

FORERUNNERS
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FAITH



From Pentecost to Patmos

Lesson 2



From Pentecost to Patmos

I. Acts and the Apostolic Age

- The book of Acts was written by Luke.
- Acts covers approximately thirty years of the history of the early church from AD 30-62. It is the first book of church history ever written.

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Three Reasons why the gospel was to go to Jerusalem first:

1. Salvation began with the Jews – John 4:22
2. Jews were the chosen people of God – Romans 1:16
3. Geographical significance – Ezekiel 5:5

Europe

Asia

Africa

Israel



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I. Acts and the Apostolic Age

- The radical transformation of the disciples is the result of two history-defining events:
 1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ
 2. The coming of the Holy Spirit. As eyewitnesses to the resurrected Christ, the apostles boldly testified to the truth about Him, doing so through the Spirit's power.

“The one thing all these men except Judas had in common was a willingness to acknowledge their own sinfulness and look to Christ for grace. He met them with grace, mercy, and forgiveness and transformed their lives into lives that would glorify Him. He does that for all who truly trust Him.”

- John MacArthur



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I. Acts and the Apostolic Age

- Because the disciples had been sent by Jesus as His witnesses, they are known as “apostles”, meaning “sent ones” or “ambassadors”.
- To authenticate their message, God also gave the apostles the ability to “perform miracles”.

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I. Acts and the Apostolic Age

- When John, the last surviving apostle, died around the year 100 the apostolic age came to a close.

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I. Acts and the Apostolic Age

II. The Church is Born (Acts 2)



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II. The Church is Born (Acts 2)

- That promise began to be fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost in the year AD 30.
- About 120 followers of Jesus, including the apostles were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came to indwell and empower them.

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II. The Church is Born (Acts 2)

- Jewish pilgrims lived in other parts of the Roman empire and, therefore, spoke native languages other than Aramaic and Greek.
- The miraculous gift is known as the gift of tongues.
- Some 3,000 people believed.

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I. Acts and the Apostolic Age

II. The Church is Born (Acts 2)

III. The Martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7)

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III. The Martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7)

- The word *martyr* comes from a Greek word meaning “witness”.

“In this way, God used the death of Stephen and the resulting persecution to scatter believers throughout the Roman world, thereby beginning to fulfill the Great Commission of Matt.28:18-20”

- Nathan Busenitz



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IV. The Conversions of Saul and Cornelius (Acts 9-10)

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IV. Saul and Cornelius (Acts 9-10)

- One of the primary persecutors of the church was a man named "Saul".
- "Saul" was his Hebrew name. Later, he would be known by his Greek name, "Paul".
- Saul would eventually co-pastor with Barnabas.

“[Conversion] is the total change of man’s chief end.”

“God works with power, and can make the unwilling willing; if He undertake the conversion of a soul, it will be converted. All the pious workings of our heart towards God are the fruit and consequence of the powerful working of His grace in us.”

- Thomas Goodwin



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IV. Saul and Cornelius (Acts 9-10)

- The Lord prepared Peter by showing him a vision of unclean animals (see Lev.11) and telling him to not regard as unclean what God had cleansed (Acts 10:9-16).

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V. The First Church Council (Acts 15)

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IV. Saul and Cornelius (Acts 9-10)

- Through faith in Christ, sinners can be forgiven (from their debt of sin) and justified (declared righteous by God).
- Salvation is by faith alone, apart from the Law.
- Under the leadership of James, the brother of Jesus, the council affirmed the ministry of Paul and Barnabas.

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VI. Additional Missionary Journeys (Acts 16-28)

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VI. Additional Missionary Journeys (Acts 16-28)

- This time Paul traveled with Silas (Acts 15:40) and Timothy (Acts 16:1-3).
- He began in the synagogue, reasoning with his Jewish hearers from the Old Testament. When he was no longer welcome there, he would preach to the Gentiles of that city.
- While in Rome, Paul was placed under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:30-31).

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VII. After the Book of Acts

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- He apparently traveled to Troas and Miletus (2 Tim.4:13,20), Crete (Titus 1:5), and even Spain (Rom.15:23-24).
- The 80s and 90s feature the ministry of the apostle John.

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VII. Coming Full Circle

1. The good news of salvation is intended for all people of every ethnic background and language group.
2. Followers of the Lord Jesus are called to be His witnesses, speaking with conviction and standing with courage.
3. The Lord has been faithful to fulfill His promise to build the church.