

The Priority of the Word of God

Acts 6:1-15



Our faculty and staff understand that missional impacts every aspect of our institution. Our innovative curriculum is geared specifically to prepare women and men to engage our postmodern culture. To be missional means that we love the Bible and are committed to reading it with a penetrating honesty and with an ear to what it teaches about urban ministry, poverty, social justice, sex-trafficking, child abuse, sexuality and violence against women. For us the missional outlook extends to every quarter of the globe and requires greater sensitivity to the resident cultural complexities and a commitment to work within such complexities. To be missional takes courage.

We invite you to join us on the missional journey as we Follow Jesus into the World.

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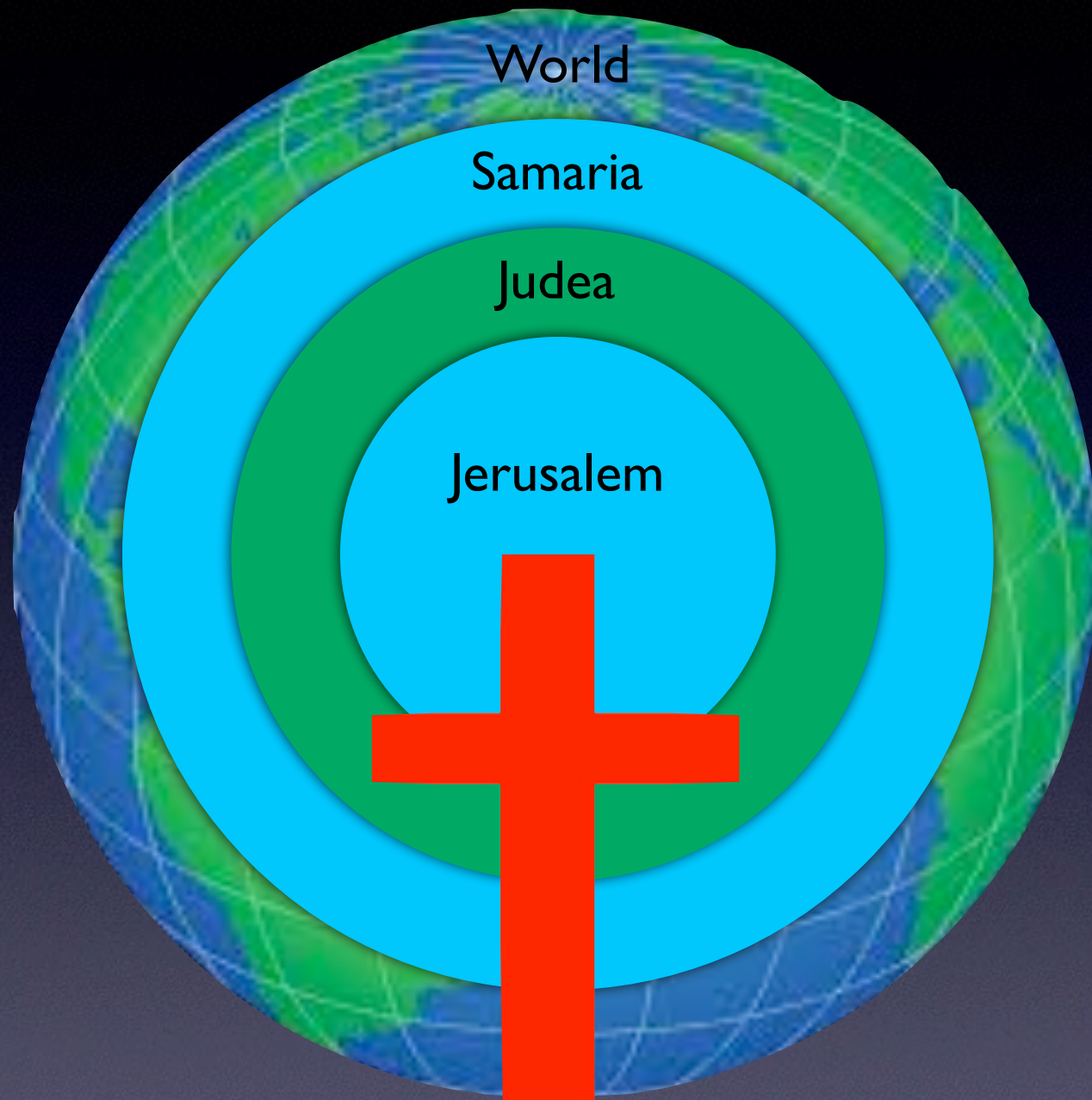
Acts 6:2

“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Theme Statement

The Church must be focused on the Word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God through prayer, but not neglecting the physical needs of its members, in order to meet its objective of making disciples in all nations through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Outline of Acts of the Apostles



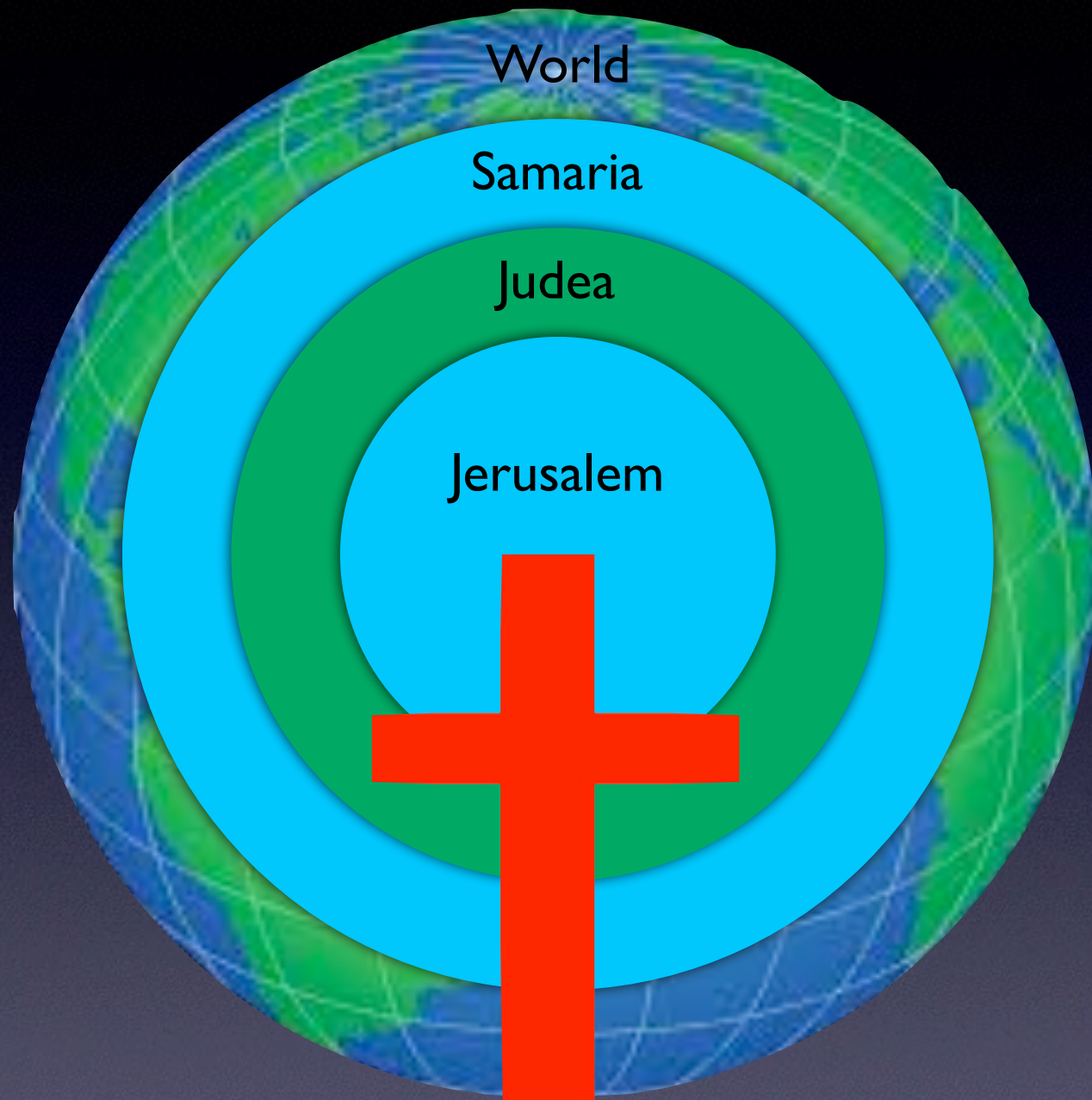
The Witness to Jerusalem
Acts 1:1 - 8:3

The Witness to Judea and
Samaria
Acts 8:4 - 12:24

The Witness to the ends
of the earth
Acts 12:25 - 21:14

From Jerusalem to Rome
Acts 21:15 - 28:31

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A Problem of Division in the Church

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3. The twelve apostles were the recognized leaders of the church

The Priority of the Word of God in the church

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1 Tim. 3:15 - but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

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Amos 8:11 - "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord God, "When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the Lord."

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1 Thessalonians 2:13 - For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

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2 Timothy 2:2 - The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will not only be able to teach others also.
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Acts 4:29-30 - “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

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3. The apostles prayed because they understood that people are in need of regeneration

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 - c. Temporary position for meeting a specific need

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Romans 16:25-26 - Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,
26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to **obedience of faith**

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Hebrews 9:11-12 - But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

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Hebrews 10:11-12 - Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God

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4. Those who opposed Stephen stirred up the people, elders and scribes; they dragged him away and brought him before the Sanhedrin
5. They brought false witnesses who charged Stephen with speaking against the temple and against the Law of Moses
6. What was Stephen's response? Luke described his physical appearance that to the Sanhedrin his face appeared like the face of an angel - his oral response is next week

Derek Thomas - "One other individual had been described as bearing the face of an angel. It was, of course, Moses, when he came down from the mountain, having been with God, emerging with the tablets of stone on which the law of God had been written. Luke was doing something quite breathtaking. As Stephen was being accused of showing disrespect for the Law of Moses, Luke was describing Stephen -- as the practitioner of the new covenant with certain aspects of the Mosaic Law 'fulfilled' in Jesus Christ -- in a way exactly the opposite to the accusations against him! Stephen was a Moses-like figure. His face was shining like the face of an angel."

Implications

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1. The primacy of the Word of God

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2. The primacy of Prayer

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3. The importance of serving in the church

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4. The primacy of evangelism