

Study Notes on the book of Acts - Part 1

The Kingdom Expands
-Eric Blick

Theme - the “thread” that runs through this book by the Apostle Luke: There is salvation in no one else. Acts 4:12. As the opposition becomes unbearable, the kingdom expands and thrives.

Historical Context - what was going on when Luke wrote this? Christ just ascended to heaven after rising from the dead. What does the early church do next?

These signs and wonders tell a story: the hope of the full and coming redemption.

And when Peter saw it he addressed the people:

“Men of Israel,
why do you wonder at this,
or why do you stare at us,

as though by our own power or piety
we have made him walk?”

-Acts 3:12

Overview

8: Acts: The Kingdom Expands

Intro: Volume 2 of Luke's writing [Volume 1 is Gospel of Luke]; Luke writing to Theophilus, a leader in Rome (see Luke intro); how does the church move and grow now that Christ is in heaven but remains and leads them by His Spirit? Reliability of this "new" religion to Roman readers (and others): "there is no other plausible explanation for the growth of the church than the truth of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit" (D).

Theme: the triumph of the Word of God, due to the exultation of the Son of God" (D).

Outline: I. The story with **Peter** as main leader (chapters 1-12) and **II. Paul** (chapters 13-28), tracing the movement of the gospel from Jerusalem to the center of world, Rome, then to the ends of the earth through the empire and beyond

Theme quote: "Luke's theological and pastoral concerns are evident in his emphases. In particular, he is concerned to show the continuity in God's plan, even though there are some **apparent surprises** in what has taken place. These surprises include a Messiah who is crucified and, in his second volume of Acts [Gospel of Luke is first volume], the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's people without any attempt being made to relate them to the law."¹⁷

I. The Continuing Work of Jesus

- ❖ **1:1-2 - the ONE story of Jesus:** "...we are to read Acts not as a sequel or appendix to Luke, but as the second half of the same work. Acts is the account of what Jesus continues to do after his glorification, through the sending of His Spirit and the proclamation of his word" (D).
- ❖ **Luke's parallels between Luke & Acts:** 1. geographical (Luke: Galilee to Jerusalem; Acts: Jerusalem to Rome); 2. Spirit comes on the church like as it comes on Christ at His baptism; 3. persecution (Christ persecuted (Luke 17:25, 24:26) and said we would be too (Luke 9:23); the church of Acts persecuted (Acts 9:4))

II. The Work of and through the Spirit

- ❖ **2:1-21 - The coming of the Spirit :** Peter says that the Joel 2 prophecy is now fulfilled - more proof that the New Covenant prophesied in the OT HAS arrived; "The universality of spirit indwelling among the new Covenant people of God" (D).
- ❖ **Subsequent "comings" of the Spirit after Acts 2:** Samaria (8:14-25); Caesarea (10:44-48); Ephesus (19:1-7) - to all kinds of Gentiles
- ❖ **What does "Filled with the Spirit" mean:** "We see the prophetic ministry of the Spirit being fleshed out throughout the book. Several times people are described as being filled with the Holy Spirit. (e.g. 2:4, 4:8, 4:31, 5:3, 7:55, 9:17, 13:9, 13:52). The Result of filling with the Spirit is bold speaking of the word of God" (D).

¹⁷ The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology, "Luke", Darrel Book, edited by DA Carson, Goldsworthy, et al, 2000

III. The Triumph of the Word of God: Promises from the OT still kept

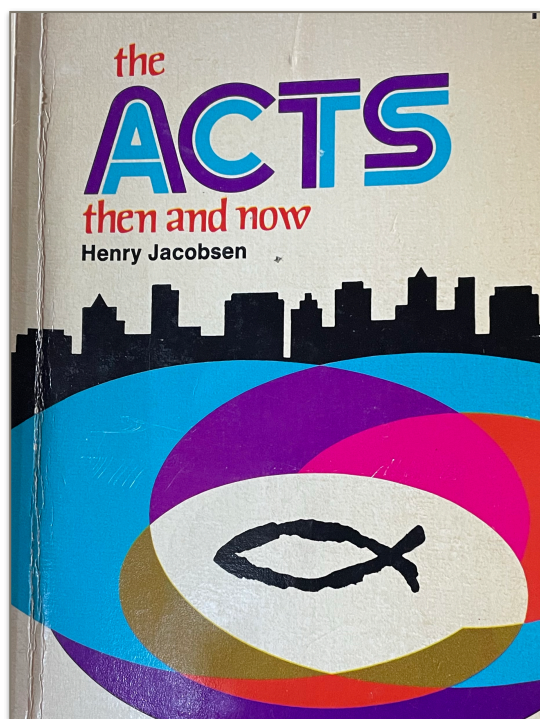
- ❖ **2:23, 3:18, 13:39 - The OT is fulfilled as it said it would be:** God's promises made in the OT have been kept; Christ came, suffered, died, purchased salvation for all who would repent and believe on His name
- ❖ **15:7-11 - God's promise to send the gospel widely to the Gentiles is completed too:** "Apparent Surprise #2" from quote above; Gentiles are included in this glorious salvation without the Jewish Law
- ❖ **Thematic parallels Luke draws between Peter and Paul: ONE Gospel Message**

Parallel Action	Peter [in Acts 2-12]	Paul [in Acts 13-28]
They function as witnesses to the risen Christ	1:21-22	23:11; 26:16
The Holy Spirit initiates and guides their actions	2:1-40	13:1-40
They heal people who are lame or unable to speak	3:12-26	13:1-40
They are defended by Pharisees in the Sanhedrin	5:34-39	23:9
They appoint other leaders with prayer and laying on hands	6:1-6	14:23
They encounter a magician	8:9-24	13:6-12
They bestow the Spirit through the laying on of hands	8:14-17	19:1-6
They raise a dead person back to life	9:36-43	20:9-12
Some Gentiles try to worship them	10:25-26	14:13-15
They defend the Gentile mission in Jerusalem	11:1-18	21:15-40
They are imprisoned at a Jewish feast	12:4-7	21:16-28
They are delivered from prison	12:6-11	16:24-26
Conclusion: The success of the word of God	12:24	28:30-31

Application: Do we see and trust the Spirit working through the Word today? One without the other will either be "message-less" or "prayer-less"; trust Christ;

God still changes people, is active, and is restoring all to himself:

In a sermon from Acts 9, Pastor John Piper reminds us that God is still moving and active today, and that the book of Acts should serve to open our eyes to that reality. So often we can feel that this person will never change, this situation will never get better, the gospel is just too abstract to confront this opportunity, etc. But God has moved, is moving and will move. He is restoring all things to himself through the work of his Son by the power of the Spirit. He is doing what the first Adam failed to do, namely, present one day the whole earth to his father as the garden of Eden moved around the whole world becoming a city. John Piper writes,



“I want you to be encouraged this morning by the truth from this text that Jesus turns things around. I want you to feel a kind of open-ended expectancy about the world and about American society and about your work and your family and your personal life—that Jesus turns things around. Believing in the living, free, sovereign, loving Lord of the book of Acts means living with the possibility and even the likelihood that bad situations are going to turn around, perhaps when you least expect it.

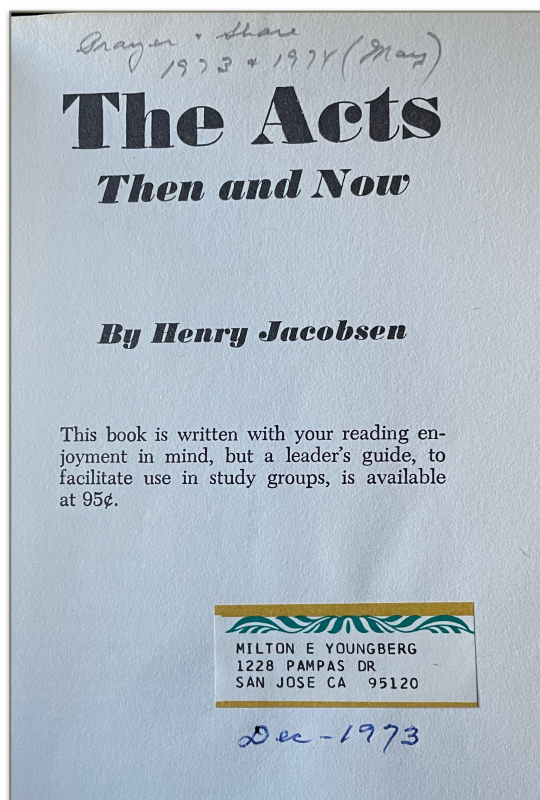
The Devastating Feeling of Fatalism

One of the most devastating feelings in the Christian life is fatalism—the feeling that this is the way it is going to be

forever and nothing is going to change it and that's that. This is the way I am; this is the way the my spouse is; this is the way my kids are; this is the way work is (or no work); this is the way our small group is; this is the way society is—and that's that. It's been this way for so long; it's just not going to change. It will go on this way forever and probably get worse and that's that.



Gainey Ranch moved local



My grandfather's notes in the front of this commentary from their weekly Bible Study Group "Prayer & Share" going through this new book together.

But one of the messages of the book of Acts is that this is emphatically not true. Jesus Christ is not dead and he is not distant and he is not silent and he is not weak and he is not uninterested in the world and the progress of his mission and in your life. He is alive and what he began to do in his earthly life he is continuing to do. He is full of surprises for churches and for nations and for families, and for individual people” (Piper 1).

“Vet Clinics, Coffee Shops, and the Mission of the Church”

Pastor Ryan, 9/12/21: Intro: The church must remember its mission and not drift to other missions, like a veterinarian clinic not drifting to a hip coffee shop experience while you wait for your animals to be taken care of for medical assistance.

HEADLINE: WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD’S POWER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE ALL-SATISFYING, HOPE-FILLED, LIFE-GIVING TREASURE OF GOD IN CHRIST TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

1. We are being called on HIS mission. This is not the mission of the Apostles that we join. This is vs1 continuing what Jesus began to do and teach. It is his mission to which we are called. God is the main actor. This is about him, and him revealing himself to mankind by the Spirit of Christ.
2. The mission is not optional. The church exists in large part so that it can bear witness to the beauty of God in the face of Jesus bringing hope through truth and make disciples. It is not a mission to minister first to felt needs or keep our youth out of trouble. It is to bring hope that there is reconciliation with God through the forgiveness and righteousness offered in Jesus Christ. The mission of Husker football is not to take time be better at bowling. You would be upset if you learned they spent the bulk of their time working on strikes and spares. The mission of the Huskers is playing football well and excellent.
3. Exhortation and application: Why can we boldly and confidently share the good news?
 - A. We are carrying on the mission of a RISEN savior. V1-3 shows that Jesus presented himself to them alive. That is much different than the founding fathers of this nation who are not alive or did not come back to the dead. We tend to emphasis the death and resurrection of Jesus, but the ascension has such a strong theological point too we often miss. He is reigning today, alive, seating on his throne. Therefore, nothing happens outside his realm and control.
 - B. We are carrying out the mission of Christ under the power of the Holy Spirit. V8 says it is by the Holy Spirit that this ministry is done. Acts 2 is the turning point at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon believers as a normal dwelling place and event for New Testament believers. It is not our logic alone that will win the day and convince people of this Treasure. It is not our great strategy and programs. It will happen largely through dependent prayer.

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
This is Part 2 of Luke’s account of Christ and what happens immediately after Part 1 of the Gospel of Luke the life of Christ.	Jesus meets with his disciples for 40 days after his resurrection, gives them commands regarding the Kingdom, and departs up to the clouds to heaven.	Power Holy Spirit	V4 the promise of the father, namely, giving the HS to each believer. V11: Jesus will come again in the same way he left	V1: he teaches V3: he has a kingdom V6: he restores the kingdom to Israel in his own time by his own authority V8: he generously gives the Spirit

Notes:	Passage: Acts 1:1-11
	<p>[1] In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen, [3] He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.</p> <p>[4] And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”</p>
V8: the theme verse for all the book of Acts and provides an outline for the rest of the book.	<p>[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”</p> <p>[7] He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.</p> <p>[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”</p>
	<p>[9] And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.</p> <p>[10] And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, [11] and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”</p>

C. We are carrying out the mission of Christ with full confidence that one day he will return and make all things right. V10-11 says Jesus will come again, guaranteed. If we knew Jesus would appear right now right here when we share, we would have different backing and confidence. And that is sure he is coming AND is here now. These angels are mainly telling them to get after it. Go in his power and joy.

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY stay in Jerusalem? V4 to receive the power of God in the HS to bear witness of this good news the gospel.	WHAT did Jesus say in his last 40 days? V2 he gave commands to apostles, v3 he spoke of the Kingdom, he gave HS, he promised his return.	HOW are we to live until Christ comes again? By the power of the HS in us, bearing witness of his eternal kingdom that has started.	V6: we want to have our kingdom established now V10: we want to stand around and not take action	God of the Kingdom, we praise you. Forgive us for not waiting well. We thank you for your spirit in us. By the HS help us give reason for our hope.

“Actively Waiting on the Lord”

Pastor Jim, 9/19/21: Intro: What is better than winning the 1987 Super Bowl? Disney paid behind the scenes the MVP to say, “I’m going to Disneyland.” Is that really better than winning this event?

HEADLINE: THERE IS GREAT REASON TO ACTIVELY WAIT IN TRUST ON OUR SOVEREIGN AND GOOD GOD.

Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Spirit came. What can we learn about HOW they waited in obedience?

A. They were Praying v12-15: Jesus’ brothers are now saved. They are in one mind in the bond of unity together as they prayed. Prayer is mentioned over 30 times in Acts and all but a few chapters specifically call it out. That is what characterized them together.

B. They were Reading v15-20: Peter knew the Word and saw in the Old Testament the prophecy both of Judas’ denial of Christ, and the need for his replacement.

C. They were Preparing v21-23: They know the mission ahead of them to be witnesses to the world about the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Justice and Mathias witnessed all this from John’s baptism of Jesus and everything after.

D. They were Trusting v24-26: They are leaning hard on God’s sovereignty over all things. When we know he is good AND over all, it makes it easier to trust.

Application - what are we to do with this?

1. We are to remember that God is always doing something in our waiting. God is the one bringing unity. He is the one bringing us light of the truth. He is the one choosing Mathias.

2. We are to be diligent in prayer and word. Prayer in the books of Acts is most often times cited as corporate prayer not just individual prayer. Know his word. Be preparing in your waiting. It is active waiting of praying, reading, and planning.

3. We are to be trusting him. John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Quote on this desperate, expectant prayer: “It is always God’s method to drive us into a corner to pray for the very blessings he intends to give us. Matthew Henry,

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
They obeyed Jesus’ words in the previous section to go wait in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Spirit.	They wait in prayer. They read Scripture and see Luke 24’s revelation from Christ that the OT is about him and the need to replace Judas. They pray and God picks Mathias.	V26: casting lots - common for the priests in the OT before the HS had been poured out on all believers (Lev 16, Prov 16:33). This is the last time its mentioned.	C-12-21: wait with corporate prayer, reading the words of God, trusting and planning in faith. P-12-21: God hears and loves and actively engages us in prayer.	V20: God spoke his very own words to us through the HS through people like David (Authority of Scripture). V24: he sees into hearts and v26 sovereignly acts.

Notes:	Passage: Acts 1:12-26
They were unified together because of their regular prayer.	[12] Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. [13] And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, 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. [14] All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
They were reading the Scriptures and knew them, and they were growing in their seeing Christ in the Old Testament.	[15] In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, [16] "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas , who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. [17] For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." [18] (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. [19] And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) [20] "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, <p>“‘May his camp become desolate, / and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and</p> <p>“‘Let another take his office.’</p>
They were preparing finalists, and they were trusting God to show his ways.	[21] So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, [22] beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." [23] And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. [24] And they prayed and said, " You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen [25] to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." [26] And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

commentating on the struggle of the Israelites in the Egyptian captivity, wrote, ‘Before God unbound them he put in it into their hearts to cry and to them.’ This is a beautiful picture of the early church, on its knees, waiting for God, looking to his provision of what he promised. The fact that he had promised them did not instill in them any lessening of the need for prayer. The certainty of God’s hand upon history did not cripple them into inactivity. ‘Prayer is not a sign of doubting,’ Calvin says, ‘but it is a witness to our certain hope and confidence, since we ask the Lord for things that we know he has promised.’ Much of our praying should consist of promises that God has made and are turned into prayers, whether those promises be a daily bread or his ongoing presents with his day by day” (Thomas p20).

Biblical theology - Christ in the OT: Peter first quotes from Psalm 69, a lament Psalm already connected to Christ’s death, his being given wine on the cross, etc. so the passage continues to unfold to Judas’ betrayal foretold as well. Then he quotes Psalm 108:8 another lament Psalm that Judas needs to be replaced, mainly for service and witness and less about having 12 to judge Israel (Luke 22:30) which is also why when James is killed there is no mention of him being replaced for that purpose (Beale p530).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY did they think the Psalms were about Judas’ abandonment and replacing him? Luke 24:45 Jesus opened their eyes to see Christ in the OT.	WHAT does active waiting look like? Jim’s 4 sermon points.	HOW did they get to this unity v14? They devoted themselves continually to prayer.	We need one another and are built for community and relationships. We don’t like to wait. We want to move our way not wait for his.	God, the seer of all men’s hearts, we worship you. Forgive us for anxious disobedience. Thank you that you reign. Grow our trust in you in our waiting.

“Mysterious Sounds, Tongues of Fire, and the Powerful Coming of the Holy Spirit”

Pastor Ryan, 9/26/21: Intro: There are certain key events that radically change history: the printing press, the Wright brothers, discovery of penicillin, the fall of Rome, etc. These are similar but pale in comparison to the creation of the world by God’s voice, the redemption of man through Christ, his ascension, and now his Spirit with us.

HEADLINE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US GIVES TESTIMONY TO GOD’S GREATNESS.

There are four things we learn about the Holy Spirit in this passage:

1. The Holy Spirit comes with power, vs1-4. It is sudden, unique, and supernatural. The demonstration of power is demonstrated by a speaking miracle, well known and obscure languages immediately known by fisherman or basic Galileans.
2. The work of the Holy Spirit is often times mysterious, vs6-7, 12-13. This crowd is amazed and perplexed. It is a category-buster.
3. The Holy Spirit aims to magnify the work of God, v11. In the same way, he gifts of the Spirit he brings are not about the gifts but draw attention to God’s greatness.
4. The Holy Spirit changes the trajectory of everything going forward. This is the reversal of the Tower of Babel event in Genesis 11. The table of nations vs9-11 connects to Genesis 10 right before Babel. At Babel man pridefully tried to climb to heaven; at Pentecost heaven comes down to give a foretaste of what is coming when this curse completely reversed with no language barriers (based on a John Stott quote).

How do we respond (based on the four points above):

A. Confident - since he comes in power, we should be confident. Look at the disciples: in Luke 24 they were scattered and afraid, and in Acts 2 onward, they were not ashamed. Why are you afraid when this same Spirit indwells you. B. Humble - since his is mysterious, be humble. You don’t know the mind of God, he does. Trust him. C. Obedient - since he magnifies God’s work, live that way too. We have this Treasure in jars of clay so they see God not us since we ultimately can’t meet their deepest need. D. Grateful- since he changes all, then we should be thankful. We have the in dwelling Spirit of God in us convicting us, guaranteeing our inheritance, reminding us of God’s personal and deep love for, guiding us, etc.

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
While they were waiting and praying together for the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ finally comes and dwells in them.	-The disciples were obediently together in Jerusalem waiting. -The Holy Spirit dwelled in them, and they were fluent in another language(s). -In other languages they told the mighty works of God.	V11 Mighty works of God: Christ THE point of the OT, live, die, resurrected, ascension for us and coming again. Amazed, astonished, perplexed, bewildered	Jesus said since the upper room high priestly prayer that it was good he went away, his promise of the HS is fulfilled now in this passage.	V2: his is all power V5: his is worshipped V11: he has done mighty things. V12: he is believed in by some and denied by many

Notes:	Passage: Acts 2:1-13
Pentecost was 50 days after Pass-over, celebrating the Feast of Weeks which was the wheat harvest and is connected to this harvest to come in believers world wide (Thomas p28)	<p>[1] When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.</p> <p>[2] And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.</p> <p>[3] And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.</p> <p>[4] And they were all</p> <p>[i] filled with the Holy Spirit</p> <p>[ii] and began to speak in other tongues</p> <p>as the Spirit gave them utterance.</p>
<p>Even when people see miracles that does not produce belief alone. Look at Judas who was with Jesus 24/7 (Thomas p37).</p> <p>Ironically we need the Spirit to receive the knowledge and things of God.</p>	<p>[5] Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.</p> <p>[6] And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.</p> <p>[7] And they were amazed and astonished, saying,</p> <p>“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? [8] And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?</p> <p>[9] Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10] Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, [11] both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians</p> <p>—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”</p> <p>[12] And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,</p> <p>[+] “What does this mean?”</p> <p>[-] [13] But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”</p>

Other Notes: The rushing wind and fire connect to Numbers 11:25: in the same way but larger, the Holy Spirit fell on Moses’ leaders to prophecy and proclaim the greatness of God. This fulfills John the Baptist’s prophecy in Luke 3:16, and fire and wind accompanied Theophanies in the OT: mighty storm 2 Sam 22:16 in David’s prayer citing God’s work in deliverance and fire at Sinai Exodus 19:18 (Beale p531).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY were the devout men surprised at the translations? V12 they thought it had a meaning, this doesn’t just happen, the undoing of the Tower of Babel.	<p>WHAT two things happened when the fire appeared? V4a/b filled and speak</p> <p>WHAT did they say in their new language? V11: the mighty works of God</p>	HOW did devout men in Jerusalem from ALL languages respond? V12 some believed some not.	<p>-We are slow to believe and trust even when we see mighty works just like the disciples through the gospels.</p> <p>-We need the HS in us to bring faith.</p>	Praise you, mighty God! Forgive our low trust. Thank you for sending your Spirit to be in us and go with us. Help us show you as Treasure in our jars of clay bringing others hope.

“Blood Moons, Three-Minute Sermons, and the Importance of the Pentecost”

Pastor Ryan, 10/3/21 - Turner, Raegan and I were in Frisco, TX for Octoberfest

HEADLINE: JESUS FULFILLS THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOWING HE IS BOTH LORD AND CHRIST, THE MESSIAH.

Intro: While visiting Dawson’s doctor in Houston, Texas, the doctor spent four hours with them explaining why this treatment, though painful and dangerous, is the best path for sustainability. In the same way Peter explains in this section why Pentecost matters.

Peter gives a sermon based on two main points from the Old Testament showing WHY Pentecost matters:

Reason number one: Pentecost matters because it means that the last days are here. Peter quotes from Joel chapter 2 saying that this is the time prophesied that by the Spirit being poured out, all men will know God and be able to testify about his greatness and glory. And there are no more events to take place now before the return of Christ.

Reason two: Pentecost matters because it shows Jesus is the Christ and Lord.

Fact number one: Jesus rose from the dead. Peter shows them from Psalms 16 that David was speaking and prophesying of Jesus’ resurrection. Peter says they all know where David is buried, so David could not be talking about himself in Psalm 16. He knew God’s promises of the coming Messiah, and that one day the Messiah would be resurrected.

Facts two: Jesus ascended to the right hand of God. Peter quotes from Psalm 2 that Jesus is the one sitting at the right hand of the father whose enemies are his footstool.

Fact three: Because he is at God’s right hand, he has Authority to distribute the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Peter argues because of these three truths from the Old Testament, Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Peter quotes Joel 2:32 making the connection that Lord in this verse pointed to God, and this Lord is Jesus who is God. He is the Messiah and Christ and the only way to God.

This passage demands a response, verse 38 to 42. The listeners are cut to the heart, and they repent, and they are saved.

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and Peter preaches this first sermon.	Joel prophesied every believer would have the Holy Spirit in them because Jesus who died and rose was both God and savior as David predicted. Many believed..	Prophecy The Lord said Repent and be baptized.	Pv17 God will pour out his Spirit on all believers	V17 he keeps his promises, he gave the Spirit as Joel / others prophesied V36 Jesus is God and the long awaited Messiah

Notes:	Passage: Acts 2:14-41
<p>“This is That” sermon of Peter is how FF Bruce characterizes how we read the Old Testament and see what Peter is doing. Jesus was pointed to all through the Old Testament and ‘this’ that just happened is ‘that’ that was written (Thomas p43).</p> <p>David did not rise from the dead but his body decayed and David did not ascend to the right hand of God, therefore David spoke of the Messiah in both Psalm 16 and 110. Because Jesus did both, he is that Messiah (Beale 532).</p>	<p>[14] But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. [15] For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. [16] But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:</p> <p>[17] “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, / that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, / and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, / and your young men shall see visions, / and your old men shall dream dreams; / [18] even on my male servants and female servants / in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.</p> <p>[19] And I will show wonders in the heavens above / and signs on the earth below, / blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; / [20] the sun shall be turned to darkness / and the moon to blood, / before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. / [21] And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.</p> <p>[22] “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—[23] this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. [24] God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. [25] For David says concerning him,</p> <p>“‘I saw the Lord always before me, / for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; / [26] therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; / my flesh also will dwell in hope. / [27] For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, / or let your Holy One see corruption. / [28] You have made known to me the paths of life; / you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’</p> <p>[29] “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. [30] Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, [31] he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. [32] This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. [33] Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. [34] For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,</p> <p>“‘The Lord said to my Lord, / “Sit at my right hand, / [35] until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ / [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”</p> <p>[37] Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” [40] And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41] So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.</p>

Notes: “Peter’s sermon begins with the text that not only very conveniently provides the scriptural explanation of the strange behavior of the believers, but also offers a golden opportunity to develop the theme of Jesus Christ thanks to its linking of the outpouring of the spirit with the theme of salvation for those who call on the name of the Lord. The sermon thus becomes essentially an explanation of who this ‘Lord’ is” (Beale p532).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY was this the definite plan of God to deliver up Jesus? V23-28 God showed it to David centuries before in Psalm 16	WHAT happened when Christ ascended? V32-36 God sent the spirit of Jesus into the disciples and now believers fulfilling Psalm 110.	HOW do we know Jesus is the messiah? V31 Jesus rose from the dead and David did not, proving that He is the risen Messiah of Psalm 16 (Beale 539).	We need to listen to truth like this, it is through hearing one believes. We need to repent and be baptized.	Lord God who raised our Lord from the dead, we praise you. Forgive our unbelief. Help our unbelief. Thank you that we see and savor Jesus as God and Messiah.

Notes Chapter 2 (continued): “Peter’s message was typical of the sermons recorded in The Acts. Someone has suggested a five-point outline for it: 1. What Jesus did: He worked miracles, wonders, and signs. 2. What you did: You killed Him. 3. What God did: He raise Jesus from the dead. 4. What we are doing now: We are telling you the Good News that there is life for you in Christ. 5. What you can do.: You can turn to God through faith in His Son” (Jacobson p20-21).

“The Newly-Wed Church”

Pastor Seth Rehmert (candidate Sunday, youth pastor), 10/10/21: Intro: As great as the 1995 Husker team was, this new church is at a whole other level and offers much we can learn about church today.

HEADLINE: WE ARE DEVOTED TO THE GLOBAL, WHITE-HOT WORSHIP OF GOD AND THUS DOING LIFE TOGETHER WELL - LOVE GOD, LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

This church is characterized by the following:

1. Their devotion: “Your commitments will define your community.” They were devoted to the Word of God. They were devoted to doing life together. They were committed to prayer. It certainly includes communion but also sharing food together in one another’s homes.
2. Their activity: They were selling their possession to provide for one another. John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Let us love in deed and truth. This is to what we are called. It is how the world knows that this miracle of selfless love between one another is only of God. As it happens it points to and welcomes others to God. Spirit infused devotion will lead to spirit led activity.” They are worshipping together, gathered together as a community in the temple and in homes.
3. Their experience: Awe was falling on every soul. God was working in their midst. Signs were being done to validate their message. They were worshipping. They had favor with all people. People were being saved.

Summary: “When the people of God, filled with the Spirit of God, devote themselves to the work of God, awesome things happen.”

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Peter preaches his first sermon and God saves many people. How are their needs to be met? How are they to do life together? That is this passage.	<p>They were devoted to 4 things.</p> <p>They shared and did life together.</p> <p>They experienced God working in great ways.</p>	<p>Devoted</p> <p>Breaking bread 2x</p>	<p>None, mainly statements, descriptive</p> <p>Implied: love God, love one another, the two great commandments</p>	<p>V42 There is real teaching about God, Jesus is God, Jesus is the Messiah - God revealed it.</p> <p>V47 God is the one who adds real believers to church</p>

Notes:	Passage: Acts 2:42-47
<p>These four defining activities of the church are powerful: apostle's teach including Jesus both God and man saving sinners, fellowship includes meeting the physical needs of others as we are stewards of God's resources, breaking bread as broadly defined as "friendship is through the stomach" meals in general together, and prayer including done together (Thomas p.60-65)</p>	<p>[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.</p> <p>[43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.</p> <p>[44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common.</p> <p>[45] And they were</p> <p>A. selling their possessions and belongings</p> <p>B. and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.</p> <p>[46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people.</p> <p>And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.</p>

Application:

A. Recognize you are a great sinner, and, at the same time, God is a great Savior.

B. As a follower of Christ, devote yourself to the work of God. Know his word, commit to fellowship and food and prayer.

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs12-13-Christianity is authentic: "It is immediately obvious that these early Christians were fascinated with Jesus - who he was and what he had done. Their message was more than just a philosophical system or a grand ethical scheme. In essence, it was the person and work of Jesus Christ. They had come into fellowship with Jesus Christ and, as a consequence, experienced the forgiveness of sins (v38). In Jesus Christ, they had found joy v46" (Thomas p66).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY did "awe come upon every soul"? V43 These sinners were filled with unselfish love for one another and God was working in their midst.	WHAT characterized the church: v42 word, fellowship, food and communion, and prayer.	HOW did people become saved? V47 it was God adding to their number and causing belief, causing eyes to open to who Jesus really is: God & savior.	We are naturally selfish, we need the Holy Spirit to provide this kind of radical love for one another that the world is in awe v43	God of fellowship in himself and with us, we worship you. Forgive us for our selfishness. Thank you for transforming us in love for love. Help us live united.

“The Centrality and Supremacy of Jesus”

Pastor Jim, 10/16/21: Intro: The intro to this sermon by Peter is the healing of a man lame from birth. It is then that he launches into the supremacy of Christ.

HEADLINE: REPENTANCE ALWAYS LEADS TO REFRESHMENT.

1. The healing v1-10: This man is totally dependent on others every day of his life. This man does not get a handout but a restoration of all things in Christ. He thought he needed money, but he got Christ and met his deepest need. Worship naturally flows out of this man when he sees and feels the supremacy of Christ. No one tells him to worship. He can't help it. Worship is seen by the watching world, and in v10 they respond in wonder and amazement.

2. The sermon v11-26: This sermon by Peter really has two main parts:

A. WHO is this Jesus? Answer - Jesus not me healed this man. This suffering servant of Isaiah is who was raised for us and healed this man. Jesus is the center point of all of the OT. He is the one who Moses mean ultimately when he said another would come (Deuteronomy 18:15). Samuel and everyone after him also proclaimed this Christ coming.

B. WHAT this Jesus has done on our behalf v17-26. Answer - after you all crucified Jesus, he still loves you and beckons you to life through repentance. Repentance always leads to refreshment. Our picture of repentance of one of hanging our head in shame and defeat is not what Peter is trying to communicate. It is meant to be run to for our good. V20 means that Jesus who started your salvation will keep it until he returns again, this coming again was foretold as well.

3. Exhortation and application: A. Trust in Jesus today in repentance for this refreshment. B. Keep lifting up and learning and knowing the supremacy of Jesus over all things. That is why Colossians 1 was read in the first part of the sermon - he is preeminent over all.

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs12-13-God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: “In the original context the words serve to identify the God who appears to Moses as indeed the God of his ancestors and therefore the God of the people of Israel. Moses and the people can therefore be assured of the identity of this God as their God, believe his promises, and fulfill his commands. Similarly here, it is important to underline that what has been

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
As they were living life together in Jerusalem, they go to prayer at the temple and this happens: healing, sermon, repentance.	Healing. Sermon. Call to Repentance.	Wonder and amazement, astounded Servant	Pv26: the promise made to Abraham that all the nations would be blessed through his line is fulfilled in Christ right now by turning us from our wickedness.	V6: power in Jesus' name. V11-16: same covenant keeping God of the OT, glorifies Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One, raises from the dead; v17 planner of salvation; restorer

Notes:	Passage: Acts 3:1-26
<p>Vs8: the healed lame man is twice said to jump, which echoes Isaiah 35:6... Thus the healing is typical of the saving acts of God promised in the OT for the Last Days (Beale p544).</p> <p>V13: Peter is saying he is the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. Yes, he is the king and messiah but he is ALSO this mysterious suffering servant prophesied hundreds of years prior through the prophet Isaiah.</p>	<p>[1] Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. [2] And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. [3] Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. [4] And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." [5] And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. [6] But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" [7] And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. [8] And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. [9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God, [10] and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.</p> <p>[11] While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. [12] And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? [13] The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. [14] But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, [15] and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. [16] And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.</p> <p>[17] "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. [18] But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. [19] Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, [20] <u>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord</u>, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, [21] whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. [22] Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. [23] And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' [24] And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. [25] You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' [26] God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."</p>

happening is the work of the God of Israel, the God of Peter's audience, and therefore a direct line is drawn between the God who was active throughout the history of Israel and is now active in and through Jesus" (Beale p545).

- V19-21-There are blessings in salvation: "[Peter] enumerates the 3-fold blessing that we can expect...First, he mentions the obliteration of our sins v19...Second, Peter mentions seasons of refreshing v20...[Thirdly] is the promise of the restoration of all things at the end of the age v21" (Thomas p87-89).
- Vs 25-The promise to Abraham is that all the nations will be blessed through him: "... Peter is identifying Jesus as the seed of Abraham through whom all peoples will be blessed by God" (Beale p549). The "blessing" to Abraham includes the blessing to us to repent (Beale p550).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY were the people astounded? V12 because they thought because Peter was pious and religious he could heal people.	WHAT is the blessing the Peter has in mind? V26 you first being turned away from your wickedness which has guilt and bondage.	HOW was Jesus the Messiah? He was chosen by God, the prophets foretold this, you killed him which did not surprise God, and God raised him again	-We need whole-being healing. -Repentance is hard and not natural. -We tend to think more of people than attribute miracles to God.	God who restores all things in Christ, we praise you. We are broken people thoroughly. Thank you for Christ who restores. Help us grow in repentance.

To what do these “signs” point?

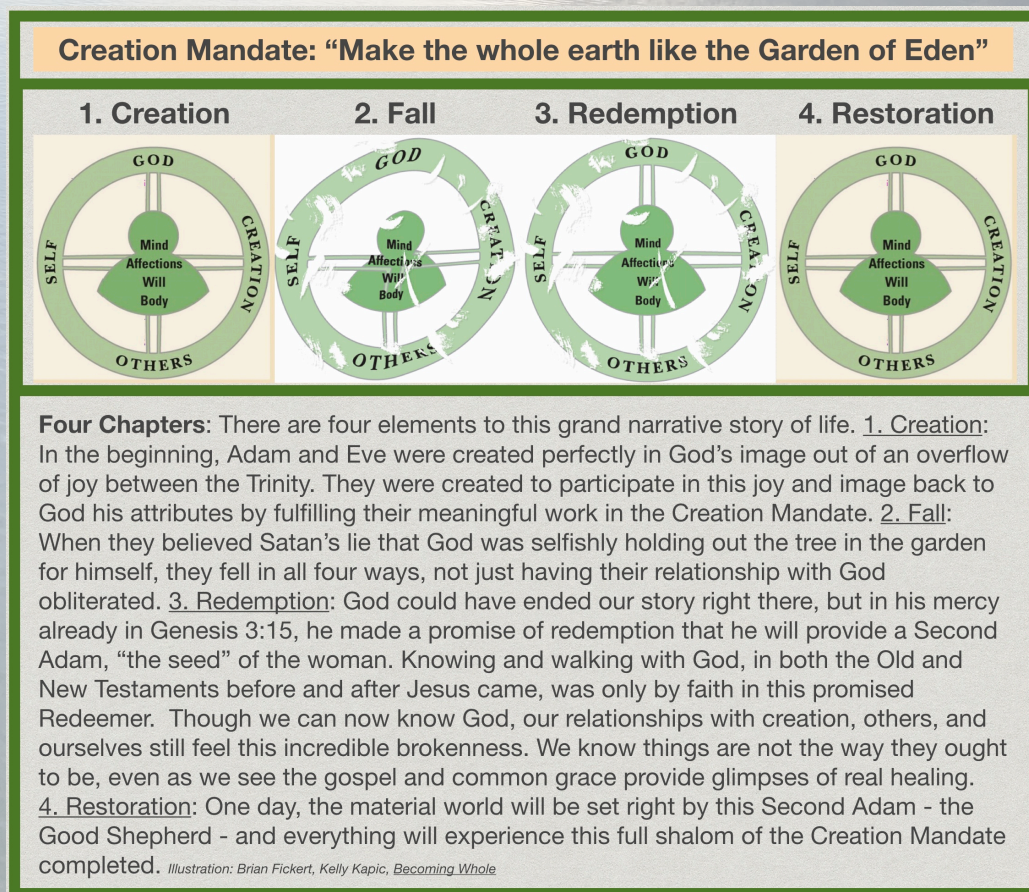
These healings by the disciples, like Jesus did, are called signs (vs 2:43). Like Jesus, the apostles are physically healing people who will die again. This is not only a miracle but it is called a “sign.” What does that mean?

Answer: Healings are a foretaste of the Restoration of all things, and it authenticates this messenger’s message is from God.

Like a road sign along Hwy 80 in York that says “Omaha 115 Miles”, these miracles classified as “signs” say “RESTORATION - full restoration of all things, 115 miles away”. There are four chapters to history not three (see Figure 1). The Restoration is coming! “You want me to prove it,” say the apostles? “God resurrected Jesus and just healed this 40 year-old man through my words who is now leaping! Jesus is the first one raised from the dead, and we will follow suit one day in the same manner.”

Consider the number of times “signs” is used in the first 6 chapters of Acts (see Figure 2). The key verse for me that made me see this more full extension of the gospel is Acts 2:[1] And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, [2] greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and **proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**” Resurrection guarantees that physical restoration is coming for us all. It is why the over 40 year-old man was healed to walk to show the restoration is coming, even though this man died eventually. He was not finally healed yet, he was healed to show physically that more and full and final healing in the Restoration is coming one day.

Figure 1:



The Restoration is the sign: Jesus is bodily and materially resurrected first and the rest of us will follow one day.

The apostles and early church are indeed preaching that Jesus IS the fulfillment of the Messiah prophecies. But it is more encompassing than that. They were not just saying Jesus will save you from your sins. He is restoring all things now and finally and fully one day. He not only the Redeemer to reverse the fall in our broken relationship with God for those who believe, but he is the Restorer who one day will heal the material world of its brokenness from sin and slavery (see figure 2 below). In Acts we read of the redemptive work and the restorative work of Jesus:

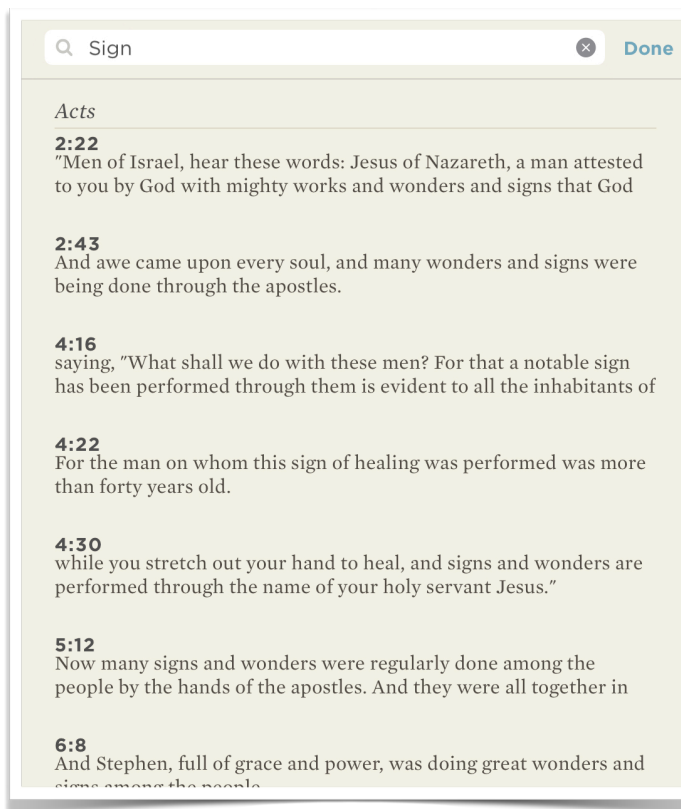
Acts 3:17-22 [17] “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. [18] But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. [19] Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, [20] that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, [21] **whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.** [22] Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.

Jesus not only saves but he is the promised Restorer of all things. Colossians 1 says, “And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **and through him to reconcile to himself all things,**

whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

“These miracles are also ‘signs’ in the sense that they point to something beyond themselves. They authenticated the apostles as ‘plenipotentiaries’ [diplomats] of Jesus Christ, gifted by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the resurrection. They were also ‘eschatological’ in nature, pointing beyond this world to the next, indicating the kind of transformation that the gospel ultimately brings. In his redemptive purposes God intends to restore this fallen world and rid it of all the effects brought upon it by the fall in the garden of Eden - a world where Satan is cast out, a world where there is no sickness (Rev. 20:10; 21:4)” (Thomas p132-133).

Figure 2: Signs for “destination” & “authentication”



“No Other Name”

Pastor Ryan, 10/23/21: Intro: The Word of God re-centers us and helps us to see the main issues of life with greater clarity.

HEADLINE: JESUS IS RISEN, AND HE IS STILL AT WORK.

1. The story: The disciples were convinced that Jesus had been raised from the dead and had seen him and spent time with him and eaten with him. The Sadducees believed that the soul dies with the body. Peter argues that this resurrected Christ healed this man as a sign of the resurrection to life that believers face.
2. What does the resurrected Jesus do? A. Jesus saves the lost. There is salvation in no one else. Jesus is alive and in the business of rescuing lost sinners. B. Jesus transforms his people v13. These uneducated, common men were stunning as they had been with Jesus. They learned at Jesus' feet and now the Spirit of Jesus is in them and boldness to share these truths of the treasure Christ is just boils over. C. Jesus emboldens his witnesses v17-18. This same leadership of authority killed Jesus, and now Peter and John refuse to obey them but obey God facing they could be killed too.
3. Exhortation and application: Do we see Christ at work in our lives? This is not merely a historical document of how Jesus did work, but works today. A. Have you experienced the salvation from this Messiah? Do you have his imputed righteousness? Though the gospel is EXCLUSIVE on how to get to God, it is INCLUSIVE inviting all to him. B. Are you being transformed by Jesus on a daily basis? This is not the same as being successful in the eyes of the world. Are you being changed into the deep character of who Jesus is and how we see him acting in the gospels to others and to God. C. Are you boldly sharing God and winsomely telling the gospel of hope in Christ? These religious leaders liked their power and were motivated by pleasing man to keep their rule. In contrast, Peter and John don't care about the favor of man but want to please God. Rely on this power source not first trying to win an argument of apologetics.

Notes & Quotes:

- V8-These rulers are not worth trusting above God: “It is natural that Peter addresses his audience as ‘rulers [archontes] . . . of the people.’ However, the term plays a major role in the citation later in 4:26. It may also be significant that Ps. 118:9 (117:9 LXX) states, ‘It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes [archontes]’” (Beale p550).

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Peter heals a lame man and then preaches who Jesus is that did this healing. Now they are in trouble for this healing.	-Peter and John are arrested for the sign of healing the man. -They are interrogated the next day. - They are released, still proclaiming.	Sign (2x) Astonished Annoyed	P-v13: being with Jesus and fellowshipping by his Spirit brings bold-humility. V-v20: we have to speak the hope we have been given.	V10: God raised Jesus from the dead V10: Jesus has a great name; he healed the man V12: salvation is in him alone V21: God is worthy of our praise

Notes:	Passage: Acts 4:1-22
<p>“Filled with the Holy Ghost. It is not without great cause that Luke adds this, to the end we may know that Peter spoke not with such a majesty of himself. And surely, seeing he had denied his Master, Christ, being afraid at the voice of a silly woman (Matt 26:70) he should have utterly fainted in such an assembly... (Calvin p169).</p>	<p>[1] And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, [2] greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. [3] And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. [4] But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.</p>
	<p>[5] On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, [6] with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. [7] And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired,</p>
	<p>“By what power or by what name did you do this?”</p>
	<p>[8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, [9] if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,</p>
	<p>[10] let it be known to all of you 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 is standing before you well.</p>
	<p>[11] This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”</p>
	<p>[13] Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.</p>
	<p>[14] But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. [15] But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, [16] saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. [17] But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” [18] So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. [19]</p>
	<p>But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, [20]</p>
	<p>for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”</p>
	<p>[21] And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people,</p>
	<p>for all were praising God for what had happened.</p>
	<p>[22] For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.</p>

- Vs11-God undid your rejection of Jesus: “The two phrases in the psalm correspond to the two statements about Jesus made in the previous verse: ‘whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead (Psalm 117:22).’ The focus here is not so much on the condemnation of the rulers for what they did as on the fact that what they did (rejecting the stone) has been reversed by God (exalting the stone), and the stress lies on the fact that by raising Jesus from the dead, God has made him a savior—no, God has made him the only Savior” (Beale p551).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY did they try to punish Peter / John? V21 the people were praising God. WHY praising God? V22 this healing was a sign of the future.	WHAT was Peter and John teaching? V2 Jesus as first fruit of resurrection to the new heavens and earth.	HOW are we to be saved? V12 Believe on him who God raised from the dead, him taking our sin and we receiving his earned right standing with God. .	We can be tempted to not stand firm because of what leaders will think of us.	We worship you, O God of all power. Forgive us for living in light of man’s thoughts to us. Thank you for your Holy Spirit in us. Help us to rely fully on him.

“A Blueprint for Times of Crisis”

Pastor Ryan, 10/31/21: Intro: What might the headlines look like in 2031, a mere 10 years from now? What if certain parts of the Bible were banned to preach? Will you be in jail next, and what would happen your family and kids? Do you deny you ever were a member of Fremont E-Free? Or do you double down and pray for courage to continue proclaiming the hope of the gospel and worship the Creator?

HEADLINE: HOW WILL WE RESPOND WHEN THINGS GET DIFFICULT? WHAT TO DO?

What is their response when they hit crisis?

1. They pray immediately and fervently. First, stop and pray. Pray with friends. We are dependent together on our sovereign, good father and creator. Why do we delay prayer? We overestimate our capabilities and resources, and underestimate the power of God. Our resources and money give us the false assurance that we have more control than we actually do. It is a false sense of security and importance.
2. They rested in the character of God. The content of their prayer is also instructive. If God was good but not sovereign that would not be effective good news. If he was sovereign but not good, it would always be bad for us. But he is BOTH. How do we know he is Good? He sent his Son to pay our debt and give us righteousness. How do we know he is sovereign? He proclaimed that Jesus would did and he did and he raised him from the dead.
3. They kept clinging to and preaching the word of God. They pray that they have courage to go through not around the persecution to keep saying boldly what is right and good. They are not praying for safety particularly, but courage. This is not a second filling of the Holy Spirit but rather strength for the task at hand through the Spirit as they already have the Spirit (Thomas p113). The word of God is the only way to know him through Jesus, and it only comes through the Spirit quickening others. This is all done together with friends, in community. That is the picture of the church standing together.

Notes & Quotes:

- V28-God ordains all things: “Luke being not content with the word *counsel*, adds also *hand*, improperly, yet to the end he might the more plainly declare that the events of things are not only governed by the counsel of God, but that they are also ordered by

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Peter and John and disciples were released from the Jewish government for teaching the resurrection through signs done of healing by God.	-They were reunited. -The prayer: God, this does not surprise you as you ordained this rejection. Give us boldness while YOU do signs. -The HS shook all.	Community words not lone-rangers: -V23 released to friends -V24 together they prayed -V29 servants plural -V31 together when shaken and all filled	Pv25-28: It is futile to plot against God’s anointed like Herod, Pilot, Jews, etc did. Pv31: He hears the prayers of his own, fills them with his Spirit and grants boldness.	V24 God rules over all and made all and inspired Scripture. V26 God has an Anointed, it is futile to stand against him. V28 He has plans. V30 He does signs to confirm his message.

Notes:	Passage: Acts 4:23-31
<p>Psalm 2 is quoted here to say God proclaims it is futile to rise up against his Son. Psalm 2 is quoted by God at Jesus' baptism to say Jesus IS God's anointed ruler. That is why this plot to kill Jesus failed (based on notes from Beale p550-555).</p>	<p>[23] When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. [24] And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said,</p> <p>“Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, [25] who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,</p> <p>“‘Why did the Gentiles rage, / and the peoples plot in vain?</p> <p>[26] The kings of the earth set themselves, / and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—</p> <p>[27] for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, [28] to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.</p> <p>[29] And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,</p> <p>[30] while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”</p> <p>[31] And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.</p>

his power and hand (Calvin p187). “The doctrine of God’s absolute sovereignty is necessary if we are to understand what occurred at Calvary. For these early Christians, Calvary was not an accident. God was the author of the cross” (Thomas p110).

- V29-There is an essence of the disciples’ prayer: the plot to kill Jesus failed like you said it would in Psalm 2, now please cause your message going out through us not to fail: “The implication is that the conspiracy was defeated, and from this is drawn the confidence of the supplicants to ask the Lord to be aware of the threats against the followers of Christ; yet what they explicitly ask for is not that the threats will come to nothing or be defeated, but that they will be able to proclaim the word to the accompaniment of further signs and wonders performed by God himself” (Beale p553).
- V31-God shows he listens to prayer and is for them and in them. “Luke declares now that God did not only hear this prayer, but did also testify the same by a visible sign from heaven. For the shaking of the place should, of itself, have done them small good; but it tended to another end, that the faithful may know that God is present with them. Finally, it is nothing else but a token of the presence of God” Calvin p189.

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY are these disciples comforted in prayer? The Sovereign Creator laughs in derision that his king conquers and he is FOR them. Psalm 2	WHAT was the word from God they were asking to speak boldly v29? 4:2 says in Jesus they proclaimed the resurrection of the dead, consummation.	HOW did they respond to trial? They prayed, they rested in God’s character, and they kept obeying.	We are slow to believe the big picture that threats though real do not matter. God has ordained his anointed, our savior, triumphs.	Sovereign and Creator God, we cry out to you. Forgive our slowness to believe. Thank you for hearing us pray. Fill us with boldness to speak your hope.

“Contrast in Two Religions: True and False”

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs 4:32, 5:2-Lying is not the only sin, its the hypocrisy of loving men's praise and trusting money: What were they lying about? It would not have been acceptable to say, “We sold the property for \$150k but are only giving you \$100k because at the end of the day the \$50k is ours, we own it, we need it, we don't trust God to supply for us, this is our rainy day fund so we don't need to trust God for our future. We want to be famous like Barnabas” (Hypocrisy theme from Piper sermon, “Be Like Barnabas Not Like Ananias” Feb 10, 1991, Desiringgod.org).

November 7 2021 2:03PM Sunday
car ride 2 atlanta online EFEE - Ryan Miller

ACTS 4:32-37 *also 5:1-11*

we don't know the title

the beauty of true religion & the deadly poison of false religion.

Acts 4
32-37 True religion → beautiful picture when its played out

↳ motivated by a love for God.

very specific unity thru holy spirit & ↑

there are so many different things that can bring people together (music, sports)

↳ but those unities are flimsy & unreliable & un-stable

↳ not weighty enough to last when trouble hits.

when unities (unities) are not being driven by the spirit it is flimsy.

under no obligation, gave everything (Barnabas)

radical voluntary generosity bc of love of Christ

there is such a thing as bad religion & it is ugly (the bible doesn't shy away from ugliness)

Acts 5
1-11 false religion → ugly

contrast from Barnabus who was actually generous.

↳ Ananias & sapphira were deceiving & just wanting praise for what they do.

god is the same god in the old testament & the new testament

↳ & he feels the same about

the church must strive to be like barnabus not like Ananias & sapphira who play the religious game and who cheat the game in their favor.

sin is always a big deal.

the religion of self praise & manipulation (like ananias & sapphira) is a false religion

- V34-There is connection between no poor in the Promised Land and no poor entering the new promised land: “In “There were no needy persons among them” there is an echo of Deut. 15:4, where it is prophesied that there will be no poor when the Israelites are settled in the land, despite the rather more realistic depiction in 15:7–11. This could be part of a general typology that sees a correspondence between, on the one hand, the redemption of the Israelites from Egypt and their prosperous settlement in the land, and, on the other hand, the new redemption wrought by Christ and

the setting up of the new community (Beale p554).

- Vs5:1-11-This story mirrors Achan in the OT: “The story of Ananias and Sapphira has a structural parallel with the story of Achan, who misappropriated what did not belong to him and suffered dire consequences” (Beale p 554).

Application Points:

① like barnabus, are you compelled by the love of Christ to live & love with a radical generosity

don't give to be seen by others.

② are you ever compelled to give generously like Josh did (dropped \$1000 in Noahs donut stand to raise \$ for adoption)

true religion is not compelled by self guilt & self worth.

Barnabus did not give out of religious duty

③ like Ananias & sapphira, are there elements of your religious activity motivated by self & praise of others

don't go thru the motions of generosity if you're self compelled.

given the outcome of Ananias & sapphira it should give you motivation to have true religion

but we like barnabus who does good bc of a love for Jesus

we love because Let the love of Christ for us compel us to live Radical, true religion for others.

Notes:	Passage: Acts 4:32-5:11
Series: A. They believed God owns all, B. They gave powerful testimony, C. Grace rested heavily on them.	<p>[32] Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.</p> <p>[33] And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.</p> <p>[34] There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold [35] and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. [36] Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, [37] sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.</p>
Systematic theology: The Holy Spirit is God and referred to by the disciples as one.	<p>[1] But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, [2] and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. [3] But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? [4] While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." [5] When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. [6] The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.</p>
Their sin was self-love by loving the praise of others more than God's praise.	<p>[7] After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8] And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." [9] But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." [10] Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. [11] And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.</p>

- "The sin of "testing" the Spirit of the Lord picks up the notion of testing the Lord, which was the sin of Israel in the wilderness (Ex 17:2; Deut. 6:16; Ps. 78:18; cf. Luke 4:12/Matt. 4:7). The culprit knows that God has issued some command and disobeys it to see if God was really serious about it and will react or not. Cf. 15:10" (Beale p554).

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
After Peter heals the lame man and preaches, life with the apostles in the early church is described - they serve one another and tangibly care for the poor.	<p>-The church believed all was God's and they were giving testimony to the resurrection of Jesus.</p> <p>-Barnabas was an example of giving.</p> <p>-Ananias & Sapphira seen as hypocrites.</p>	<p>Lie to God/HS</p> <p>Great fear fell upon the church and all who heard</p>	<p>C (implied): do not lie to the HS and to God.</p> <p>Pv32 (implied): God who owns everything saves us to himself and into his care into his community/body.</p>	<p>V32 All belongs to God.</p> <p>V33 God is power and bestows grace</p> <p>V3-4 the HS is God</p> <p>V11 God is holy and hates sin</p>
Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY were there no needy among them V34-35? Items that were God's were voluntarily sold and distributed unequally, more to those with heavier needs.	WHAT were they doing with their great power v33? "giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" - story-telling their eye-witness account of Jesus rising from the dead (ascension?)	HOW do they sin? lying hypocrisy. To be thought well of like Barnabas. To not find God a higher treasure than men's respect and money's future ability to provide instead of trusting God to provide our bread.	<p>-We can crave to be thought well of by others.</p> <p>-We shade the truth and lie to make ourselves look good.</p> <p>-We think our money / resources are ours not God's.</p> <p>-We are needy and need others.</p>	<p>God of all power and grace, we praise you. Forgive our hypocrisy from loving men's praise and for our love of money. Help us use your wealth generously. Thank you for providing all we need in love.</p>

“Unrelenting Opposition, Unstoppable Church”

Pastor Ryan, 11/14/21: Intro: Iran is #8 on hardest places to be a Christ follower, but there are almost 1mm converts there recently as this church flourishes. Pain can foster joy.

HEADLINE: THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS UNSTOPPABLE BY HIS SPIRIT IN HIS CHURCH.

1. Opposition to the church is indeed relentless and expected. The leaders' jealousy imprisons the apostles. They don't consider that God is up to something by this mysterious jail break. They are warned in chapter 4 and now all apostles are threatened to death. John 15 Jesus said this would happen as the world hated him. Don't be surprised.
2. The church of Jesus is unstoppable. Gamaliel was Paul's mentor before Paul was saved. He is speaking better than he knows because in the long run all of man's plans will not flourish or trump God's plans. They get beaten and go back to the same portico to teach.
3. Exhortation and application: In light of this unstoppable church we are in, how should we then live? A. We should be courageous. B. We should be joyful. We have much reason to rejoice like Peter when abused. God is for us. C. We should endure. Jesus' victory over sin and death and brokenness assures our victory and the final restoration.

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs30-God made Jesus the curse on the tree for us: “The phrase ‘hanging him on a tree’ picks up on Deut. 21:22–23, which refers to the practice of exposing the body of an executed criminal; this public humiliation and shame corresponded to the fact that the person was cursed by God. The same allusion occurs in 10:39; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24... the implication may well be: ‘You thought that by crucifying him you were putting him under God’s curse, but in fact God exalted him.’” (Beale 555).

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
The apostles and the people were living in unselfish community. Signs and wonders were common as they spoke freely and openly of this Life.	Healings like Acts 3 are common signs now. It makes the leadership jealous that the people follow them. The apostles are arrested, freed by an angel, beat, keep speaking.	Leader v31: “used of Moses in 7:35, and the similar structure of this verse raises the possibility that there is an implicit contrast between Moses and Jesus” (Beale 555).	C-v20: disciples were commanded to speak Life in the temple, v30 they/we must obey God rather than men. P-v32: God raised Jesus to give repentance & forgiveness	V12 He performs signs and wonder thru his people. V14 Believers are added to him V20 He has words of life; V30 He raised Jesus from the dead; V32 He gives the HS
Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY did God raise Jesus to his right hand? V31 to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins (ironically, that is what made them angry to kill Peter).	WHAT did they preach? V42 the Christ / Messiah, IS Jesus AND he is the firstborn from the dead with us to come as proclaimed in healing “signs” v12.	HOW did they respond to imprisonment? V20 obeyed the HS and kept teaching, v29 testified to God’s truth, v41 rejoiced in God in being beaten.	V17 we are prone to jealousy and v26 the love of people’s acceptance, and v33 enraging anger to murder, and v38 inaction / do nothing	Restorer of all things, God we worship you. Forgive our lack of boldness and joy. Thank you for repentance and forgiveness. Help us proclaim hope.

[12] Now **many signs and wonders** were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. [13] None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. [14] And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, [15] so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. [16] The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were **all** healed.

[17] But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and **filled with jealousy** [18] they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. [19] But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, [20] "Go and stand in the temple and **speak to the people all the words of this Life.**" [21] And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. [22] But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, [23] "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." [24] Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. [25] And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." [26] **Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.**

[27] And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, [28] saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." [29] But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.** [30] The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by **hanging him on a tree.** [31] God exalted him at his right hand as **Leader** and Savior, **to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.** [32] And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

[33] When they heard this, **they were enraged and wanted to kill them.** [34] But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. [35] And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. [36] For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. [37] After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. [38] So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, **for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; [39] but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!**" So they took his advice, [40] and when they had called in the apostles, they **beat** them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. [41] Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.** [42] **And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.**

“A Simple Strategy”

Pastor Ryan, 11/22/21: Intro: Youth pastors sometime have a funny way to attract youth. However, it is good to keep in mind that what you get them with is what will keep them. Make sure they know the overall mission to preach and love and pray together.

HEADLINE: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. They prioritized preaching the word. Acts 1:8 Jesus gave them this task. It is not only proclaimed to people who don't yet believe but to each of us as well who do.
2. They loved each other well. They cared for each other. They were attentive to real needs of loss and material wanting, and of cross-cultural differences and reconciliations.
3. They prayed like crazy. Prayer is not another work on top of ministry work. It is the main work. Do we mainly pray when needs arise, or are we devoted to prayer like these apostles? Let's pray like this church in Acts 6 for our joy and his glory.

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs7-The second Exodus is happening: “The verbs “grew” and “multiplied” are used in Acts 7:17 with the single subject of the people of Israel in Egypt, using wording based on Exod. 1:7 (cf. 1:20). In Acts 12:24 the same phrase is used with reference to the word of God in connection with the growth and spread of the Christian mission. Here the two verbs are given separate subjects: ‘the word of God grew and the number of disciples multiplied,’ and this indicates more clearly what Luke means in 12:24; 19:20. Thus there is some parallel between the growth of the people of God at the time of the exodus and the growth of the number of disciples at the time of the new exodus; the new factor in the latter case is the powerful effects of the preaching” (Beale p555).

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
After the disciples heal people and are persecuted for it, they lay hands on in prayer and appoint people to serve. Satan tries division now to ruin the church after persecution and hypocrisy/greed.	-The church grows and a compliant arises-widows not being taken care of. -They meet. The leaders stay devoted to prayer and teaching the word. -They appoint 7 men as servants to provide real care.	Hellenistic (i.e., Greek-speaking) Jews (ESV Study Notes), largely with origins outside of Palestine. They were welcomed in the church as one body. Hellenists were chosen for the 7 to speak to the widows.	Cv2-it is wrong to forsake prayer and teaching the word even for good things. Cv3-it is good and worthy work to care for widows and must not be neglected.	V2 God has spoken and its written down. V3 God fills his people with his spirit and wisdom. V4 God is communicated to in prayer. V7 His word increases and resulted in disciples.

Notes:	Passage: Acts 6:1-7
<p>Serving tables / serving neglected widows is good and worthy work and needs to be done.</p> <p>It is a both / and. It can't be done instead of the work of prayer and the ministry of the word.</p>	<p>[1] Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.</p> <p>[2] And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. [3] Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. [4] But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."</p> <p>[5] And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. [6] These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.</p> <p>[7] And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.</p>

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY did they appoint 7 men? So that the work would get done while not taking time away from prayer and teaching the Word from the Apostles and disciples.	WHAT was the complaint? The Greek speaking widows were not being helped as much as others. That was true, and not right and resolved with 7 Greek Jews.	HOW did they resolve the issue? They met and listened and talked. They stuck to the vision (prayer & word). They prayed and laid hands on good men of faith.	We were built for community. Satan prioritizes effort to destroy and stress that. We need prayer. We need clear teaching of God's word. We need to serve others.	God of mercy who draws others to yourself and into community, we praise you. Resolve our complaints. Thank you for prayer and word. Serve through us all.

“Living and Dying for the Cause of Christ”

Pastor Jim, 11/28/21: Intro: Spurgeon, who preached in London in the 1800’s, was nicknamed the prince of preachers. He preached many one verse sermons; this one is 71!

HEADLINE: JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REJECTED DELIVERER, AND HE IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD FOR US TO KNOW HIM AND BE RECONCILED TO HIM.

1. The setup (6:8-7:1): Stephen preaches and does miracles. The false accusation are brought against him saying he is preaching against the temple and against the customs of Moses. He is full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit. He is arrested and brought to court.

2. The message (7:2-7:53): Why is the message so long? He is going to speak against the false accusers. He shows biblically he clearly understands the temple and the law, then he brings his accusation against them. Abraham, Joseph and Moses are the his three examples. The glory of God’s presence was not limited to the temple as he showed himself to Abraham before the promised land. Salvation is based on God not law keeping. God is with Joseph while he is in Egypt not just in a temple. The rejected one Joseph ends up being the saving one. Moses, as another deliver from God, is a rejected deliverer. It is in a foreign land that God’s presence to Moses is in the burning bush. This was all done before the law was given. And the people reject the Law when they get it from God through Moses. There is a long history of not obeying the law, turning to idols to worship, and rejecting God himself. God is too big to fill just one temple as they suppose. They rejected the messiah - the temple of God to meet him manifested in Jesus.

3. The result (7:54-8:3): They were enraged at what Stephen said. Stephen is being vindicated by Jesus as he sees him standing at God’s right hand. Like Jesus at his death, he asks Jesus to receive his Spirit making a deity claim that Jesus is God. He also asks for their forgiveness. Up to this time the disciples were multiplying in Jerusalem. Now with this persecution, the gospel converts extend beyond Jerusalem, just like Jesus said so.

Application: A. Jesus is worth suffering for, and he stands for you too. B. Stephen loved Jesus. Love Jesus more, and overflow like Stephen. C. Stephen is full of the Holy Spirit, and we need that power too to live like this in bold-humility and to love.

Notes & Quotes:

- 7:25-28-Jesus as the greater Moses was rejected as savior of his people too: “What is emerging at this point is a comparison between Moses as an offerer of salvation and

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Stephen is recently installed as a “deacon” to serve widows. He goes about doing wonders and signs in his teaching of Jesus. He is arrested. He is put on trial and executed. Paul/Saul approves heartily.		-Wonders and signs - Stephen was doing these, Moses did them in Egypt, in the Exodus and in the promised land (see insert “Signs”) -Reject: look at all they have rejected.	God faithfully loves and sustains his rejected redeemers.	God’s glory is not limited to a place or building or temple. His presence goes with his people. He raised Jesus to be at his right hand.

Jesus as a savior (cf. Acts 4:12; 5:31) and between the incomprehension of the people toward Moses and toward Jesus (cf. Luke 2:50; 8:10; 18:34; Acts 28:26–27)... The slaying of the Egyptian is seen as a threat rather than as a means of rescue. Thus the role of Moses as redeemer and reconciler is rejected; again a parallel with Jesus is implicit” (Beale p561-562).

- 7:49-51-The indictment comes for unbelief: “The existence of passages such as this provides the basis for Stephen’s accusation that the people of Israel have always been disobedient to God and assumed that they could domesticate him in their temple and enjoy his favor... Now at long last comes the accusation itself. The pejorative language is taken from the OT. “Stiff-necked” is applied to the rebellious Israelites in the wilderness (Exod. 33:3, 5; 34:9; Deut. 9:6, 13)” (Beale p569).
- 7:13-14, 53-Stephen is charged with teaching Jesus will change the temple worship: “The story [sermon] has two aspects: one is a positive account of God’s promises to his people, Israel, and his faithful fulfillment of them, and the other is an account of the continual opposition to God’s message and messengers. As Evans, notes, the first part of the story is essentially positive (except 7:9), but from 7:22 onward the motive of misunderstanding and rebellion develops... Thus Stephen answers the accusation that Jesus would change the customs and law by pointing out that the Israelites themselves had been doing this all along by rejecting the law and acting idolatrously. As for the charge that Jesus would destroy the temple, the answer may be that the temple is irrelevant because God transcends the temple (Sylva 1987)” (Beale p570-571).

The Passage -Acts 6:[8] And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. [9] Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. [10] But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. [11] Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” [12] And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, [13] and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, [14] for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.**” [15] And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. [7:1] And the high priest said, “Are these things so?”**

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY did they bring in false witnesses? Because they could not refute the wisdom & power of the HS in Stephen showing with miracles Jesus is the 1st resurrected one.	WHAT is Stephen’s message? God loves to dwell with his people and is not limited to a building. Unless you repent, you follow the line of unbelief in re- deemers.	HOW does Stephen die? He dies trusting Christ who is God, and asks God to forgive his murderers. HOW? 6:8 full of grace and power.	-Our message can be met with immense hatred and rejection. -Being good we can miss the whole point of the OT God ulti- mately revealing himself to us in his Son.	God who reveals himself to us, we praise you. Forgive our religion and missing Jesus in all of scripture. Thank you for speaking. Give us power in your Spirit to live.

[Part I-Positive] [2] And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, [3] and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ [4] Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. [5] Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. [6] And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. [7] ‘But I will judge the nation that they serve,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.’ [8] And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

[9] “And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; **but God was with him [10] and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.** [11] Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food. [12] But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. [13] And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to Pharaoh. [14] And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all. [15] And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, [16] and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

[17] “But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt [18] until there arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. [19] He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive. [20] At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father’s house, [21] and when he was exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. [22] And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

[Part II-Negative] [23] “When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. [24] And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. [25] **He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand.** [26] And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?’ [27] But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? [28] Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ [29] At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

[30] “Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. [31] When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he drew near to look, there came the voice of the Lord: [32] ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob.’ And Moses trembled and did not dare to look. [33] Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. [34] I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.’

[35] “This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

[36] This man led them out, performing **wonders and signs** in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. [37] This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, **‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’** [38] This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us. [39] Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, [40] saying to Aaron, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ [41] And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. [42] But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

“‘Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices, / during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? / [43] You took up the tent of Moloch / and the star of your god Rephan, / the images that you made to worship; / and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’

[44] “Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. [45] Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, [46] who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. [47] But it was Solomon who built a house for him. [48] Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

[49] “‘Heaven is my throne, / and the earth is my footstool. / What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, / or what is the place of my rest? / [50] Did not my hand make all these things?’

[51] “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. [52] Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, [53] you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

[54] Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. [55] But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. [56] And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” [57] But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. [58] Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. [59] And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” [60] And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:[1] And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. [3] But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

“A Magician, the Holy Spirit, and the True Work of God”

Pastor Ryan, 1/2/22: Intro: Top magicians capture people’s attention. Something greater is going on here.

HEADLINE: SATISFACTION IN GOD MOVES OUT TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

1. The passage has a logical, narrative flow (see notes below): Samaritans were hated by the Israelites, but that is where Phillip goes and the Holy Spirit indwells these people as well. Simon does not obey Peter who tells him to repent and pray to God but rather says instead to have Peter pray for him. Luke leaves the question of his salvation open.
2. There are encouraging pieces of news: A. The good news of the gospel is good news to people everywhere. The Spirit was poured out after baptism to these people to show to the apostles that there is ONE body, ONE church, and the same Spirit is on and in these people as well. Since Genesis 12, God has proclaimed that the kingdom is for all. Here we see this message going out across ethnic, racial, and cultural lines. The same Peter who asked Jesus to call down fire on Samaritans in Luke 8 is now laying hands on them to receive the Spirit and be in ONE body of Christ together as reconciled. B. The power of the gospel is unmatched and unstoppable. These early followers were not yet obedient to take the message outside of Jerusalem but persecution was the catalyst to move them out and get this done. Dark magic was no match to capture the hearts of the people by the good news of the gospel.
3. There are warnings in this passage: A. Counterfeit gospels abound. Luke was making the point, “don’t go this way of Simon.” This is the pursuit of self and power. He wants to be known as great v9. No matter how great you are, it will never give you meaning.

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs21-23-Luke’s words describing Simon connect with the hardness of heart and idolatry in the OT: Your heart is not right “echoes Ps. 78:37, ‘their heart was not right with him,’ as part of a general description of the corrupt wilderness generation... Peter comments that Simon is ‘full of bitter poison, bound by unrighteousness’ [the word for gaul] ‘gall,’ a juice renowned for its bitter taste (Prov. 5:4). The LXX [Lexicon uses gaul] (Deut. 29:18) to describe the result of idolatry for those who follow it (cf. Lam. 3:15)... Again, then, we simply have a use of biblical language, but it may be significant that it comes out of a tradition of opposition to idolatry that early Christians took over from the OT” (Beale p572).

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Stephen was just killed by stoning and persecution is starting to spread. That moves main of the Christ followers out of Jerusalem to Samaria where the HS comes there too.	-Phillip (deacon) goes to Samaria from Jerusalem. -Simon the great magician paled in comparison to the good news of Christ. -Samaritans now receive the Spirit.	Contrast between true signs/wonders and illusionary magic. Magic likely was black arts and demon related.	P-v12: the kingdom of God is good news for those who believe. It is real. It will come. C-v22: repent and pray for forgiveness	V8: his miracles produce joy. V12: his power is superior to magic. V17: he graciously gives his HS V20-he cannot be bought.

Notes:	Passage: Acts 8:4-25
<p>Vs4-13: theme again of the restored kingdom, the restoration of all things in these verses. These healings are not just healings but signs. Signs not only to validate the message of the messenger from God but also healing those who would die again, why? To show what the restored kingdom looks like. That is what Christ did too.</p>	<p>[4] Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. [5] Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. [6] And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. [7] For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. [8] So there was much joy in that city.</p> <p>[9] But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. [10] They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” [11] And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. [12] But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. [13] Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.</p> <p>[14] Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, [15] who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, [16] for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [17] Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>[18] Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, [19] saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” [20] But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! [21] You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. [22] Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. [23] For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” [24] And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”</p> <p>[25] Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.</p>

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/explain, question/answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY does the HS come after baptism here? V14-18 the apostles come and the HS comes showing they are in ONE body with you now - same body.	WHAT was Simon’s sin? V10 he wanted a great name. V20 he used his wealth to try to gain power to get a great, respected name. V24 He does not obey Peter.	HOW did the crowds respond to Phillip v4-8? They paid attention. They came in brokenness of body and some possessed. They were healed in joy.	We know there is power beyond what we can see. There is a spiritual realm that magic reminds us. -The praise of men is intoxicating and is a functional savior.	God who rules all we see and do not see, we praise you. Forgive our love of praise instead of yours. Thank you for the joy of the good news. Help us share.

“Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch”

Pastor Ryan, 1/9/22: Intro: This is a wild, unique evangelistic story, and it is meant to be instructive to us in many ways and encourage our faith.

HEADLINE: GOD SOVEREIGNLY DRAWS PEOPLE TO VALUE HIS GLORY ABOVE ALL.

What can we learn from this passage of Scripture?

1. God is sovereign. He is in control of all things, and in this passage, he guides and accomplishes his will in amazing ways. God is the main actor in this passage. Look how many times the Holy Spirit and God are used in this passage. He knows more than me, AND is for my good. His will is like the dog who can't understand what the vet is doing getting him a shot that will heal him. His sovereignty is not fatalism, he ordains the means not just the ends v26-27. How does believing he is not in control somehow to give you more peace and hope. Because he is sovereign, therefore, we do not have to be afraid.
2. God's concern for the lost extends to all nations and backgrounds. For those in Jerusalem, northern Sudan would have represented the end of the known world.
3. The good news of the gospel demands a particular response. Philip explains Christ in the Old Testament, he believes, then he is baptized, then he leaves rejoicing. It is not merely mental ascent to what is true or in being religious that saves.

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs27-He is an Ethiopian and a eunuch - the gospels restores like a dry tree restored and includes all peoples: Eunuchs were forbidden in the temple fellowship of God (Deut 23:1). “Pao (2000: 140–42) claims that the primary concern of the narrative is not with the fact that the man is an Ethiopian, but rather that he is a eunuch in whom the promise of Isa. 56 finds fulfillment. It is part of the pattern of restoration in Isaiah that is picked up by Luke. Yet another possibility is raised by Scott (1994: 533–38), who holds that this story is the section of Acts describing the mission to the second of the three geographic regions in the Jewish “table of the nations,” and therefore the focus is on the conversion of an Ethiopian (i.e., a descendant of Cush [Gen. 10:6–8])... The story then gains in significance as the first extension of the gospel to the nations of Africa. In the Hebrew text of Isa. 52:13–53:12, which is far from easy to understand, we have a figure described as God's servant, who will be exalted and honored even by kings and yet is

Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Phillip has just preached the good news outside Jerusalem in Samaria, and now the Holy Spirit tells him to take it to the ends of the earth.	-Phillip is led by the Holy Spirit to a road south heading west to link up with the rich Ethiopian who is reading Isaiah. -Phillip shows him Jesus in all the OT. -He is believes. -He is baptized.	Chariot = wealth: “Most people traveled on foot. The prosperous rode on a donkey. Military generals rode on horseback, but a chariot signaled wealth” (Thomas p238).	HS to Phillip: C-v26: rise and go C-v29: go over and join P-v35: there are promises from God making the good news something in which to be rejoiced.	V26 he can give direction thru angels V32 he foretold Jesus would be killed V35 his word in scripture is good news not just advice V39 he carried Phillip away thru his Spirit

Notes:	Passage: Acts 8:26-40
<p>V26 - the desert road is the setting here and see how there is water vs39 where the result can be baptism.</p> <p>V27: this eunuch had traded family for wealth thus excluding him from temple worship. What he hears is that God in Jesus is for us and gives us fellowship with him AND is a higher treasure than wealth. Youth married after age 35 for career have made a similar trade like the Ethiopian.</p>	<p>[26] Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. [27] And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship [28] and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. [29] And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” [30] So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” [31] And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. [32] Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:</p> <p>“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter / and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, / so he opens not his mouth. / [33] In his humiliation justice was denied him. / Who can describe his generation? / For his life is taken away from the earth.”</p> <p>[34] And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” [35] Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. [36] And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” [38] And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. [39] And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. [40] But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.</p>

subjected to intense humiliation and suffering like a societal outcast. Yet he is said to bear this suffering on account of the sins of the people by the will of God, so that in effect he functions as a guilt offering; he suffers without complaint and is eventually killed and buried. Somehow, he will see the result of his suffering and will be vindicated by God. [For Phillip the answer to his question is Jesus.] ...”what Philip does here, “beginning from this scripture he preached the good news concerning Jesus to him,” exemplifies the pattern established by Jesus in Luke 24:25–27, 44–46 (cf. esp. “beginning from Moses and all the prophets” [24:27]).(Beale 573-575).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY was the rich, powerful Ethiopian reading Isaiah in a 1,000 mile journey over 1 year to worship God? It is reasonable he was empty, not satisfied (Keller 1).	WHAT happened in Jerusalem v28? The Eunuch would have been denied entry Deut 23:1. WHAT is his response v39? He goes on his way rejoicing.	HOW does the Ethiopian receive understanding v31? God sends Phillip through his Spirit to explain God’s word to him, Scriptures pointing to Jesus as the suffering servant.	We can let our wealth and power functionally save us but never satisfy. In that we can be too proud to ask for help in contrast to the Ethiopian.	Father of good news to all nations, we praise you. Forgive our hard of hearing. Thank you for opening our eyes to your glorious grace and relationship. Help us share that.

“Unlikely Convert, Amazing Grace”

Pastor Ryan, 1/30/22: Intro: John Newton who wrote *Amazing Grace* was converted after being dishonorably discharged from the Royal Navy and years in the slave trade. He was an unlikely covert but became a follower of Christ. After he was converted, and he joined forces with William Wilberforce to outlaw the slave trade.

HEADLINE: OUR SALVATION IS MAGNIFICENT AND HAS CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS:

1. No matter what you have done, salvation is possible in Jesus Christ. Saul is a murderer and is hunting followers of Jesus down in Damascus in order to take the 5-6 day journey back to Jerusalem to bring them to trial, prison, and death. This “chief of sinners” is who is saved, transformed, and wrote half the New Testament. If he can save Saul, he can save you. This encourages us. God saves sinners like Saul and us. Saul needed rescue like we need rescue as rebels and sinners against the holy God. Saul’s story is our story.
2. The salvation is result of God’s gracious and merciful initiative. V4 says Jesus approached Saul. Our salvation is his work from start to finish. The change of heart to now love with deep affections that which we hated can only be said to be miraculous.
3. God saves us unto a purpose. A. We belong to his body. Why did God chose to use Ananias to have Saul be healed of his sight and filled with the Holy Spirit? First word out of Ananias’ mouth is “brother”. We are saved into the body of Christ and are not long-ranger Christians. Jesus is demonstrating his unity with the church v4. This is one of the most tangible places and ways we can feel the love of God in Christ for each of us. The consumer, online mentality of the church is not what we see in Acts. Jump in. B. We proclaim his name v15-16. The glory of God is greater than the suffering included to spread this news and live it out.

Conclusion: we can sing - “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found. I was blind (like Saul) but now I see.”

Notes & Quotes:

- Vs15-God does mysterious and extraordinary things as there are no lost causes: “What we do know is that everything has changed. As Judas’s betrayal must have shocked the disciples to the core, the



Context: Tie to Previous Section	Flow: Summarize the flow in a few short sentences	Repeated, Key Words, Key Pronouns	Promises & Commands	What do we learn about God? How does Jesus fulfill this?
Chapters 1-8 are largely about Peter and the Apostles doing the work of the early church in Jerusalem. Now with Saul/Paul’s conversion the story goes world-wide.	-Paul is stopped by Jesus on the road to Damascus going to arrest then kill Christ followers. -God tells Ananias to go lay hands on Paul. -Paul receives his sight and the HS.	Rise/rose and go, enter, go: v6, 11, 15, 18 Eyes, sight, vision	C-v4-6: stop persecuting the church, go and wait in the city. C-v11: Ananias to go and lay hands on Paul.	V1-3: he has disciples and a way V4: he pursues, has blinding glory, he has a body the church V10-12: he speaks and sees all and can heal i.e. blindness V15: he chooses

Notes:	Passage: Acts 9:1-19A
<p>Saul/Paul names: we don't need to change our names when we are converted. Acts 13:9 Saul was also called Paul. Saul was more of a Hebrew name and Paul was a name that was common in the Greek speaking world. This name change is similar to when someone from Taiwan takes a name like John when they move here. Keller's take is that this name change falls in the same pattern as Abram/Sari.</p>	<p>[1] But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest [2] and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. [3] Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. [4] And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" [5] And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [6] But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [7] The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. [8] Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. [9] And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.</p> <p>[10] Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." [11] And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, [12] and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." [13] But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. [14] And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." [15] But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. [16] For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." [17] So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me <u>so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.</u>" [18] And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; [19] and taking food, he was strengthened.</p>

conversion of Saul must have caused a similar shockwave. God was doing something extra ordinary. This passage tells us that the very worst sinners can be converted. Do not give up praying for an individual on the basis that he or she has fallen into grievous sins and is therefore beyond the reach of God's powerful hand of mercy. The Lord who changes hearts is able to do more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)" (Thomas p258).

Implied WHY question(s): ground, inference, action/ purpose, action/result	Implied WHAT question(s): idea/ explain, question/ answer, +/-, series	Implied HOW question(s): action/ manner, idea/explain	Confession: What do these verse say about my need or about me?	ACTS: Pray the verses back to God (Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate or Ask).
WHY go lay hands on Paul v15? God chose him to carry the good news (even before kings where we stood in Rome) and suffer.	WHAT was Paul doing v1? It was murder what he was doing, not just war theory or justice.	HOW did Ananias respond v17? He obeyed the voice of God in faith and acted, AND trusted God enough to call this murderer "brother."	-We follow wicked leaders v7. -We don't readily believe people can change like Paul v18. -We like our comfort and our safety v13-15	Lord, of blinding glory, we bow to you. Forgive our slowness to believe. Thank you for pursuing us sinners and changing us. Help us overflow.



Eric Blick, September 2021-September 2022

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