



Seed of the Church

Acts 8:4-25

Those who had been
scattered
preached the word
wherever they went.

Acts 8:4

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In his Apologeticus, he wrote, “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”

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“Their noble sacrifice and the heroic follow-up work of family members like Rachel Saint, the sister of Nate, and Jim Elliot's widow, Elisabeth, inspired a generation of Christians-some to go to the mission field and many more to live a more mature and sacrificial Christian life.” (Christianity Today)

Theme Statement

In the face of persecution, competition and counterfeits, we are to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Word of God to the widening circle of our influence through the ongoing participation of the Son of God and the indwelling power of the Spirit of God.

Church is Dispersed

Acts 8:4-8

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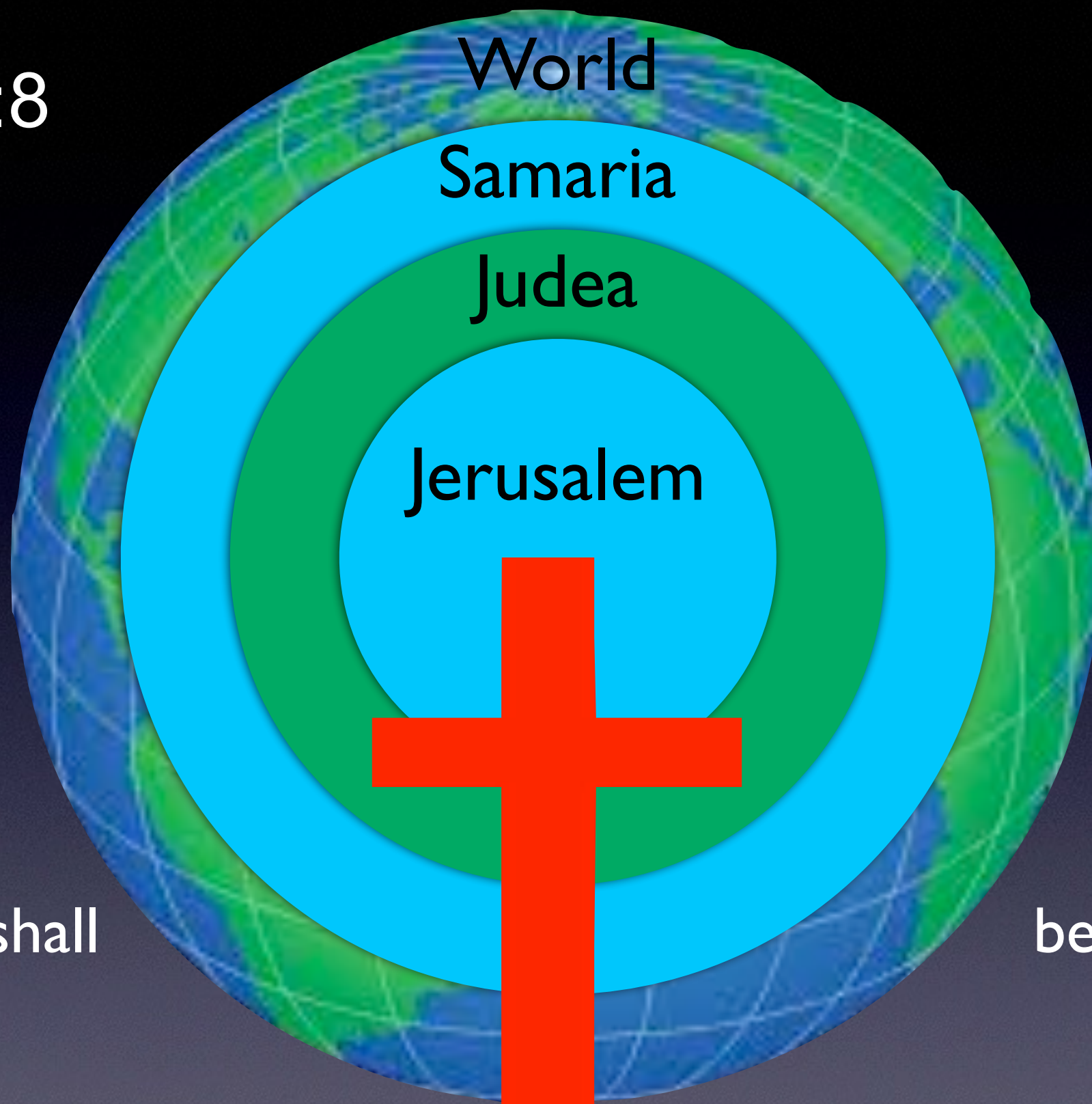
1. The church is scattered according to the plan of God to the adjacent regions - Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8

But you
will
receive
power

and you shall

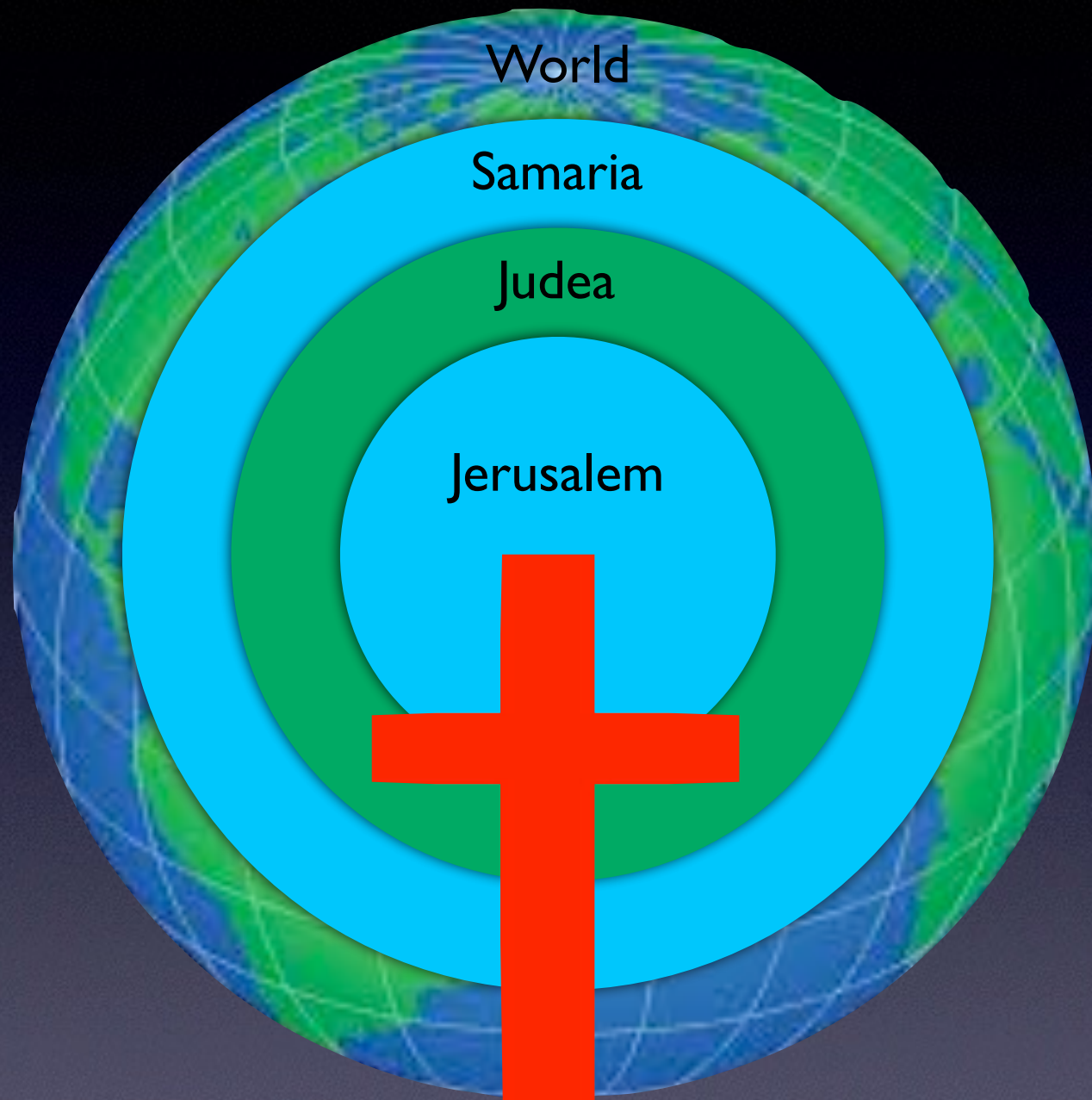
both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth



when the
Holy Spirit
has come
upon you;

be My witnesses

Outline of Acts of the Apostles



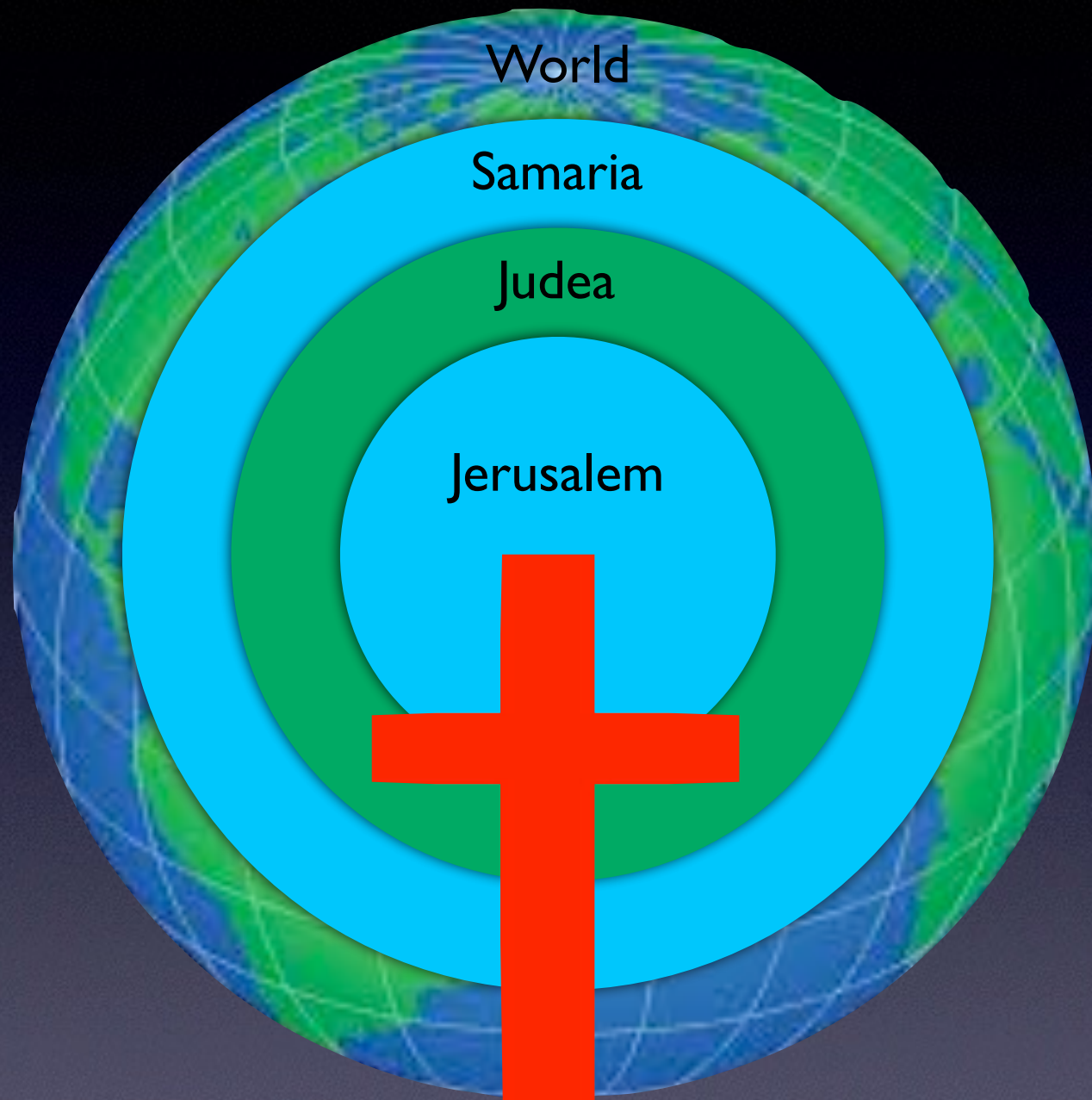
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Acts 1:1 - 8:3

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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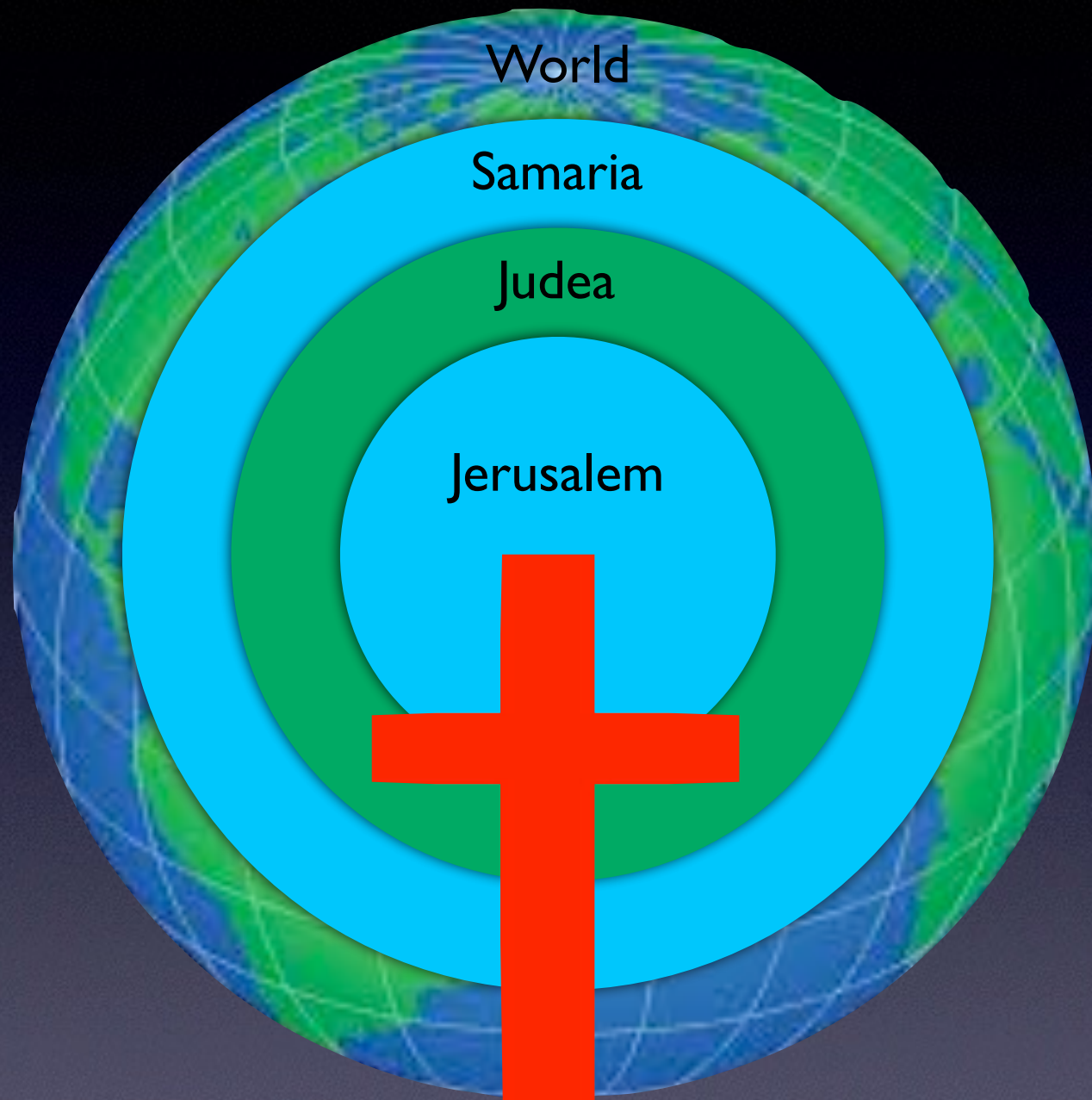
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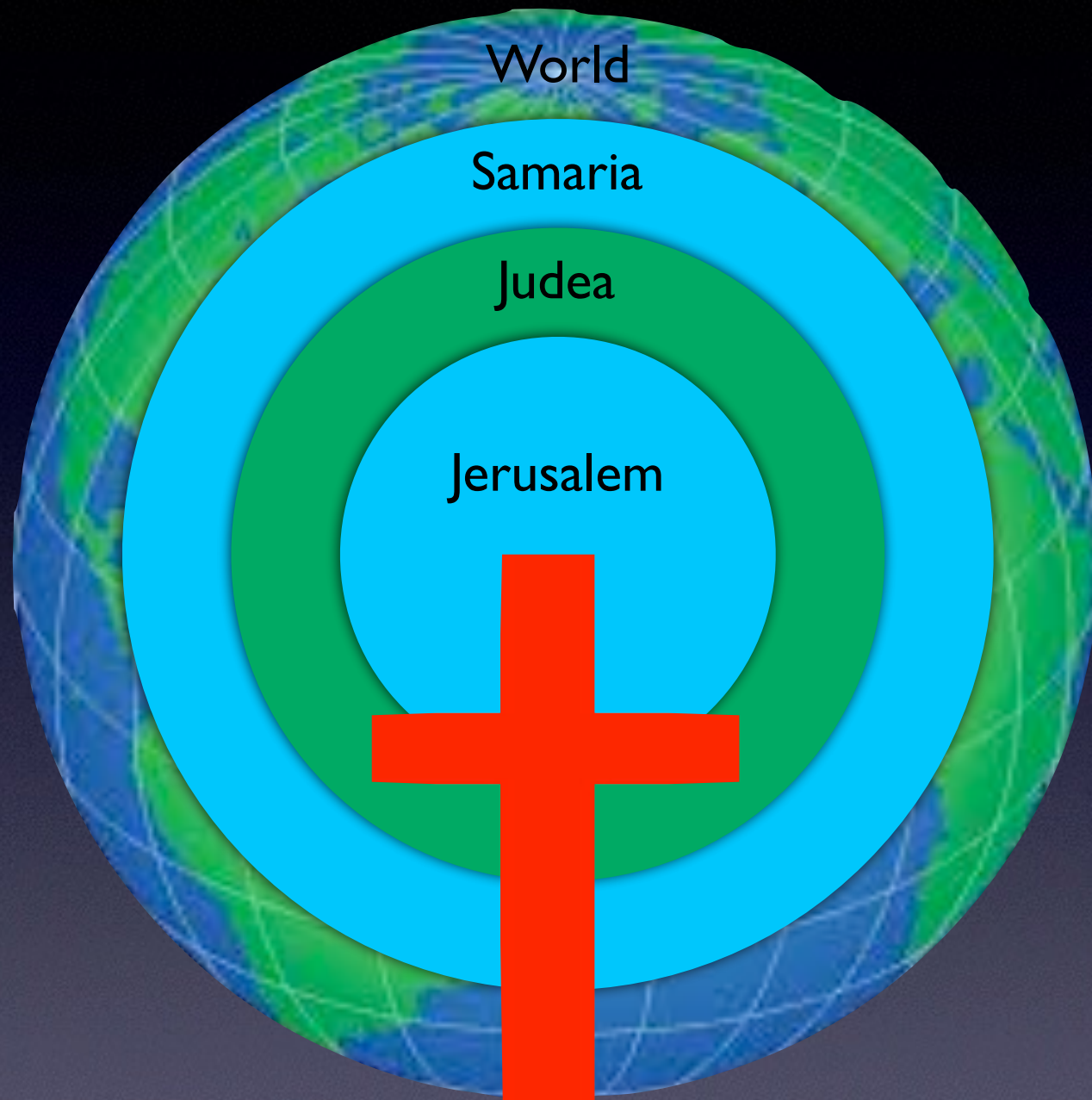
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3. The church is scattered in order to preach the word of God and, in particular, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ



Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“What an utter travesty this is of Christianity! Here is the truth: ‘They went everywhere preaching the word.’ They were not looking for anything; they were telling people what they had found. They were not explorers; they were men and women who knew exactly what they had found. This is emphasized everywhere in the New Testament. A church is not a society in which you seek for truth. The church is a society that proclaims the truth, declares it, and heralds it. And if she does not do that, she is not a church.”

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1. Luke 24:25-27 - And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
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2. The church is scattered by means of the martyrdom of Stephen and the ongoing persecution by Saul
3. The church is scattered in order to preach the word of God and, in particular, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
4. The message of Philip was confirmed by miraculous signs

Competition is Defeated

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4. Simon professed faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized but seemed to be more interested in the miraculous rather than the message

Confirmation is Demonstrated

Acts 8:14-17

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1 Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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John 14:16-17 - “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

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Acts 1:4-5 - Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

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3. Acts 10:44-48 - This is the baptism of the Spirit of God on the God-fearers (Cornelius)
4. Acts 19:1-7 - This is the baptism of the Spirit of God on unbelieving Gentiles

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

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2. Peter rebuked Simon for the evil intentions of Simon's heart and called him to repent and pray to the Lord for forgiveness
3. Instead, Simon asked Peter to pray that nothing bad would happen to Simon

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2. In the church and in our witness, we are to preach/teach the Word of God focusing on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Salvation is a personal response to the Gospel in repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ