

Book of Acts Ch 8-15

# ACTS [of the Holy Spirit]

# Where Are We?

- Chapters 1-7

- ▶ • Chapters 8-12

- Chapters 13-29

## Formation of the Church

- Pentecost & Jerusalem Church

## Transition of the Church

- Set apart from Judaism
- Inclusion of Gentiles

## Expansion of the Church

- ▶ • Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Trip
- Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Return to Jerusalem
- Appeal to Caesar & Voyage to Rome

# As Was Foretold...

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**.”

- Jerusalem → Ch. 1-7
- Judea & Samaria → Ch. 8-11:18
- Ends of the Earth → Ch. 11:18-end

# Themes in Acts 8-15

- **CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 8:15 – Descending upon Believers in Samaria
- 9:17 – Ananias laying of hands for Paul to receive Him
- 9:31 – Spirit Encouraging throughout Judea & Samaria
- 10:19 – Speaking to Peter after vision
- 10:44 – Descending upon Cornelius' household
- 11:24 – Barnabas full of the Spirit in Phoenician Antioch
- 11:28 – Prediction of famine given to Agabus
- 13:2 – Calling of Paul and Barnabas
- 13:9 – Rebuking Elymas the Sorcerer through Paul
- 13:52 – Disciples filled with Spirit in Pisidian Antioch

# Themes in Acts 8-15

- **SUPERNATURAL ACTS**
  - 8:39 – Philip swept away by Spirit of the Lord
  - Ch. 12 – Peter's prison escape
  - 12:23 – Herod's death
  - 13:11 – Elymas the Sorcerer's sudden blindness
- Countless miracles!

# Themes in Acts 8-15

- **MIRACLES**

- 8:6-7 – In Samaria, evil spirits cast out & cripples healed by Philip
- 8:13 – In Samaria, further signs and miracles by Philip
- 9:18 – Paul's blindness healed by Ananias
- 9:34 – Aeneas healed of paralysis by Peter
- 9:40 – Dorcas raised from the dead by Peter
- 14:3 – In Iconium, signs and wonders performed by Paul and Barnabas
- 14:10 – In Lystra, Paul heals a cripple

# Themes in Acts 8-15

- **CONVERTS INCLUDE THE PRESTIGIOUS**
  - Cornelius – Centurion of Italian Regiment (Ch. 10)
  - Ethiopian Eunuch – Official to the Queen (9:26-40)
  - Saul/Paul – High Roman Official
  - Sergius Paulus – Cyprian Proconsul (13:4-12)
  - Manaen – Adopted Into King Herod Antipas' Family (13:1)

# Themes in Acts 8 & Beyond

- **PAUL GOES STRAIGHT TO THE SYNAGOGUES**

- Salamis, Cyprus (13:5)
- Pisidian Antioch (13:14)
- Iconium (14:1)
- Thessalonica (17:1)
- Berea (17:10)
- Athens (17:17)
- Corinth (18:4)
- Ephesus (18:19, 19:8)
- Note: God-fearing Greeks and Gentiles were often in attendance also



# Themes in Acts 8 & Beyond

- **GOSPEL EXPANSION**

- 6:7 – At start of Jerusalem church
- 9:31 – Throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria
- 12:24 – After Herod's death
- 16:5 – Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey
- 19:20 – In Ephesus
- 28:31 – Conclusion of book

# Summary of Acts 8-15

- Chapter 8

- 1-3 Paul “ravages” the Jerusalem church, Church scatters
- 4-8 Philip preaches in Samaria
- 9-25 Simon the Sorcerer wants Holy Spirit “magical powers”, Peter rebukes him
- 26-40 Philip evangelizes to Ethiopian Eunuch, swept away to Azotus, stays in Caesarea

# Summary of Acts 8-15

- Chapter 9

- 1-2 Paul's spying on Church, travels to Damascus
- 3-9 Intercepted by Christ, becomes blind
- 10-16 Christ appears to Ananias in vision to seek out Paul
- 17-19 Ananias heals Paul's blindness
- 20-22 Paul preaches in Damascus
- 23-25 Plot by Jews to kill Paul, lowered out of city in basket
- 26-27 Paul visits Jerusalem, Barnabas presents him to apostles
- 28-31 Paul preaches to Greek Jews, flees to Tarsus (modern day Turkey)
- 32-35 Peter heals Aeneas
- 36-43 Peter resurrects Dorcas

# More On Paul...

- “Ravaged” the Church
  - Targeted synagogues to persecute the proselytes (26:10-11)
  - Zealous of the Jewish faith (Gal. 1:13-14)
- Chosen by God, but also must suffer for His name (9:15-16)
- Already named Paul (13:9)
- Trained under Rabbi Gamaliel (Phil. 3:4-14)
- Understood God’s voice immediately (like Moses, Samuel, etc. in OT)
- Did not go straight to Apostles in Jerusalem, arrived 3 yrs later (Gal. 1:17)
- Between 9:22 & 23...
  - Went to Arabia (Gal. 1:17)
  - Had out-of-body experience in God’s presence (2 Cor. 12:1-6)

# Summary of Acts 8-15

- Chapter 10

- 1-8 Angel appears to Cornelius, calling on Peter
- 9-23 Peter's vision of "unclean" food
- 24-43 Peter's speech of Gentile acceptance
- 44-48 Cornelius' household believes and is baptized

# Summary of Acts 8-15

- **Chapter 11**

- 1-18 Peter explains his actions to the 'circumcised believers'
- 19-24 Gospel reaches Phoenician Antioch, Barnabas arrives
- 25-26 Barnabas retrieves Paul for preaching in Antioch
- 27-30 Agabus predicts famine, church responds

- **Chapter 12**

- 1-4 James (of the Twelve) beheaded, Peter arrested
- 5-10 Angel appears, chains fall off, gate opens, Peter walks free
- 11-12 Peter realizes it was real, goes to house of praying saints
- 13-19 Saints didn't realize at first it was Peter
- 20-25 Death of Herod

# Summary of Acts 8-15

- Chapter 13

- 1-3 Holy Spirit sets apart Paul and Barnabas for ministry
- 4-12 At Cyprus, Elymas tries to turn proconsul from faith, struck by blindness
- 13-43 Paul's speech at Pisidian Antioch
- 44-52 Jews reject Gospel message, kick out Paul and team

- Chapter 14

- 1-7 In Iconium, plot to stone Paul and Co. They flee to Lystra
- 8-10 In Lystra, cripple healed
- 10-18 People want to worship Paul and Barnabas
- 19-20 Jews from Antioch & Iconium show up, stone Paul
- 21-28 Crew backtracks and returns to Phoenician Antioch

# Summary of Acts 8-15

- Chapter 15

- 1-2 Question of circumcision (and the Law) in Antioch
- 3-6 Question brought to Jerusalem council
- 7-11 Peter speaks: The uncircumcised have received the Spirit already
- 12-21 James (Jesus' brother) speaks, proposes writing to other churches:
  - Abstain from food polluted by idols,
  - from sexual immorality,
  - from meat retaining blood,
  - from consuming blood
- 22-35 Message sent, believers encouraged



# Sidenotes

- Holy Spirit prompted Paul's first missionary journey
- Paul and Co. continued preaching Gospel even when moving on to next location
- Antioch, Iconium, Lystra & Derbe part of region of Galatia
  - Probable book of Galatians was written for them

# Let's Dig Deeper

- Jew – Keeps the Law of Moses
- Proselyte – Full Jew converted to Christianity, i.e. the Twelve, faith in Christ as Savior
- Gentile – Sometimes God-fearing but not a full proselyte, if at all, i.e. Cornelius, “uncircumcised”
- Peter's Vision (10:9-15)
- Spirit descends on the Gentiles (10:43-48)
- Gentiles accepted (11:15-18)

# But What About the Law of Moses?

- Are the Gentiles saved by keeping the Law? (Acts 15:1-4)
- Peter: Gentiles have already been saved! (Acts 15:6-11)
  - “God made no distinction...” (vs. 9)
- James: God foretold this (Acts 15:13-18)
  - See also John 10:16
- Circumcision “meaningless” (Rom. 2:25-29)
- Observing the Law “meaningless” (Rom. 3:9-20, Gal. 2: 15-16)
- Salvation only through faith (Rom. 3:21-31)
  - For both Jews AND Gentiles (Rom 3: 29)

# So What Does This Mean Today?

- Rom. 3:28
- Don't have to "have it all figured out"
- Don't have to be \_\_\_\_\_ before you can be saved.
- Rom. 10:9-10
- Confess need for a Savior and that Jesus is He

