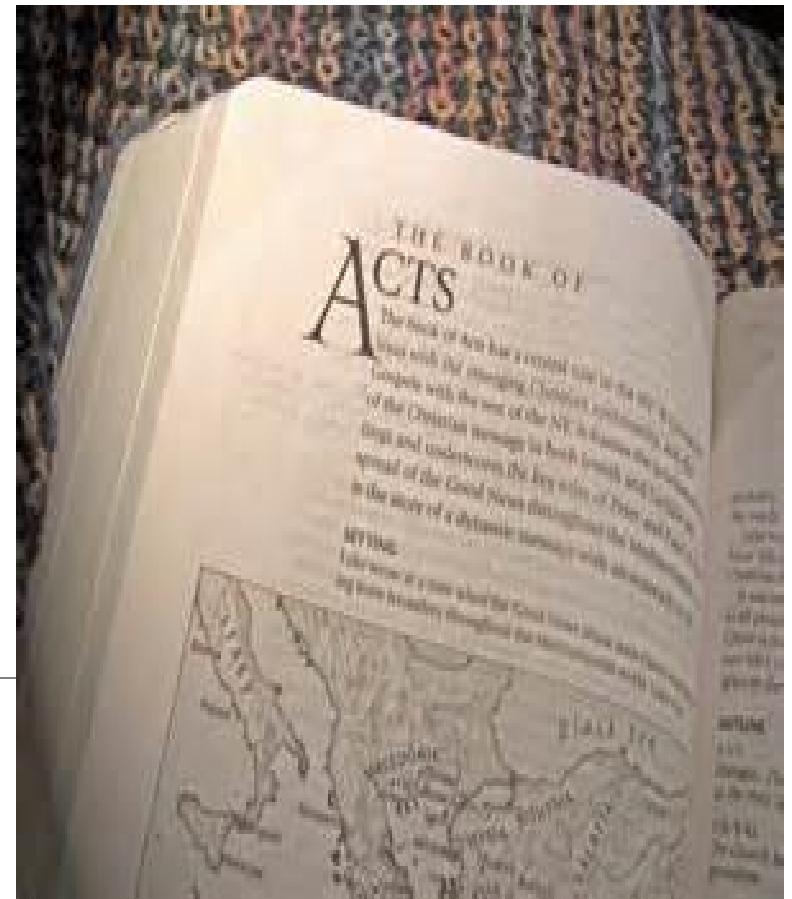


The Acts of the Apostles and Life in the Early Church

SESSION 2

PENTECOST AND THE MISSION IN JERUSALEM



“The Promise of the Father” 1:4

- 1) 1:8 – “programmatically statement for Acts” = table of contents
- 2) “*power*” → “*witness*”
- 3) 1:9-12 – the *Ascension* – Jesus living in power at God’s right hand
- 4) 1:15ff. – choosing *Matthias* – see Lk 22:29-30

Leadership of Restored Israel

Luke 22:29-30 – Jesus to the 12 apostles at the Last Supper:

“I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel”

Pentecost – 2:1-13

- 1) Jewish feast celebrating giving of the Law on Mt Sinai
- 2) “Upper room” in prayer w/ Mary – 1:13-14
- 3) ***Symbols of Wind and Fire***
- 4) Babel reversed – Sin separates, HS unites!
- 5) = empowerment of disciples by HS

Peter's 1st Speech – 2:14-41

- 1) Pentecost experience *fulfills Joel's prophecy* about the last days prompting an outpouring of the Spirit “on all flesh”
- 2) Speech presents the “kerygma” / proclamation of essential Gospel message in brief
- 3) Results in mass *conversions* (3000)
- 4) Speech issues an *Invitation* (to repentance) and a *Promise* (of forgiveness of sins and gift of the HS) through Baptism

Luke's Summaries

- 1) 2:42-47, 4:32-35, 5:12-16
- 2) The inauguration of God's reign in the HS vs. the reign of the present age
- 3) Inner Life of the Faith Community
 - **Koinonia** – community / one mind, heart
 - **Kerygma** – proclamation of the Word
 - **Leitourgia** – prayer / worship
 - **Diakonia** – service / ministry (cf. 6:1-6)

Peter and John cure a crippled beggar

- 1) God works through the Spirit's outpouring, (not by P or J)
- 2) Signs and wonders (5:12) = in-breaking/presence of God's reign, =/= magic
- 3) Peter's 2nd speech (3:11-26) interprets event, calls for conversion
- 4) Arrested amidst conversions (4:4)
- 5) Sanhedrin (Jewish high court) = ineffective old leadership vs new leaders = apostles
- 6) P + J = we must obey God rather than human leaders
- 7) human control vs. care of lame man

Ananias and Sapphira

- 1) Barnabas – 4:36-37, put the money “at the feet of the apostles”
- 2) A + S – 5:1ff, “*retained for himself w/ his wife’s knowledge*, some of the purchase price”
- 3) Peter - “why has Satan filled your heart so that you *lied to the HS?*”
- 4) Church =/= human assembly, = Spirit filled
- 5) Possessions symbolize spiritual dispositions (Judas)
- 6) = broken *koinonia*


Apostles Arrested: Speaking Truth to Power – 5:17-42

- 1) High Priest, “filled w/ jealousy” arrests/jails apostles, freed by angel
- 2) 5:34ff – Gamaliel’s Advice
- 3) P + J rejoice that they are worthy to suffer for Christ’s name = the new order
- 4) Old leaders use the legal system to silence new leaders who are now the true leaders of God’s people

New Leaders, New Solutions - 6:1-15

- 1) “Hellenists” = Diaspora Jews, Gk speaking
- 2) Symbolic numbers → 12 = 12 tribes of Israel; 7 = universal
- 3) “serving at table” = authority over possessions as a symbol of spiritual authority
- 4) Philip and Stephen = most prominent
- 5) 6:1-15 is about transition of leadership to meet needs of community

Stephen

- 1) Speech overviews salvation history, highlights Israel's infidelity and rejecting the HS
 - 2) Stephen martyred. Dies exactly like Jesus
 - 3) Saul standing in the wings
 - 4) Ends the Jerusalem phase of Lk's account
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For Next Week...

Read Acts 9-15

Or minimally chapters 9, 10, and 15