Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴ “For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. ²⁸ You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.”





Charles L. Feinberg

The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord, Paperback ed.
(Chicago: Moody, 1969; reprint, Chicago: Moody, 1984), 231-32.

“Verses 25–29 teach that the *complete* return of Israel will occur after the defeat of Gog and his Confederates. Ezekiel summarized his prophecies of hope and restoration. When he stated that God will have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, he had in mind that all previous restorations were partial. Now a universal and final restoration will take place. It was God who allowed them to go into captivity; it is he who will see to it that they are regathered; indeed, it is he who will insure that *not one is left out of the land*..In conclusion, to summarize all the benefits promised, Ezekiel spoke of the outpouring of the Spirit upon the house of Israel (italics added).”

Acts 2:41

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”



Acts 2:41

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”



John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.”

just. Believe



Acts 2:41

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Acts 2:41

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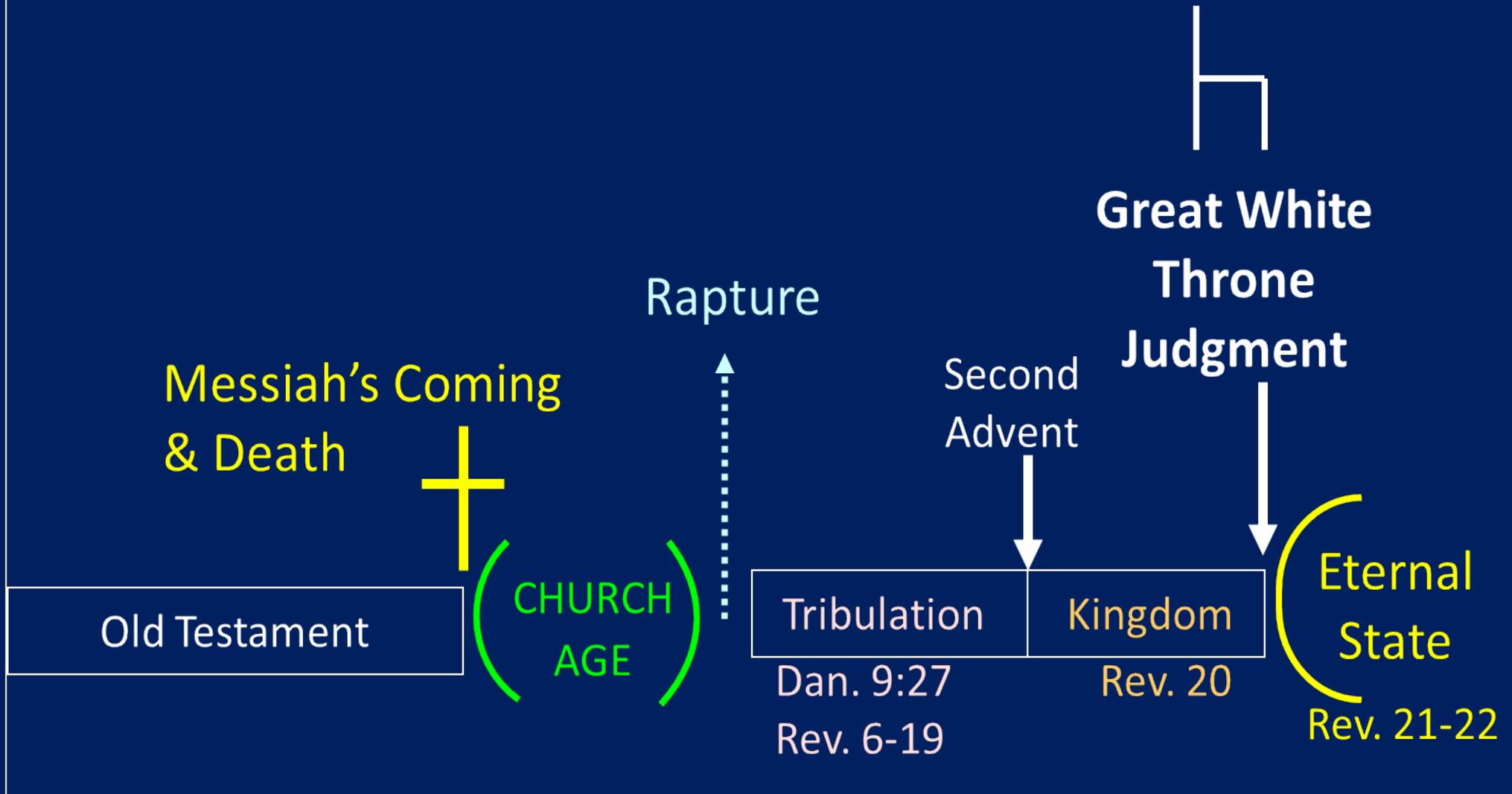


Reasons for Understanding 1000 Literally

(Revelation 20:1-10)

- John's use of indefinite concepts elsewhere
 - Revelation 20:3,8
- Exception to the “# of years” examples?
- Other numbers are taken literally
 - Two witnesses (11:3), 7000 people (11:13), 4 Angels (7:1) 7 Angels (8:6), 144,000 Jews (7:4), 42 months (11:2), 1260 days (11:3)
- Not always a symbolic interpretation
 - (Rev. 17:18)

Prophecy Panorama



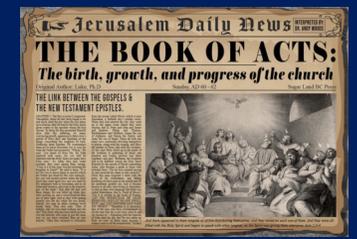
Message



- 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



Activities of the Local Church

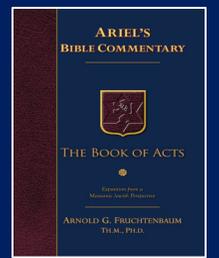
(Acts 2:41-47)

- Doctrine (Acts 2:42)
- Ordinances (Acts 2:41-42, 46)
- Prayer (Acts 2:42)
- Evangelism (Acts 2:47)
- Worship (Acts 2:47)
- Benevolence (Acts 2:44-45)
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42, 46-47)



Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

The Book of Acts, 83



“The apostles did many signs and wonders. In fact, the only ones who performed miracles in the book of Acts were the apostles or their delegates, such as Stephen (Acts 6:8). These apostolic legates were appointed by the laying on of hands by the apostles. Signs and wonders were not performed by the believers at large.”

Ephesians 2:20

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



Miracle Clusters In Scripture

NUM.	ERA	AUTHENTICATION
1.	Moses	Law
2.	Joshua	Conquest
3.	Elijah-Elisha	Prophet
4.	Christ	Kingdom offer
5.	Apostles	Church
6.	Tribulation & Millennium	Kingdom establishment

2 Timothy 4:20

“Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.”

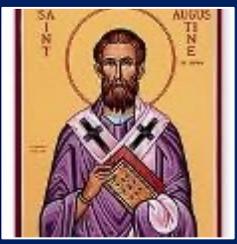




Chrysostom (A.D. 345–407)

Patriarch of Constantinople, Chrysostom, Homily 29 on First Corinthians.

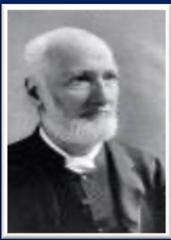
“This whole place is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to and by their cessation, being such as then used to occur but now no longer take place. And why do they not happen now? Why look now, the cause too of the obscurity has produced us again another question: namely, why did they then happen, and now do so no more?”



Augustine (A.D. 354–430)

Bishop of Hippo, *Homily 6:10 on the First Epistle of John*.

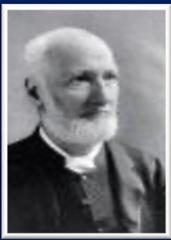
“In the earliest times, the Holy Ghost fell upon them that believed: and they spoke with tongues, which they had not learned, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4 These were signs adapted to the time. For there behooved to be that betokening of the Holy Spirit in all tongues, to show that the Gospel of God was to run through all tongues over the whole earth. That thing was done for a betokening, and it passed away. . . . If then the witness of the presence of the Holy Ghost be not now given through these miracles, by what is it given, by what does one get to know that he has received the Holy Ghost?”



Philip Schaff

History of the Christian Church, vol. 1 , p. 236-37.

“We do not know how long the glossolalia, as thus described by Paul, continued. It passed away gradually with the other extraordinary or strictly supernatural gifts of the apostolic age. It is not mentioned in the Pastoral, nor in the Catholic Epistles. We have but a few allusions to it at the close of the second century. Irenæus (*Adv. Haer.* 1. v. c. 6 § 1,) speaks of ‘many brethren’ whom he heard in the church having the gift of prophecy and of speaking in ‘diverse tongues’ (παντοδαπαῖς γλώσσαις), bringing the hidden things of men (τὰ κρύφια τῶν ἀνθρώπων) to light and expounding the mysteries of God (τὰ μυστήρια τοῦ θεοῦ). It is not clear whether by the term ‘diverse,’ which does not elsewhere occur, he means a speaking in foreign languages, or in . . .



Philip Schaff

History of the Christian Church, vol. 1 , p. 236-37.

“...diversities of tongues altogether peculiar, like those meant by Paul.” The latter is more probable. Irenæus himself had to learn the language of Gaul. Tertullian (*Adv. Marc.* V. 8; comp. *De Anima*, c. 9) obscurely speaks of the spiritual gifts, including the gift of tongues, as being still manifest among the Montanists to whom he belonged. At the time of Chrysostom it had entirely disappeared; at least he accounts for the obscurity of the gift from our ignorance of the fact. From that time on the glossolalia was usually misunderstood as a miraculous and permanent gift of foreign languages for missionary purposes. But the whole history of missions furnishes no clear example of such a gift for such a purpose.”

John 17:20-23

²⁰ “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”



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.”





Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 5, Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 158.

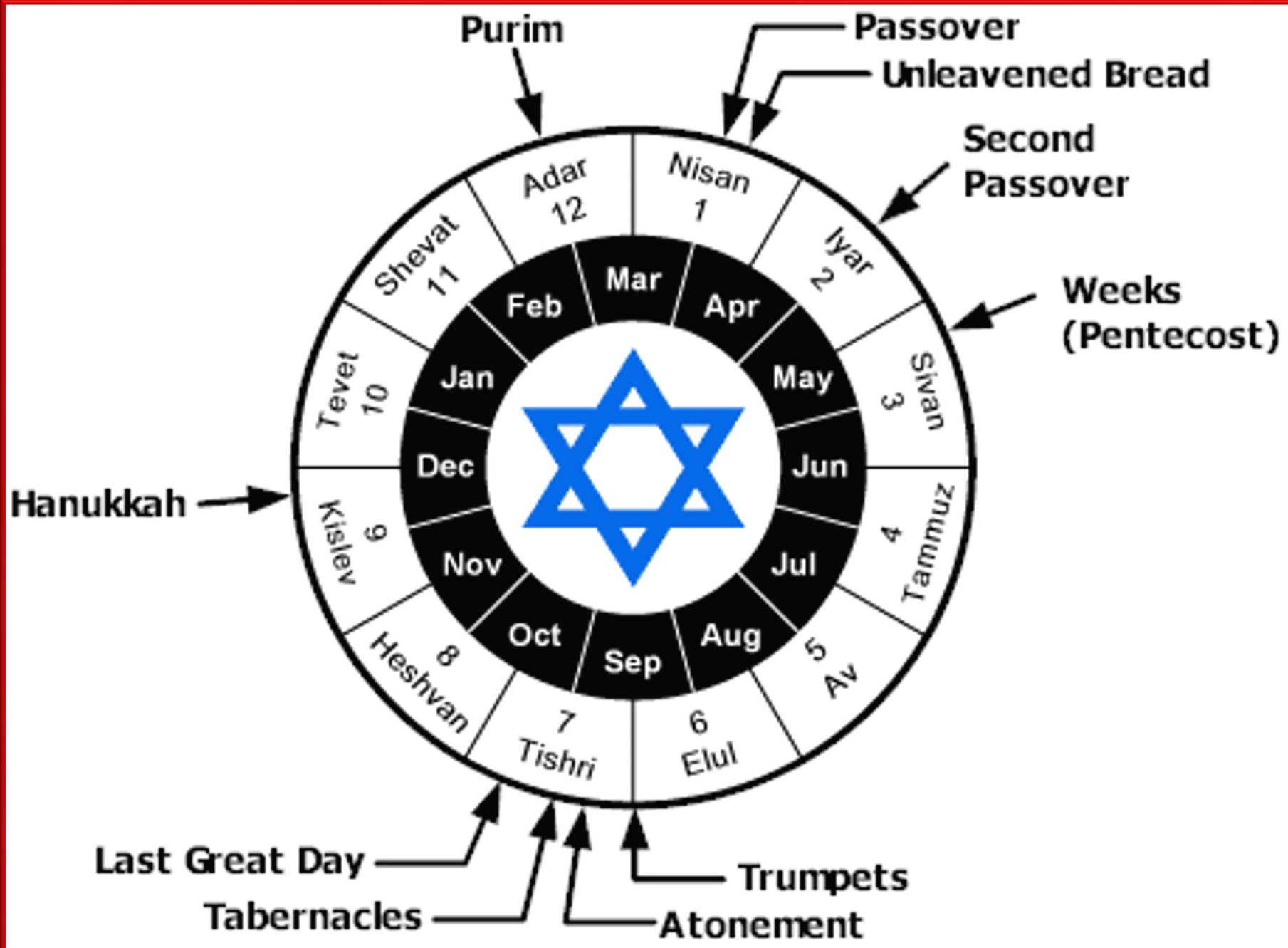
“Thoughtless and absurd is the modern notion that Christ was praying that denominations which exist in this remote time and in a country then unknown might become organically united in one, and therefore it is the duty of all sects to unite and thus help to answer this prayer. As indicated before, this unity is sought at the hand of the Father, indicating that it is a divine undertaking. It is that, and it results in a unity as organic and vital as that between the Father and the Son. This prayer began to be answered on the Day of Pentecost when believers were by the Spirit baptized into one Body, and is constantly answered whenever a soul is saved and thus joined as a member to the Body of Christ by the same baptism of the Spirit.”

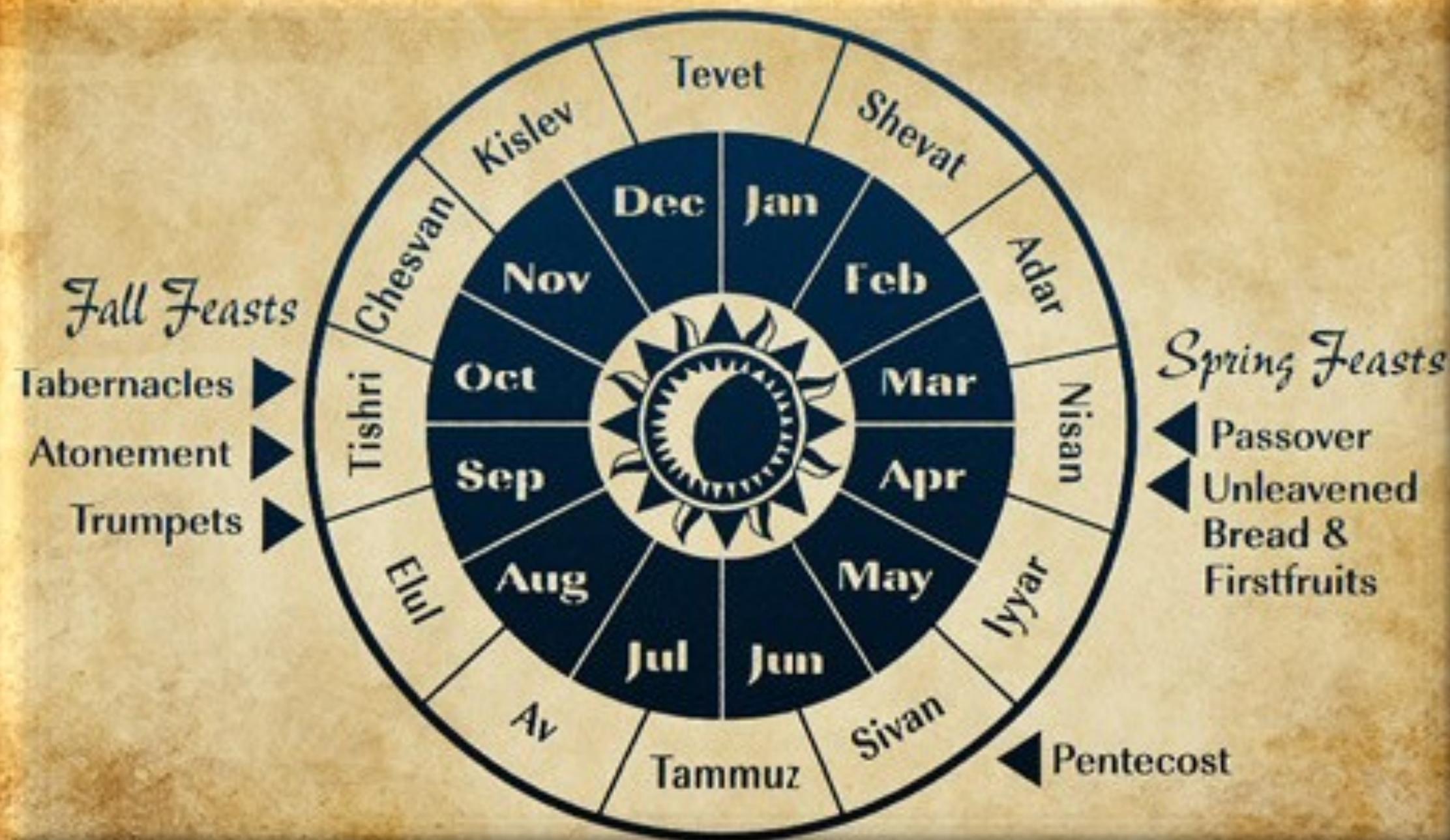
John Adams

John Adams, *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*, 3 vols., American Constitutional and Legal History, ed. Leonard W. Levy (London: Dilly, 1787; reprint, NY: Da Capo, 1971), 3:217



“The moment the idea is admitted into society, that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence. If ‘Thou Shalt Not Covet,’ and ‘Thou Shalt Not Steal’ were not commandments of Heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society before it can be civilized or made free.”





B. Acts 2:42-47 Church

1. Priorities (42)
2. Miracles (43)
3. Unity (44)
4. Communal living (45)
5. Lord's Table (46)
6. Evangelism (47)

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 completed, 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. It came to pass that in the days following, by many convincing proofs, appeared to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God. He talked with them about the Kingdom of God. He said, "You heard of from Me, the John baptizing with water, but you did not baptize with the Holy Spirit and water days from now. So when you had come 'Lord, at that time You are remaining the Kingdom to Christ?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know these 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 upward into the sky while he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, 'Some of the things which you have heard and seen as you sat in heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

From the moment called Christ, which is seen 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 Matthias, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. There all with one mind were constantly agreeing themselves to pray, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred) and praying, present, was there Stephen, who said, 'Brethren, the Spirit has said to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to be obedient to the masters in the Lord, who became a guide to those who entered Jerusalem. For he was created among us and received his share in this ministry.' Close their eyes, and he said with the voice of the multitude, and falling backward, he burst open in the middle and all his garments, and he lay there. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem, and that he had done these things, and that he was a Greek proselyte, that is, from Iconium. This it is written in the book of Acts, 'LET US, HOPEFULLY, AND WITH PATIENCE, WAIT FOR HIM, AND LET US DELIVER OURSELVES FROM ALL UNNECESSARY BURDEN.' Therefore it is necessary one of the men who have accompanied to all the time and the Lord Jesus went and out among us — bringing with the baptism of John into the day, that he was taken up from us — one of these must become a witness with us of the 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

Matthew 16:18

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build [oikodomeō] My church; and the gates of Hades WILL NOT overpower it.”



Acts 2:47 (NASB; NKJV)

“praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

“praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”





Arnold Fruchtenbaum

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, "Israel and the Church," in *Issues in Dispensationalism*, ed. Wesley R. Willis and John R. Master (Chicago: Moody, 1994), 118.

“In the book of Acts, both Israel and the church exist simultaneously. The term *Israel* is used twenty times and *ekklēsia* (church) nineteen times, yet the two groups are always kept distinct.”

Conclusion

Acts 2

Chapter Summary

- I. Coming of the Holy Spirit (1-4)
- II. Holy Spirit's Impact (5-13)
- III. Peter's Sermon (14-36)
- IV. Sermon's Impact (37-47)

