

Acts

Contents

Acts

1Dear Theophilus ¹, in my previous book I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day he was taken up to heaven. This was after he'd given instructions through the Holy Spirit to his chosen apostles. ³ Over the course of forty days after the death he suffered, he showed himself to them, proving that he was alive with convincing evidence. He appeared to them, and told them about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While he was still with them ² he instructed them, "Do not leave Jerusalem. Wait to receive what the Father promised, just as you heard it from me. ⁵ It's true that John baptized with water, but in just a few days' time you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit."

6So when the disciples met with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will re-establish Israel's kingdom?"

7"You don't need to know about the dates and times that are set by the Father's authority," he told them. ⁸ "But you will be given power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest places on earth."

9After Jesus had told them this, he was taken up as they were watching and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ While they were staring intently at the sky as he ascended, two men dressed in white were suddenly standing beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky?" they asked. "This same Jesus who has been taken up from you to heaven shall come in the same way you saw him go into heaven."

12Then the disciples went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives which is about a Sabbath day's walk from Jerusalem ³. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the upper room where they were staying: Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together in prayer, together with the women and Mary, Jesus' mother, and his brothers.

15At this time Peter stood up and addressed a crowd of around one hundred and twenty believers who had gathered together.

¹ + 1:1. Meaning "One who loves God," either a specific person, or more generically. The "previous book" mentioned is the Gospel of Luke.

² + 1:4. Or, "while he was sharing a meal with them."

³ + 1:12. In other words, a relatively short distance.

16“My brothers and sisters,” he said, “The Scriptures, spoken by the Holy Spirit through David, had to be fulfilled regarding Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was counted as one of us, and shared in this ministry.”

18(Judas had bought a field with his ill-gotten gains. There he fell down headfirst, and his body burst apart, spilling out all his intestines. ¹⁹ Everybody who lived in Jerusalem heard about this so that the field was called in their language “Akeldama,” which means, “Field of blood.”). ²⁰ As it’s written in the book of Psalms, “Let his home be abandoned, and no-one live there;” and “Let someone else take over his position.” ⁴

21”So now we have to choose someone who has been with us the whole time that Jesus was with us, ²² from the time John was baptizing up until the day Jesus was taken up to heaven from us. One of these must be chosen to join together with us as we witness, giving evidence of Jesus’ resurrection.” ²³ Two names were put forward: Joseph Justus, also known as Barsabbas, and Matthias. ²⁴ They prayed together and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s thoughts ⁵ ; please show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to replace Judas as an apostle in this ministry that he gave up to go to where he belongs.” ²⁶ They cast lots, and Matthias was chosen. He was counted as an apostle with the other eleven.

2When the day of Pentecost came, they were all meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly a noise came from heaven like a roaring wind that filled the whole house where they were staying. ³ They saw what looked like separate tongue-shaped flames that settled on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to do so.

5At that time there were devout Jews from every nation on earth living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard this noise, a large crowd of them gathered. They were puzzled because everyone heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ They were totally amazed, saying, “Look, these people who are speaking—aren’t they all Galileans? ⁸ So how is it that we can all hear them speaking in our own mother tongue?” ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia; from Egypt and the area of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and converts, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians—we hear them speaking in our own languages about all the great things God has done.”

⁴+ 1:20. Citing Psalm 69:25 and 109:8.

⁵+ 1:24. “You know everyone’s thoughts”—literally, “heart-knower.”

12They were all amazed and confused. “What does this mean?” they asked each other. ¹³ But others jeered and said, “They’ve been drinking too much wine!”

14Then Peter stood up with the eleven disciples and spoke in a loud voice: “Fellow Jews and everyone living here in Jerusalem: pay attention to me and I’ll explain all this to you! ¹⁵ These men aren’t drunk as you presume. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ What’s happening is what was predicted by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ ‘God says, “In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ I will pour out my Spirit on my servants, both male and female, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will also give you miraculous signs in the heavens above and on the earth below—blood, fire, and swirling smoke! ²⁰ The sun will become dark, and the moon will become red like blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ But whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” ⁶

22“People of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man confirmed by God to you by the powerful miracles and signs that God performed through him, right here among you—as you well know. ²³ God, knowing beforehand what would happen, followed his plan and resolved to hand him over to you. By means of the hands of wicked men, you killed him by nailing him to a cross. ²⁴ But God raised him back to life, freeing him from the burden of death, because death did not have the power to keep him a prisoner.

25“David says of him, ‘I saw the Lord always in front of me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. ²⁶ That’s why my heart is glad! That’s why my words are full of joy! That’s why my body lives in hope! ²⁷ For you will not abandon me in the grave ⁷, nor will you allow your Holy One to experience decay. ²⁸ You have revealed to me the ways of life. You will fill me with joy with your presence.’ ⁸

29“My brothers and sisters, let me tell you plainly that our ancestor David died and was buried, and his tomb is here with us to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet, and knew that God had promised on oath to place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ David saw what would happen and spoke about the resurrection of Christ—for Christ was not abandoned to the grave nor did he experience decay.

⁶ + 2:16. Quoting Joel 2:28-32.

⁷ + 2:27. Literally, “Hades,” the place of the dead. Also verse 31.

⁸ + 2:28. Quoting Psalm 16:8-11.

32“God has raised this Jesus from the dead, and we’re all witnesses of that.
³³ Now he’s been exalted to God’s right hand, and has received from the
 Father the Holy Spirit whom he promised, and has poured out what you’re
 seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David didn’t ascend into heaven, but he did say,
 ‘The Lord told my Lord, “Sit down here at my right hand ³⁵ until I have
 made your enemies a stool to put your feet on.’” ⁹ ³⁶ Now let everyone in
 Israel be totally convinced of this: God has made this Jesus, who you killed
 on a cross, both Lord and Messiah!” ¹⁰

37When the people heard this they were conscience-stricken ¹¹. They
 asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

38“Repent!” Peter told them. “All of you must be baptized in the name of
 Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of
 the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is given to you, to your children, and to all
 who are far away—everyone the Lord our God calls.”

40Peter went on speaking, giving them much more evidence. He warned
 them, “Save yourselves from this perverted generation.” ⁴¹ Those who
 accepted what he’d said were baptized, adding about three thousand people
 to the group of believers that day.

42They committed themselves to what the apostles had taught them, and
 to the fellowship of the believers, “breaking bread” ¹² and praying together.
⁴³ Everyone was in awe, and many miracles and signs were done through the
 apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and shared everything they had.
⁴⁵ They sold their property and belongings, sharing the proceeds with
 everyone as they needed. ⁴⁶ Day after day they continued to meet together
 in the Temple, and ate together in their homes. They enjoyed their meals
 humbly and happily. They praised God, and everyone thought favorably of
 them. ⁴⁷ Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being
 saved.

3Peter and John were on their way up to the Temple at the time of the
 afternoon prayer, around 3 p.m. ² A man who had been lame from birth was
 being carried there. Every day he was placed beside the Temple gate called
 “Beautiful” so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ He
 saw Peter and John as they were about to enter the Temple and asked them
 for some money. ⁴ Peter looked right at him. John did, too.

⁹+ 2:35. Quoting Psalm 110:1. A sign of victory.

¹⁰+ 2:36. Messiah (Hebrew) is equivalent to Christ (Greek).

¹¹+ 2:37. Literally, “cut to the heart.”

¹²+ 2:42. This is probably a reference to the Lord’s Supper, and not just ordinary meals,
 though they would also be included.

“ Look at us!” Peter said. ⁵ The lame man gave them his full attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ “I don’t have any silver or gold,” Peter told him, “but I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!”

⁷Peter took him by the right hand and helped him up. Right away his feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet, and then began to walk. He went with them into the Temple, walking and jumping and praising God. ⁹ Everyone there saw him walking around and praising God. ¹⁰ They recognized him as the beggar who used to sit by the Temple’s Beautiful Gate, and they were surprised and amazed at what had happened to him. ¹¹ He held on tightly to Peter and John while everyone ran to them by Solomon’s Porch ¹³ in complete astonishment at what had happened.

¹²When Peter saw this opportunity he told them, “People of Israel, why are you surprised at what’s happened to this man? Why are you staring at us as if it was by our own power or faith that we made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our forefathers—has glorified his servant Jesus. He was the one you betrayed and rejected in the presence of Pilate, even after Pilate had decided to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected the One who is Holy and Right, and demanded a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the Author of life, the one God raised from the dead—and we are witnesses to this. ¹⁶ By trusting in Jesus’ name this man was healed by him. You see this man here; you know him. Through trusting in Jesus this man has received complete healing right in front of all of you.

¹⁷“Now I know, brothers and sisters, that you did this in ignorance, like your rulers. ¹⁸ But God fulfilled what he had prophesied through all the prophets: that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Now repent, and change your ways, that your sins can be wiped away, so the Lord can send opportunities for you to heal and recover, ²⁰ and send Jesus, the Messiah appointed for you. ²¹ For he must stay in heaven until the time when everything is restored, as God announced through his holy prophets long ago.

²²“Moses said, ‘The Lord God will send you a prophet from among your own people who is like me. You must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ Anybody who doesn’t listen to him will be totally removed from the people.’ ²⁴ All the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel on, prophesied about these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets, and of the agreement ¹⁴ which God made with your fathers when he said to Abraham, “From your descendants all the families of the earth will be blessed. ²⁶ God prepared his

¹³ + 3:11. A section of the Temple, see also 5:12.

¹⁴ + 3:25. Or “covenant.”

Servant and sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your evil ways.”

4While they were talking to the people, the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and the Sadducees came up to them. ² They were angry that they were teaching the people, telling them that through Jesus there is resurrection from the dead. ³ They arrested them and placed them under guard until the following day since it was already evening. ⁴ But many who had heard the message believed it, and the total number of believers grew to about five thousand.

5The next day, the rulers, elders, and religious leaders met together in Jerusalem. ⁶ They included the high priest Annas, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others of the high priest’s family. ⁷ They brought Peter and John before them and asked, “By what power or by whose authority have you done this?”

8Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered them. “Rulers of the people, and elders: ⁹ Are we being interrogated regarding a good deed done to a man who couldn’t help himself, and how he came to be healed? ¹⁰ If so, all of you should know, and all the people of Israel, that it was in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the one you killed on a cross and whom God raised from the dead—it’s because of him that this man stands before you completely healed. ¹¹ ‘He is the stone you builders rejected, but he has been made the chief cornerstone.’ ¹⁵ ¹² There is no salvation in anyone else; there is no other name under heaven given to humanity that can possibly save us.”

13When they saw Peter and John’s confidence, and realized they were uneducated, ordinary men, they were very surprised. They also recognized them as Jesus’ companions. ¹⁴ Since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there with them, they had nothing to say in response to what had happened.

15So they instructed them to wait outside the council while they discussed the matter among themselves. ¹⁶ “What should we do with these men?” they asked. “We can’t deny a significant miracle has happened through them. Everybody living here in Jerusalem knows about it. ¹⁷ But to prevent it spreading among the people any further, we should threaten them never to speak to anybody in this name ¹⁶ again.”

¹⁵ + 4:11. Quoting Ps. 118:22.

¹⁶ + 4:17. Clearly the name of Jesus, but they did not even want to mention the actual name...