

# 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

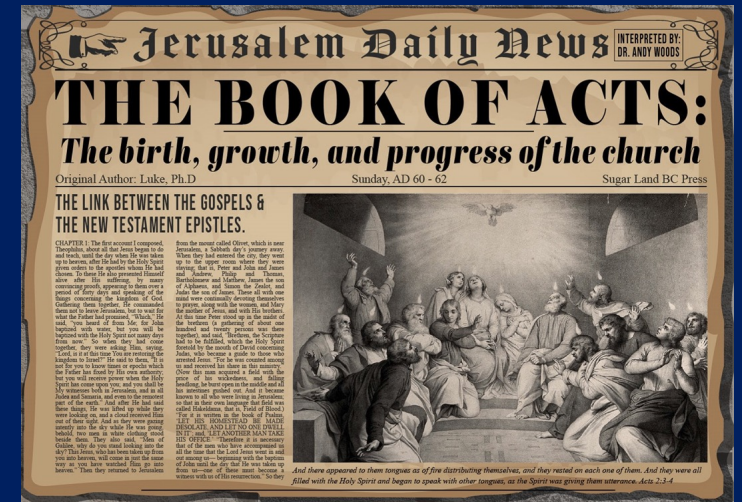
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Acts 6:8–8:4

## Stephen

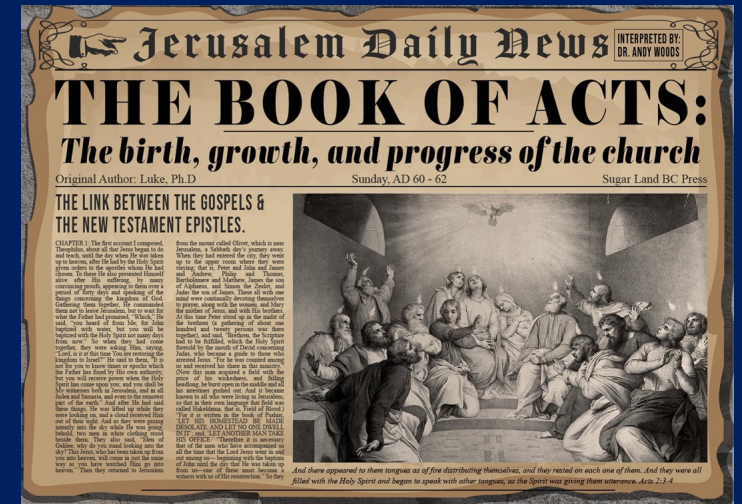
- I. Stephen's Arrest (6:8–7:1)
- II. Stephen's Defense (Acts 7:2-53)
- III. Stephen's Stoning (7:54-60)
- IV. Third Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)**



# IV. Third Persecution

Acts 8:1-4

- A. Saul's role in Stephen's execution (1a)
- B. Third persecution against the Church (1b)
- C. Result of the persecution: scattering (1c)
- D. Stephen's burial (2)
- E. Saul's persecution of the Church (3)
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Acts 8:1-4

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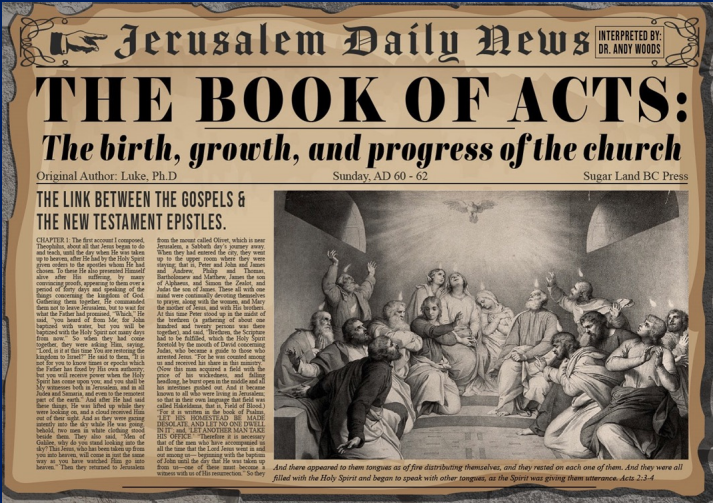
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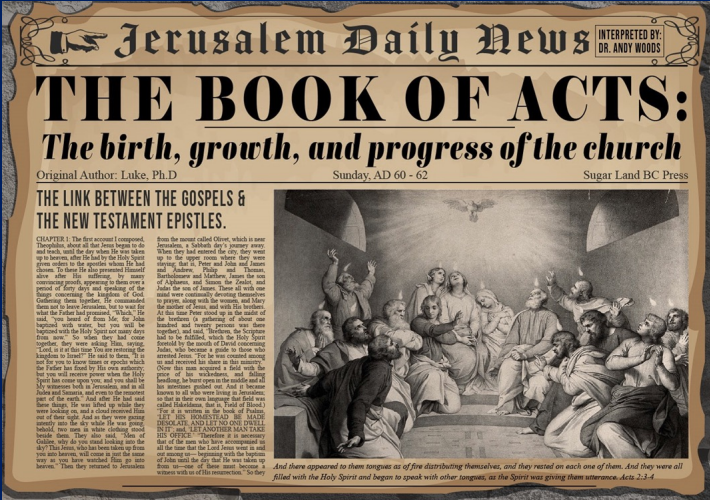
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## Acts 2:47

“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.” (NASB)

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



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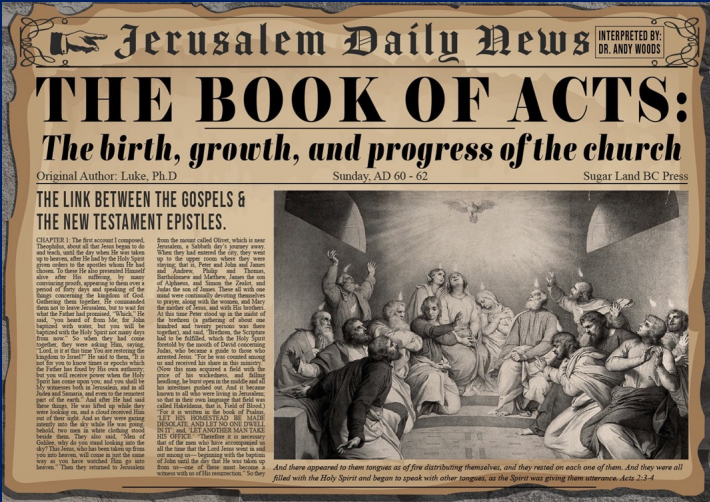
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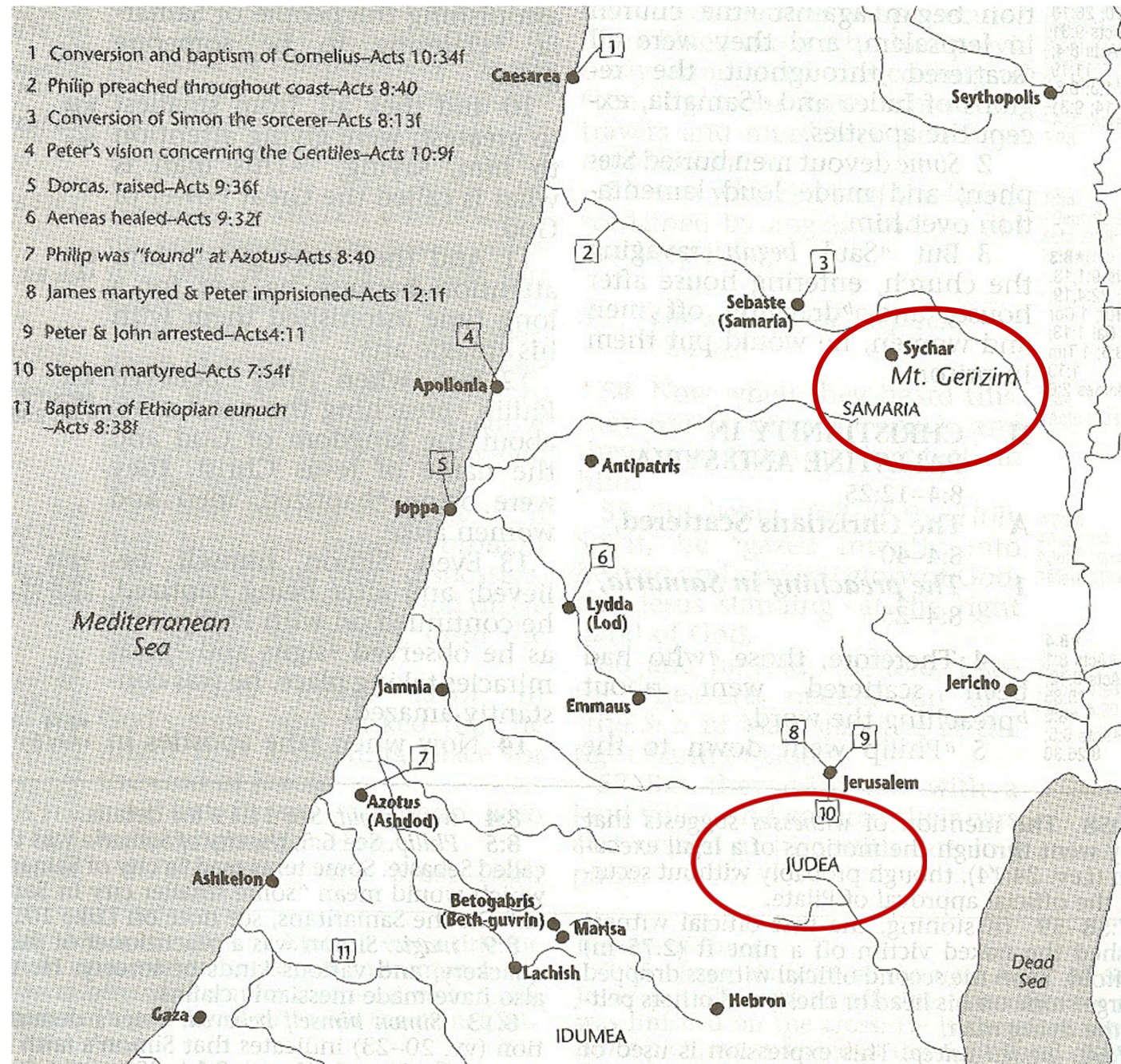
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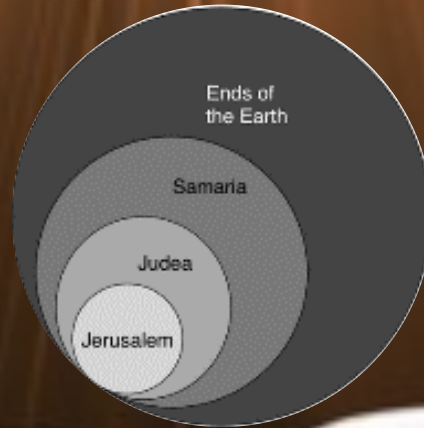
- 1 Conversion and baptism of Cornelius—Acts 10:34f
- 2 Philip preached throughout coast—Acts 8:40
- 3 Conversion of Simon the sorcerer—Acts 8:13f
- 4 Peter's vision concerning the Gentiles—Acts 10:9f
- 5 Dorcas, raised—Acts 9:36f
- 6 Aeneas healed—Acts 9:32f
- 7 Philip was "found" at Azotus—Acts 8:40
- 8 James martyred & Peter imprisoned—Acts 12:1f
- 9 Peter & John arrested—Acts 4:11
- 10 Stephen martyred—Acts 7:54f
- 11 Baptism of Ethiopian eunuch—Acts 8:38f



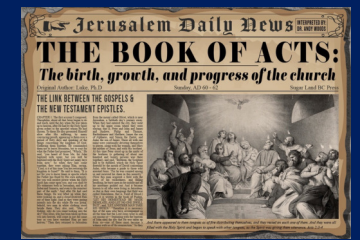


## Acts 1:8

“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.”



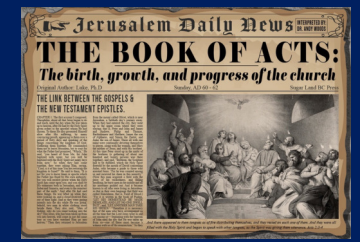
# Structure (Acts 1:8)



- 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)



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## Acts 8:3-4; 11:19

“<sup>3</sup> But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word...<sup>19</sup> So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.”



## 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.



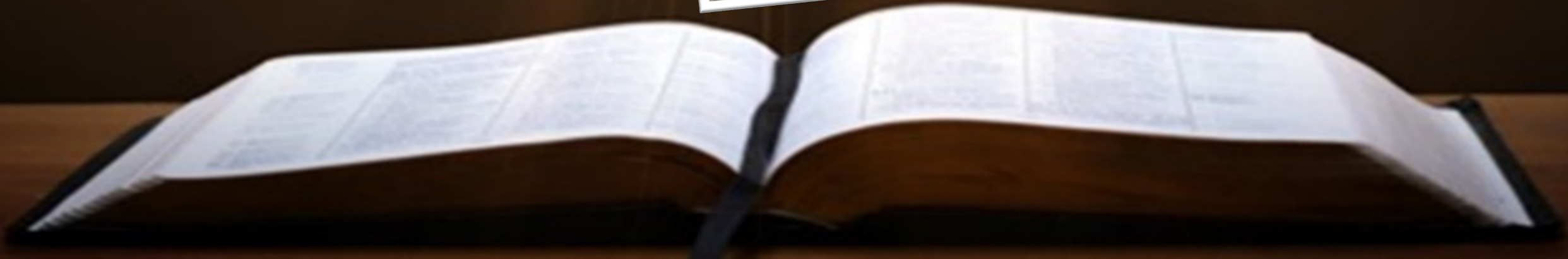
## James 1:1

“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.”



## 1 Peter 1:1

“To those who reside as aliens, scattered [diaspora] throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”





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Acts 8:1-4

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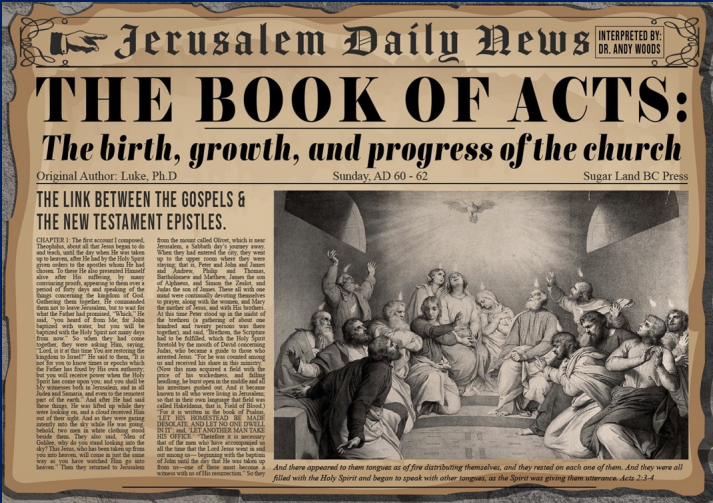
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## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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 those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from . . .



## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

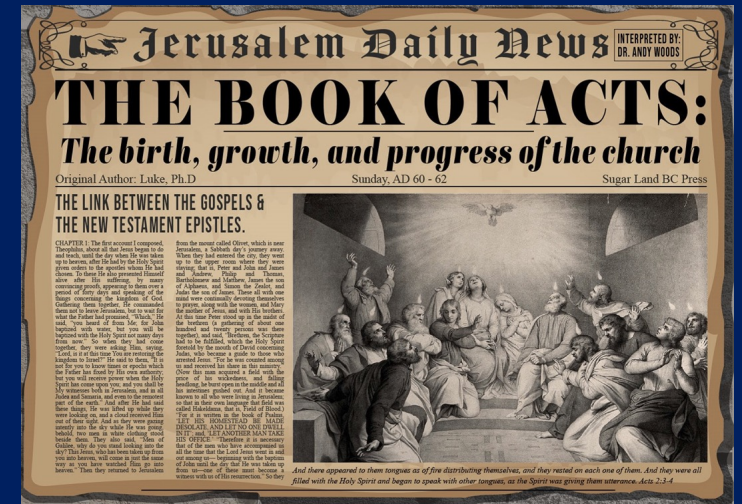
...heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.  
<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words."



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## From Peter to Paul

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

# 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)

## 2 John 9-11

“<sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. <sup>9</sup> Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house**, and do not give him a greeting; <sup>11</sup> for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.”



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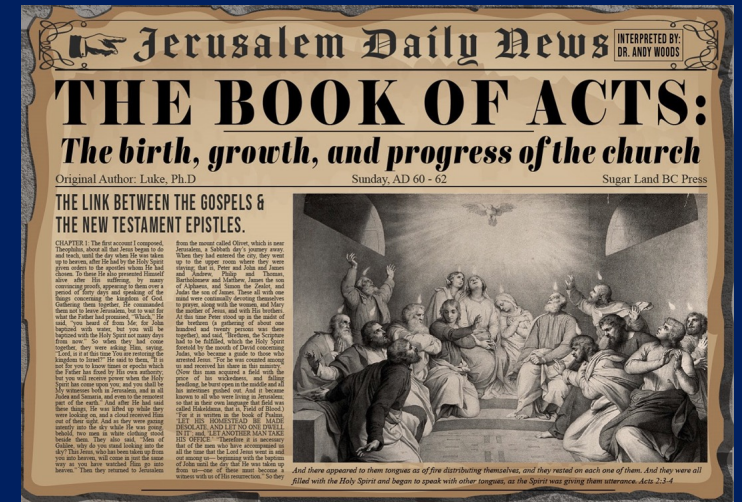


Conclusion

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