



# New Testament Survey

NTS.3

*"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

## The Acts of the Apostles 1-12





# Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Learning Objectives. Participants will gain a high level understanding of the:
  - a. First 12 Chapters of Acts
  - b. Day of Pentecost
  - c. Paul's conversion
  - d. Expansion of the Church
  - e. How to apply what they've learned to today's challenges
2. For more information please visit [www.studioscriptura.com](http://www.studioscriptura.com)
3. Email questions to [walter@studioscriptura.com](mailto:walter@studioscriptura.com)



No Class Thursday June 29  
nor July 6  
Vacation!

## The New Testament Survey

seeks to present an overview of the New Testament for further study as well as Christianity's core tenets and doctrines for all that are interested in learning about Christianity. We seek to provide tools for believers to build a strong foundation and thereby help bolster their faith in Christ. We seek to be purposeful and diligent in teaching the foundations of our beliefs, so we can earnestly contend for our faith.

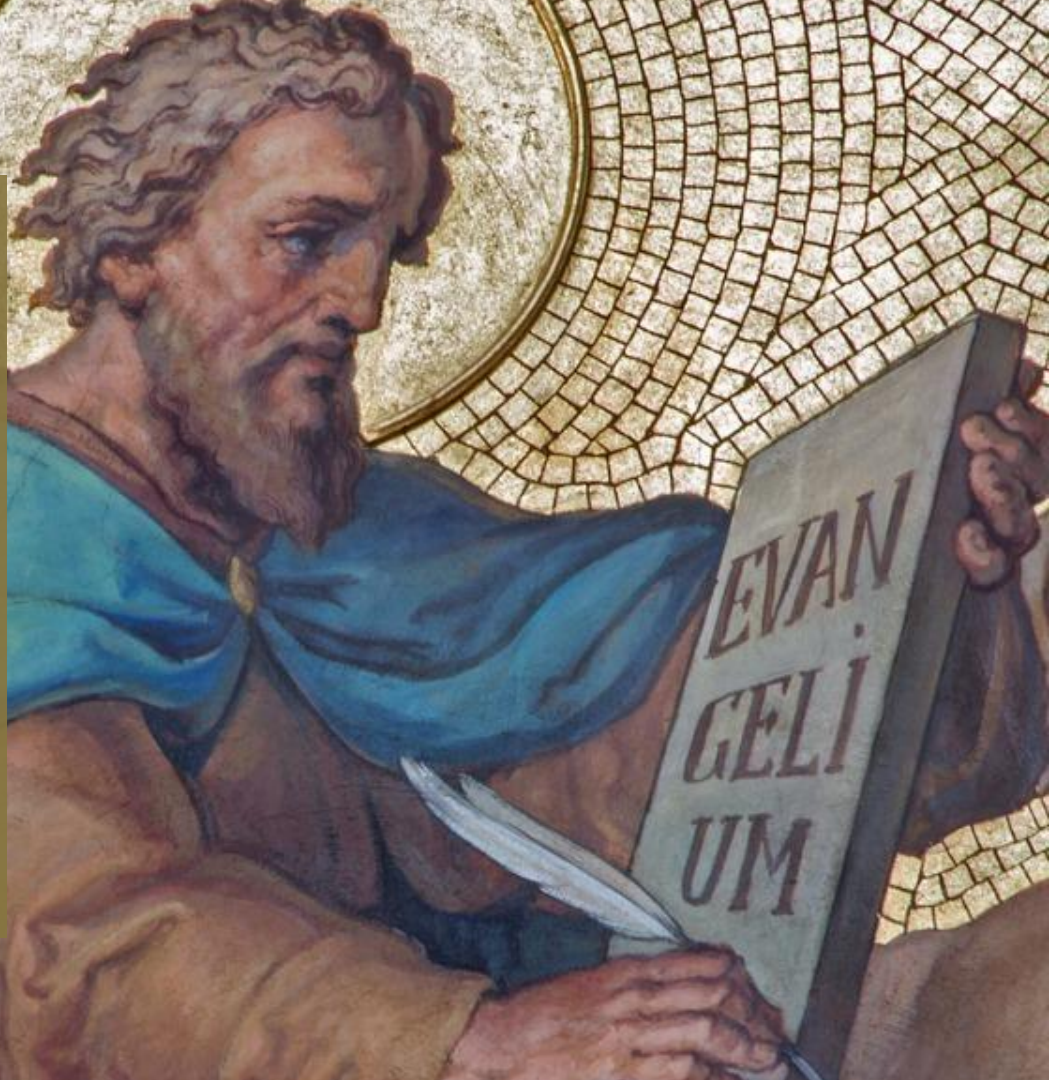


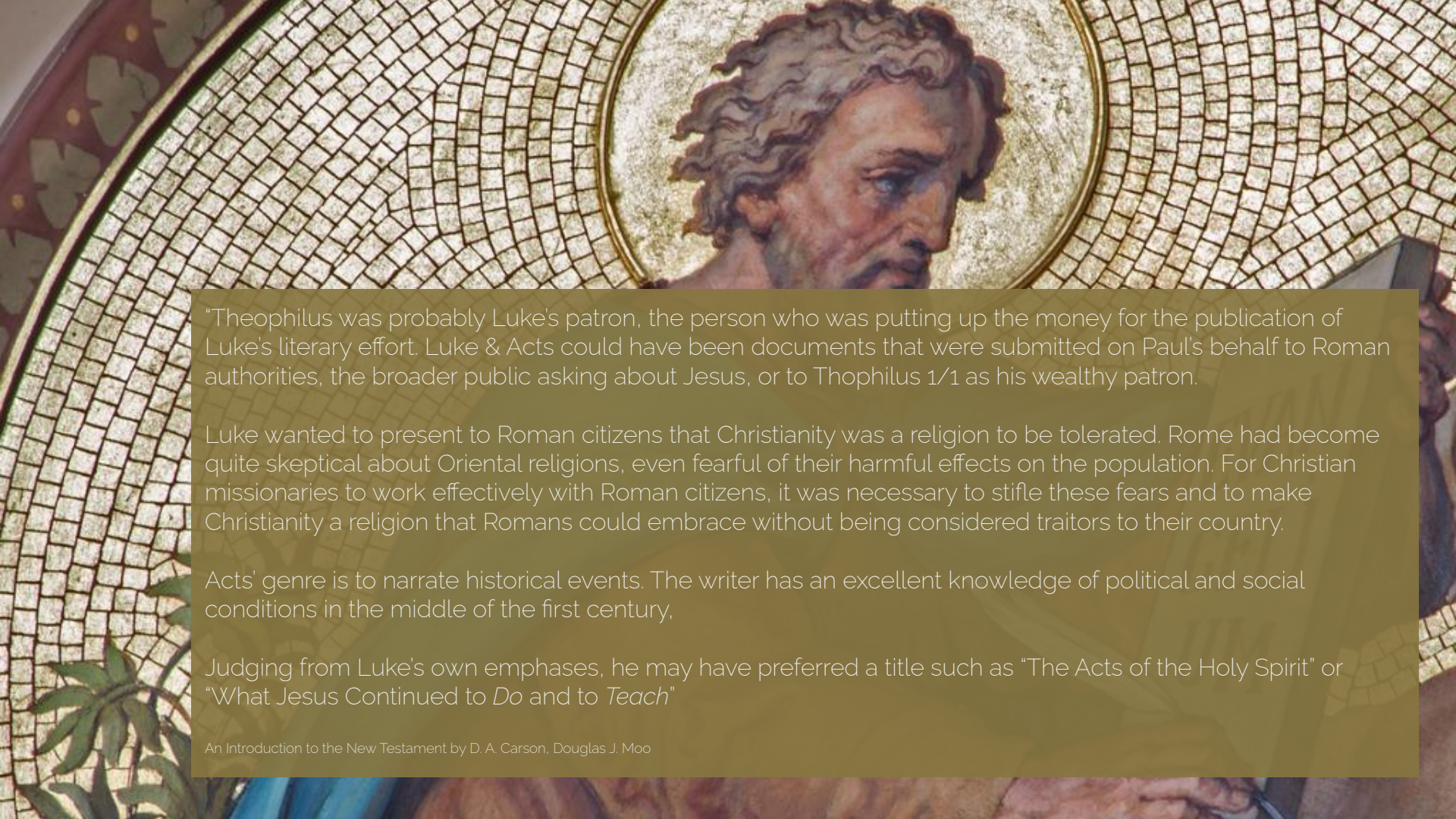
# Key Sources:

1. **New King James Version. 1988. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.**

The former account I made, O Theophilus,  
of all that Jesus began both to do and  
teach, Acts 1:1

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to  
set in order a narrative of those things  
which have been fulfilled among us, just as  
those who from the beginning were  
eyewitnesses and ministers of the word  
delivered them to us, it seemed good to  
me also, having had perfect understanding  
of all things from the very first, to write  
to you an orderly account, most excellent  
Theophilus, that you may know the  
certainty of those things in which you were  
instructed. Luke 1:1-4



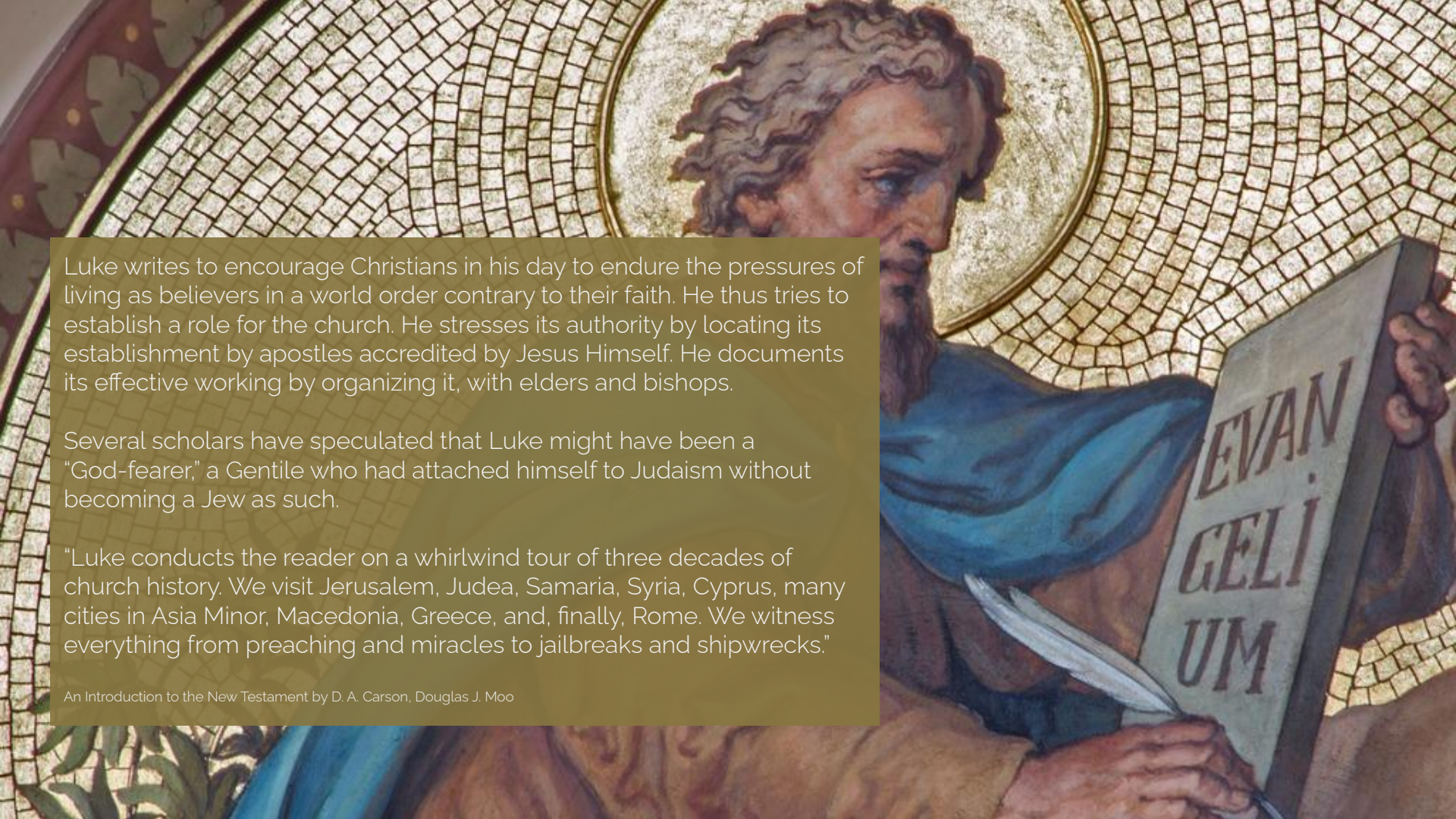
A mosaic depicting a man's head in profile, facing right. The man has curly, reddish-brown hair and a beard. He is set within a circular frame made of small, light-colored mosaic tiles. The background of the entire image is a larger mosaic with a repeating pattern of small, light-colored tiles.

"Theophilus was probably Luke's patron, the person who was putting up the money for the publication of Luke's literary effort. Luke & Acts could have been documents that were submitted on Paul's behalf to Roman authorities, the broader public asking about Jesus, or to Thophilus 1/1 as his wealthy patron.

Luke wanted to present to Roman citizens that Christianity was a religion to be tolerated. Rome had become quite skeptical about Oriental religions, even fearful of their harmful effects on the population. For Christian missionaries to work effectively with Roman citizens, it was necessary to stifle these fears and to make Christianity a religion that Romans could embrace without being considered traitors to their country.

Acts' genre is to narrate historical events. The writer has an excellent knowledge of political and social conditions in the middle of the first century,

Judging from Luke's own emphases, he may have preferred a title such as "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" or "What Jesus Continued to *Do* and to *Teach*"

A mosaic depicting a man with curly hair and a beard, wearing a blue robe, writing on a scroll. The scroll is labeled 'EVANGELIUM'. The background is a golden mosaic with a circular halo around the man's head.

Luke writes to encourage Christians in his day to endure the pressures of living as believers in a world order contrary to their faith. He thus tries to establish a role for the church. He stresses its authority by locating its establishment by apostles accredited by Jesus Himself. He documents its effective working by organizing it, with elders and bishops.

Several scholars have speculated that Luke might have been a "God-fearer," a Gentile who had attached himself to Judaism without becoming a Jew as such.

"Luke conducts the reader on a whirlwind tour of three decades of church history. We visit Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Syria, Cyprus, many cities in Asia Minor, Macedonia, Greece, and, finally, Rome. We witness everything from preaching and miracles to jailbreaks and shipwrecks."

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo



His Gospel & Acts bind together the salvation that the angel first announced on the night of Jesus' birth on a Judean hillside that is now brought to Rome itself.

"The earliest Christians, Jews who believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah and that the messianic age had therefore dawned, continued to worship in the temple and were apparently loyal to the law and its institutions. Only by stages did the church move away from this Jewish outlook to a more universal orientation, as God made clear that He was doing a new work in which the law would no longer play a central role and in which Gentiles would share equally with the Jews in the blessings of God."

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo







Acts is a Book of Great Sermons:

- Peter to Jewish proselytes 2: 14-41
- Peter to Jewish people 3: 12-26
- Stephen to Jewish leaders 7: 1-53
- Peter to Gentiles 10: 23-43
- Paul to Jews in Antioch 13: 14-49
- Paul to pagans in Lystra 14:15-18
- Paul to Gentiles in Athens 17: 16-31
- Paul to Christians in Ephesus 20: 7



Acts 1 "This same Jesus" v. 11

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Acts 1:6-9

Who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11

"And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles." Acts 1:24-26

Acts 2 "A rushing mighty wind" v.2

PEN

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

Attention to the work of the Spirit is another theme that binds together Luke and Acts. Indeed, many point to parallels at this point between the two: as Jesus is anointed by the Spirit at the commencement of his ministry, so the Church is endued with the Spirit's power at the beginning of its ministry; as Jesus performs signs and wonders in the power of the Spirit, so the apostles heal people in the power of the Spirit; as the Spirit guides events in the gospels, so he guides events in Acts." An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo

"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear." Acts 2:32-33

"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47



A detail from Raphael's fresco 'The Healing of the Lame Man' in the Vatican Museums. The scene depicts Peter and John in the Temple. Peter, with a halo, is in the center, wearing a blue tunic and a yellow and brown cloak, gesturing towards a man who is being carried. John stands to the right, wearing a red cloak. A crowd of people, including a man with a white beard and a young boy, looks on with interest. The background shows the architectural details of the temple interior.

## Acts 3 "Rise up and walk" v6

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple: Acts 3:1-2

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Acts 3:6

But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. Acts 3:14

To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities." Acts 3:26




Acts 4 "No other name" v. 12

Being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. Acts 4:2-3

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:8-12

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

"So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:18-20



## Acts 5 "Great fear came upon all the church" v.11

Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. Acts 5:9-11

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Acts 5:16

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29

When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. Acts 5:33-35

And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Acts 5:40-42



Acts 6 "His face as the face of an angel." v.15

"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ... And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch." Acts 6:3-5

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. Acts 5:10-12

And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel. Acts 5:15

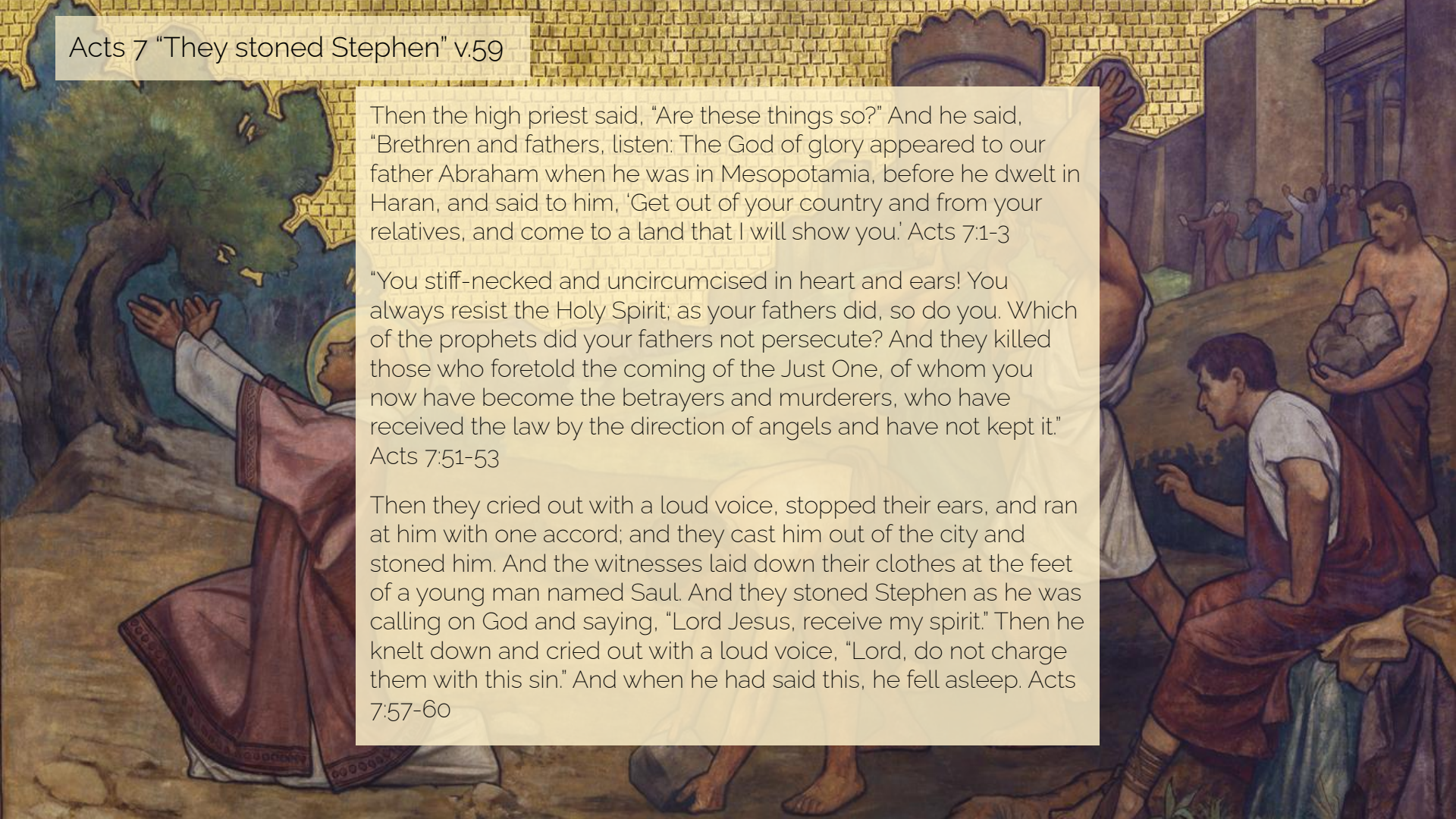


## Acts 7 "They stoned Stephen" v.59

Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?" And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' Acts 7:1-3

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." Acts 7:51-53

Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:57-60



## Acts 8 "Went everywhere preaching the word" v.4

"Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." Acts 8:1

"As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:3-4

"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship." Acts 8:26-27

"The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." Acts 8:32-33

"Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:36-37











Acts 9 "he fell to the ground" v.4

"Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem." Acts 9:1-2

"As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Acts 9:3-4

"So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:6

So the Lord said to him (Ananias), "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. Acts 9:11

"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:15-16

"Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God." Acts 9:20

"Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket. And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple." Acts 9:25-26





Acts 10 "A certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius" v. 1

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always." Acts 10:1-2

"And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." Acts 10:13-14

"And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends." Acts 10:24

"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality." Acts 10:34

"Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly," Acts 10:40

"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days." Acts 10:47-48







Acts 11 "And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." v.26

But as soon as Samaritans and Gentiles began entering the picture, identity within Judaism ceased to be an option. Something new had come into being—in continuity with the old, of course, but distinct from it as well. Luke, of course, leaves us in no doubt about whether the inclusion of Gentiles and the casting loose from temple and Torah were directed by God. And so a new name has to be coined to identify this new group: "*Christians*," followers of Christ.

"And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!" Acts 11:2-3

"When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." Acts 11:18

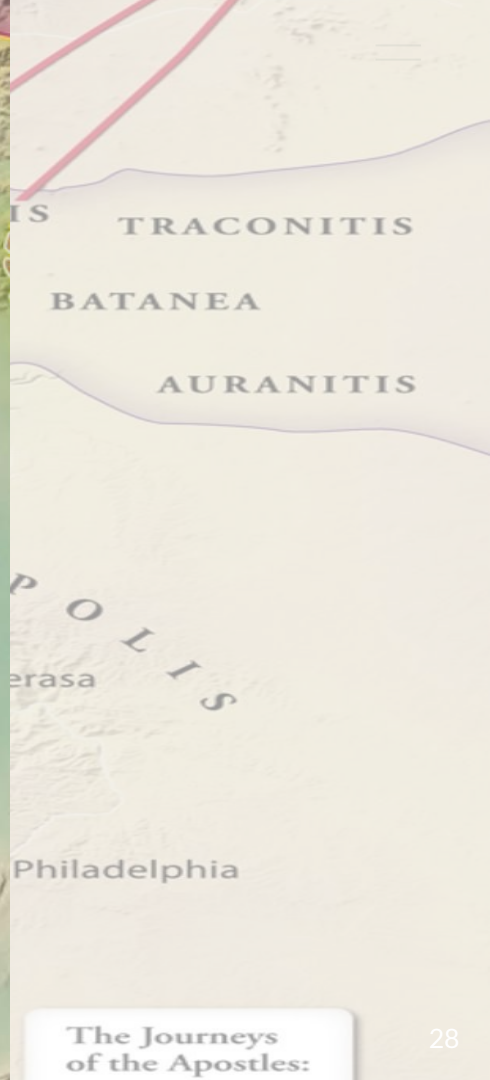
"Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord." Acts 11:19-21

"Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Acts 11:25



*Tarsus: One of the main streets from the days of Paul. Note the basalt paving stones, white limestone curbing, and the remains of buildings that line the right side of the street.*

Mediterranean Sea





Acts 12 "But constant prayer" v.5

"And because he (Herod) saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover." Acts 12:3-4

"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison." Acts 12:5-6

"So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God grew and multiplied." Acts 12:21-24



1. What chapter or passage(s) from Acts 1-12 resonated with you? Why?
2. Have you ever **fallen to the ground**? How has it changed your perspective on life and your relationship with God?
3. What role have you been playing in *going everywhere preaching the gospel*?
4. How do you exercise, **constant prayer**?

So What &  
Now What?

