

“THE SPREADING FLAME”

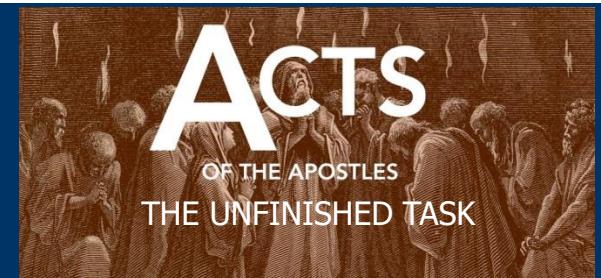
(Selected Texts in Acts)

Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 1

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: August 12, 2018

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



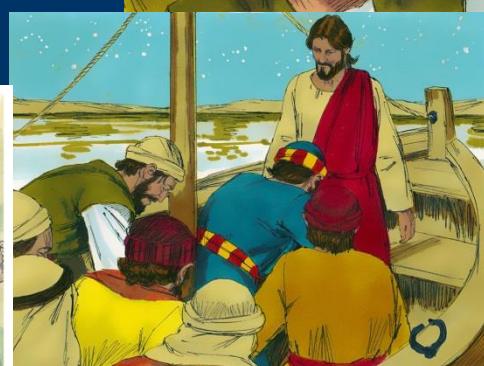
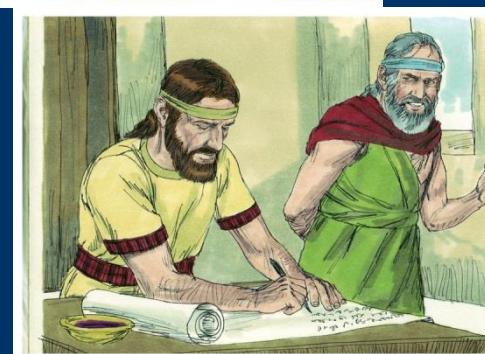
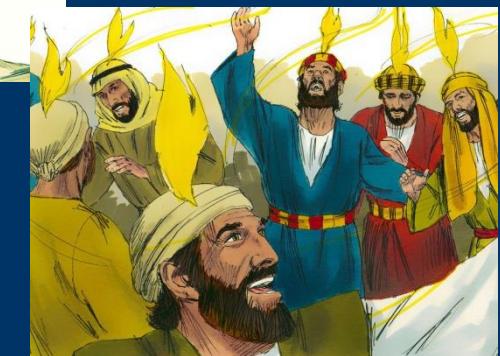
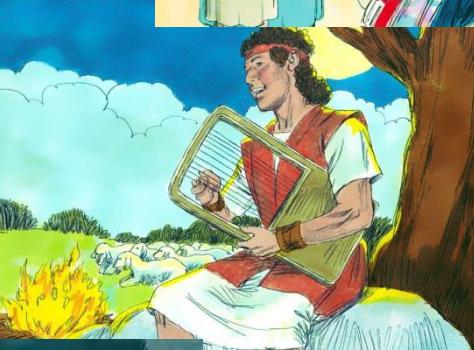
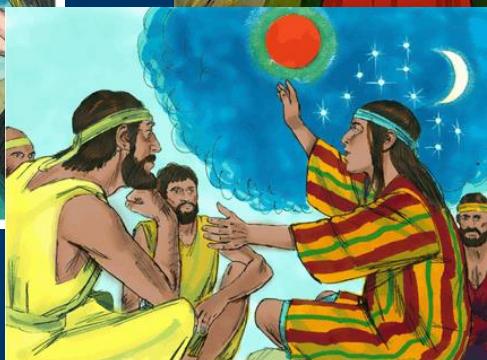
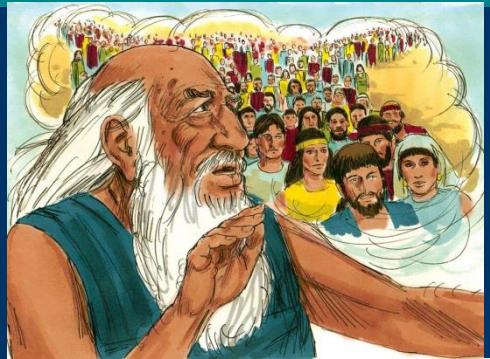
INTRODUCTION:

The Olympic Flame



INTRODUCTION:

The Gospel Flame



I. SOME HELPFUL FACTS ABOUT ACTS



Acts is a true history book, recording how the early Christians lived out the teachings of Christ.

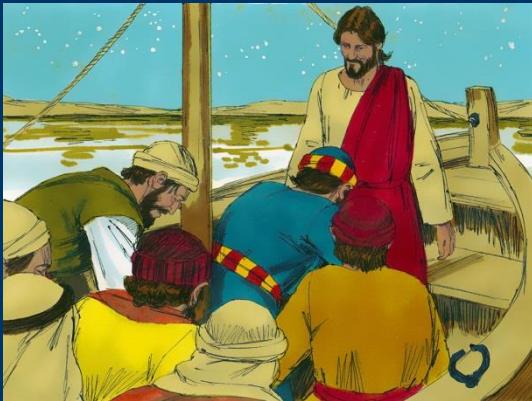
Acts 1:1 *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach.*

Acts is Luke's sequel to his Gospel - what Christ continued to do through the Holy Spirit.

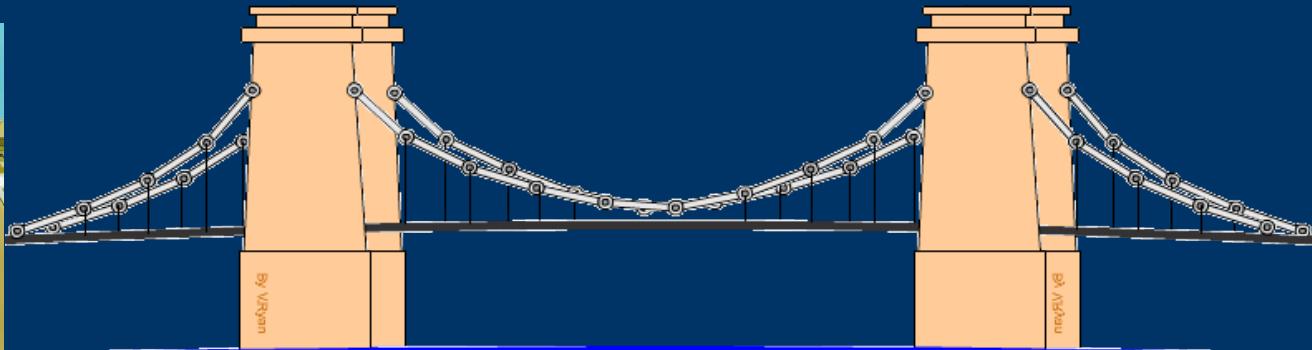
GOSPEL	THEME	Gospel Reference	Acts Reference
Matthew	Christ's resurrection	(Matthew 28:1-10)	(Acts 1:3)
Mark	Christ's ascension	(Mark 6:19)	(Acts 1:9)
Luke	Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit	(Luke 24:49)	(Acts 1:5)
John	Christ's second coming	(John 21:22)	(Acts 1:11)

II. CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

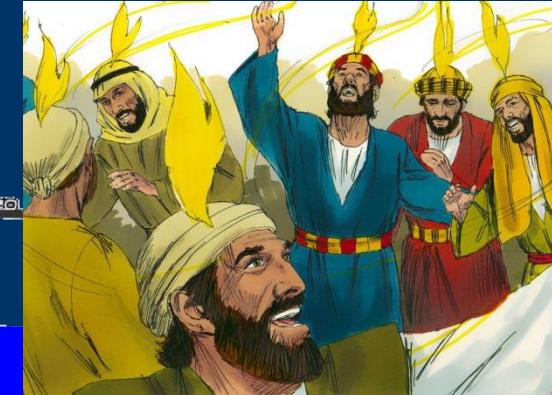
Gospel



The Bridge



Acts



We find the Son of God offering His life.

Original "seeds" of the church are planted: "I will build My church."

Christ is crucified, risen, and ascended.

We see a personal model of what Christianity is all about (Jesus).

The emphasis is on Christ.

We see Him offering His power.

Those seeds take root, begin to sprout, grow, blossom, and bear fruit.

Christ is seated in heaven and exalted as head of His body, the church.

We see human examples of that life fleshed out in ordinary men and women (followers).

The emphasis is on the Holy Spirit.

III. THE WHO AND WHY OF ACTS



The Author: Dr. Luke

The Purpose: To record a reliable account of the events that followed the ascension of Christ.

IV. THE WHAT AND WHERE OF ACTS

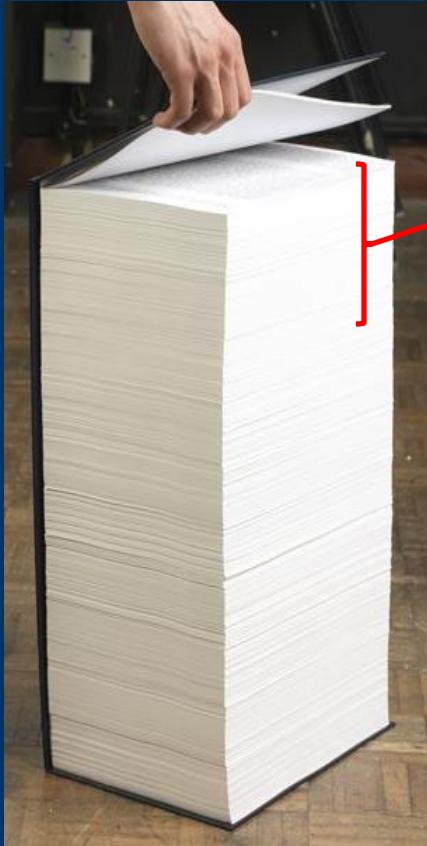


The What: The contents of the book cover a thirty year time period - from about A.D. 30, when Jesus ascends to heaven, to A.D. 60, when Paul takes the gospel to Rome.

The Where: Acts tours the ancient world taking us from Jerusalem to what is now Syria and Turkey, then hop scotching across the Mediterranean to Greece and finally Italy.

V. AN EASY OUTLINE TO REMEMBER

Acts 1:8 *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*

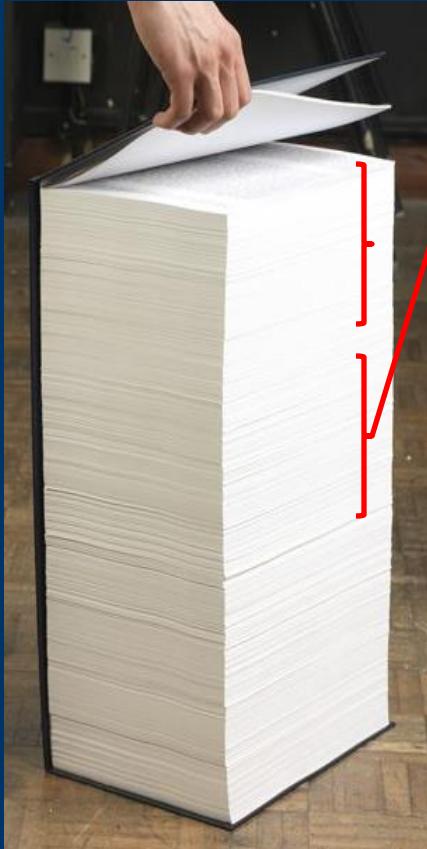


Chapters 1-7 describe the church established at Jerusalem.

Acts 8:1b *And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

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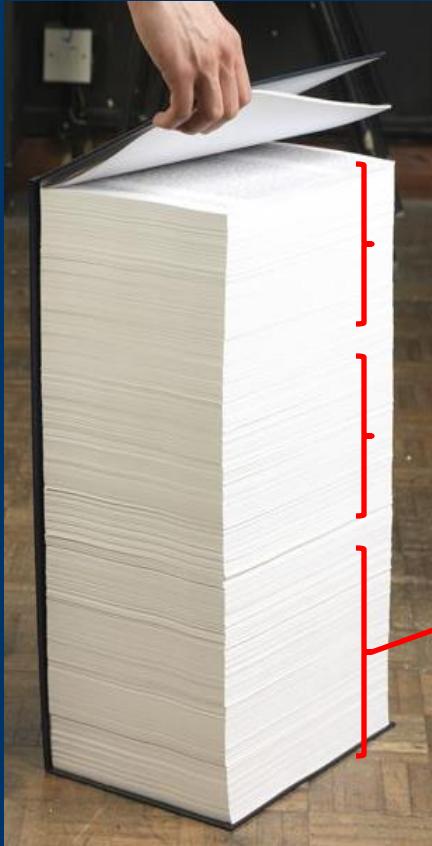


Chapters 8-12 describe the church scattered to Judea and Samaria.

Acts 13:1-3 *Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers. Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

V. AN EASY OUTLINE TO REMEMBER

Acts 1:8 *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*



Acts 28:31 *...preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.*

Chapters 13-28 describe the church extended to the remotest part of the earth.

IV. AN ESSENTIAL BOOK TO APPLY



The Book of Acts lay out the different stages of church growth.

Establishing: Putting down roots and laying a strong foundation

Scattering: Persecution and pain, discomfort and disappointment are ways that God used to break us out of the shell.

Extending: Having profited from life's buffeting, we become seasoned, mature servants of Christ, we are ready to reach out.

CONCLUSION:



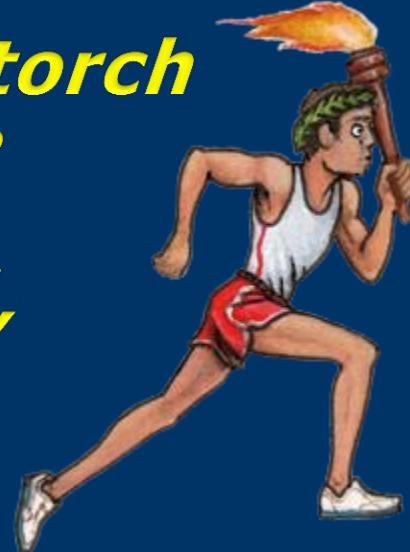
The Book of Acts, is an unfinished book, for it is still being written in your life and the lives of all Christians who carry Christ's flame into a darkened world.



***Will you be willing to bear the torch
for the flame that Jesus started?***

***Have you been bearing the torch
and passing it on to others?***

***When the book of Acts is concluded,
will your name be included as a
faithful torch bearer for Christ?***





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** *What the grandest sport event and why was it celebrated?*
- 2.** *What kind of literature is Acts written in? How does it link to the Four Gospels?*
- 3.** *What are some contrasts between the Gospels and Acts?*
- 4.** *Who is the author of Acts? Why was the book of Acts written?*
- 5.** *What are some contents in the book of Acts not found in the Four Gospel?*
- 6.** *Why is the book of Acts so essential in bridging the gospel with the letters of Paul?*



Scripture References:

Selected Texts in Acts