

An Introduction and Overview

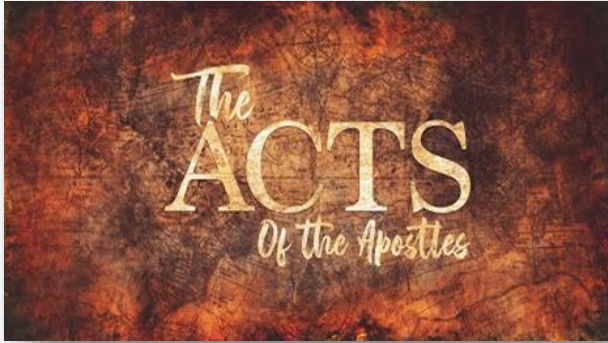
Luke 1:1-3

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand
to set in order a narrative of those things
which have been fulfilled among us...
it seemed good to me also...
to write to you an orderly account,
most excellent **Theophilus**...

Θεόφιλος (Theophilos)
= friend of God;

Acts 1:1-3

The former account I made, O **Theophilus**,
of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
until the day in which He was taken up...



Luke, the beloved physician

Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

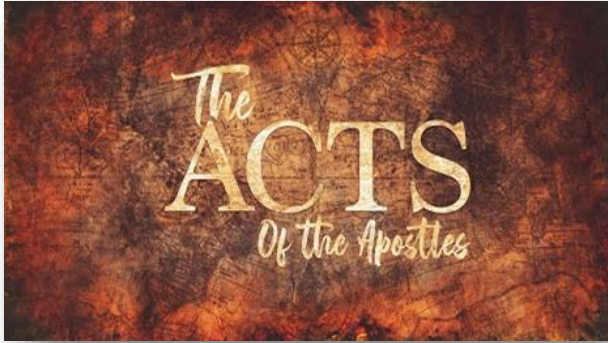
(Colossians 4:14)

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,
as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, **Luke**, my fellow laborers.

(Philemon 1:23-24)

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you,
for he is useful to me for ministry.

(2 Timothy 4:11)



Luke with Paul in Acts

The Second Journey

Now after he had seen the vision, immediately **we sought to go to Macedonia**, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

(Acts 16:10)

The Third Journey

Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, **he came to Greece** and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These men, going ahead, **waited for us at Troas**.

(Acts 20:1-5)

The Trip to Rome

And when it was decided that **we should sail to Italy**, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment. So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, **we put to sea**, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, **was with us**.

(Acts 27:1-2)

Is Acts reliable?

“Further study ... showed that the book [Acts] could bear the most minute scrutiny as an authority for the facts of the Aegean world, and that it was written with such judgment, skill, art and perception of truth as to be a model of historical statement”.

Sir William Ramsay (1851-1939)

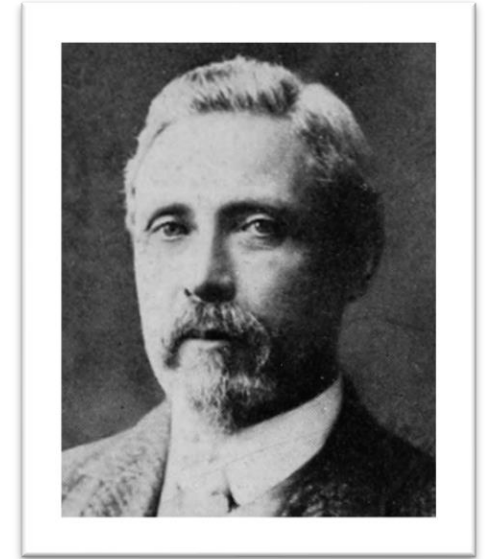
For example:

Luke writes of:-

- *proconsuls* in senatorial provinces
- *asiarchs* in Ephesus
- *politarchs* in Thessalonica

politarch (Acts 17:6)

The term was unknown in Greek literature outside Acts, but Ramsay found five inscriptions with the term in Thessalonica.



Ramsay gained 3 honorary fellowships from Oxford colleges, 9 honorary doctorates from British, Continental and North American universities, and was an honorary member of almost every association devoted to archaeology and historical research.

See also: [Sergius Paulus: An Archaeological Biography – Bible Archaeology Report](#)

The book without an ending...

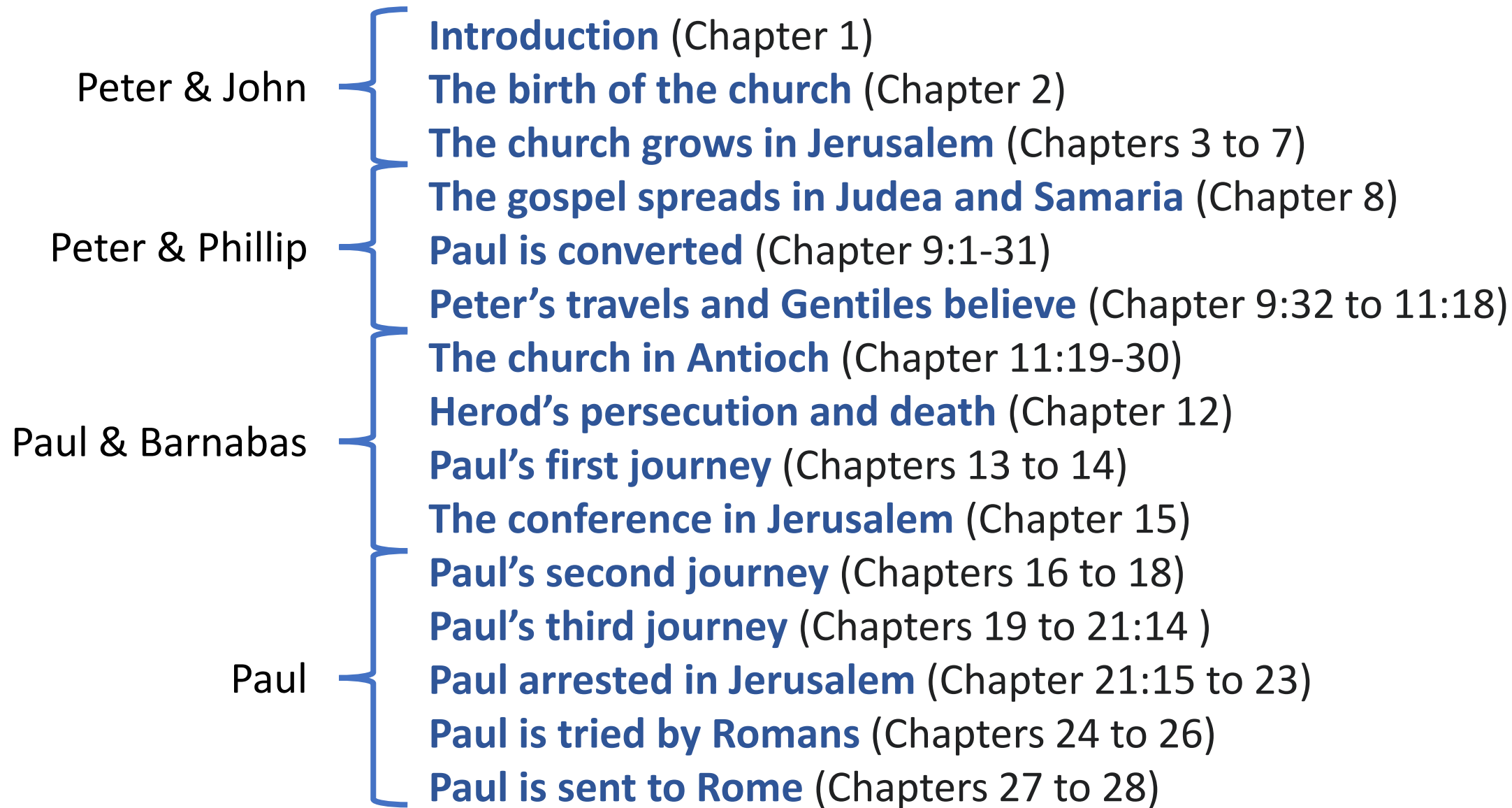
Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house,
and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God
and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ
with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

(Acts 28:30-31)

“You shall be witnesses to Me
in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea
and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)



The Acts of the Apostles - a Summary





ITALY

Rome
Three Taverns

Forum of Appius
Puteoli

Rhegium

Syracuse

Melita (Malta)

MACEDONIA

Thessalonica

Berea

Corinth

Achaia

Philippi

Samothrace

Athens

Miletus

Patmos

Cnidus

Crete

Fair Havens

Cyrene

Black Sea

PONTUS

BITHYNIA

MYSIA

ASIA

Pergamum

LYDIA

Smyrna

Ephesus

PISIDIA

Laodicea

PAMPHYLIA

Perga

LYCIA

Myra

Rhodes

Alexandria

EGYPT

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

CILICIA

Tarsus

Antioch

Cyprus

Salamis

Paphos

Sidon

Tyre

Caesarea

Joppa

Gaza

PHOENICIA

SYRIA

Damascus

Ptolemais

Samaria

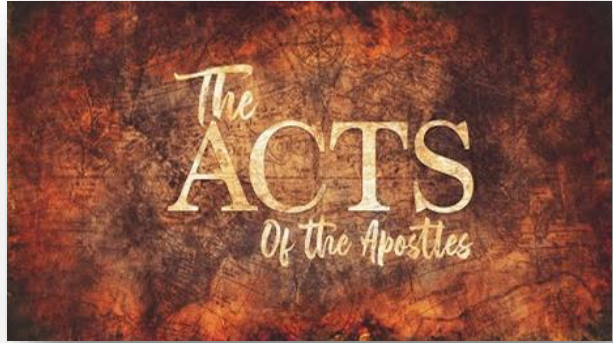
Jerusalem

LIBYA

Mediterranean Sea

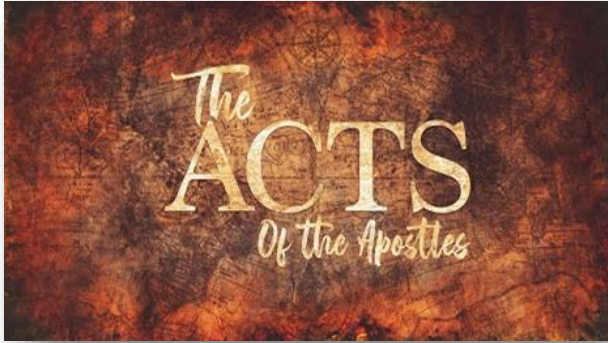
Records of preaching in Acts

- To Jews
 - Peter to **Jews** in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2:14-40)
 - Peter to **Jews** in Jerusalem after a miracle (Acts 3:12-26)
 - Peter's defence before the **Sanhedrin** (Acts 4:8-12)
 - Stephen's defence before the **Sanhedrin** (Acts 7:2-53)
- To Gentiles
 - Peter to **Cornelius** and his household (Acts 10:34-43)
- To Jews
 - Paul to **Jews** in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:16-41)
- To Gentiles
 - Paul to **philosophers** in Athens (Acts 17:22-31)
 - Paul to the **elders** from Ephesus (Acts 20:18-35)
- To Jews
 - Paul's defence before the **mob** in Jerusalem (Acts 22:1-21)
- To Gentiles
 - Paul's defence before the governor **Felix** (Acts 24:10-21)
 - Paul's defence before **King Agrippa** (Acts 26:1:29)



What should we learn from Acts?

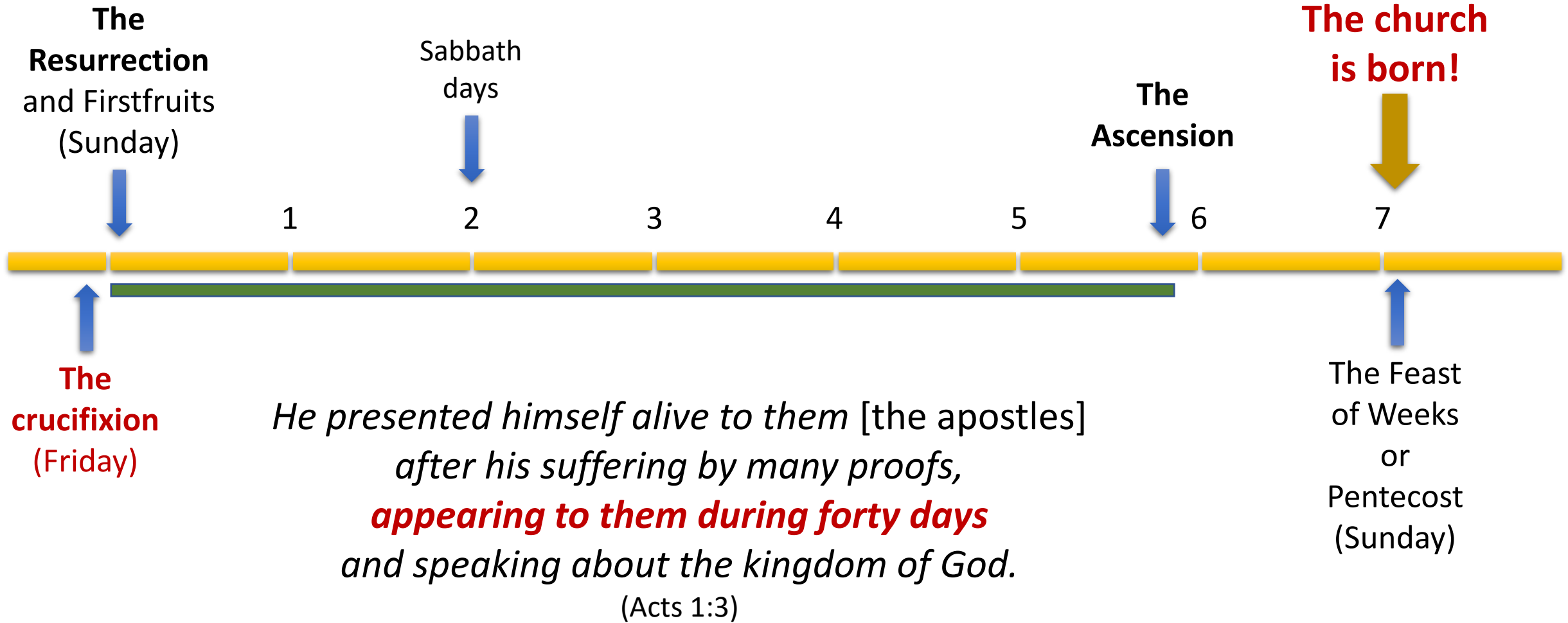
Is it just HISTORY
or is it TEACHING?



Before Pentecost - Acts 1

- The Prologue
- The promise of the Holy Spirit
- The Kingdom of Israel
- The replacement for Judas

➤ The Prologue



➤ The Promise of the Holy Spirit

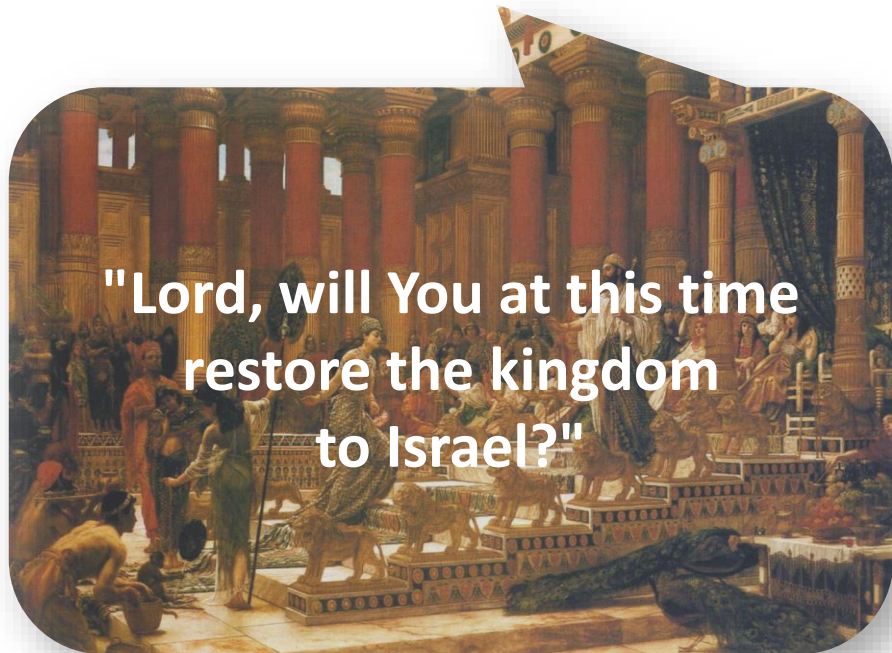
... He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem,
but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said,
*“You heard from me; for John baptised with water,
but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit
not many days from now.”*

(Acts 1:4-5)

*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper,
that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;
but you know Him,
for He dwells **with you** and will be **in you.**”*

(John 14:16-17)

➤ The Kingdom of Israel



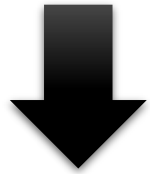
"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

➤ The replacement for Judas

“Of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us ... one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”
And they proposed two: **Joseph** called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and **Matthias**.

(Acts 1:21-23)

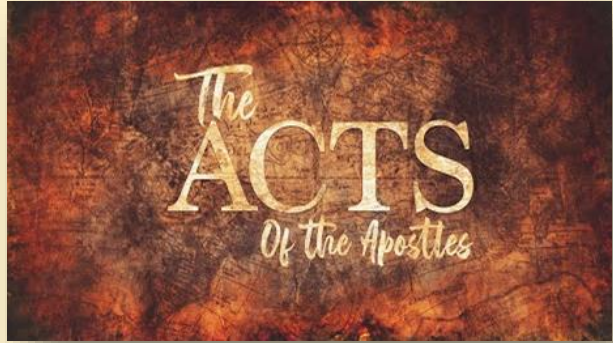


And they cast their lots,
and the lot fell on Matthias.
And he was numbered with
the eleven apostles.

(Acts 1:26)

Is this how we find
God's will?





Next: **The birth of the church**