

NOTES & COMMENTARY - THE BOOK OF ACTS:  
October 7, 2012

**Continuation Chapter 1: Acts is in two chief parts:** In the first section (1- 9:43 ) Peter is the prominent personage, Jerusalem is the center, and the ministry is to Jews.

**Previous Week. *SHĀ-VII-ŪṬĪH***

CHAPTER 1 ACTS VERSES:

VS 1: LUKE: AUTHOR OF ACTS

VS 2: THE CHOSEN APOSTLES (NOW ELEVEN)

VS 3: PROOFS OF HIS PHYSICAL RESURRECTION.

VS 4: FOR 40 DAYS

VS 5: THE KINGDOM OF GOD (STILL A MATTER OF INQUIREY AND A MYSTERY TO THE DISCIPLES)

## Jesus Ascends to Heaven

**R-VS 9** *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. A: The entire foundation of the Christian faith is the resurrection of the Messiah Jesus from the dead: R- I Cor:15:12-19 12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

A: Some cults hold to a non physical resurrection: (Jehovah Witness)

B: Easter celebrates Easter (Resurrection day). Ask yourself the question: Could modern churches function WITHOUT a resurrection? - - - Yes, most churches function without the power of the Holy Spirit which was only promised with his ascending and return to the Father.

**R- VS 10** *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel. II who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

A: As the disciples observe upon the mount of Olives, Jesus raises into the sky and disappears in a cloud of Glory. Two angels proclaim the fact that this same Jesus will return in like manner, a physical and observable return. (again this disproves any notion that Jesus will only return 'spiritually'.

B: There is more scripture pertaining to the second “Advent” than the first. There is an immense amount of disagreement as to the matter of the return of Christ. Some (Amillennialists) hold to the fact that there will be NO future return and reign of the Messiah; Some (Dominionists) hold to the teaching that it is the churches job to perfect the world in order to make ready his return. Another group holds the opinion that the moral & political climate of the world will so disintegrate into a time of great darkness and deception that will culminate in the tyranny of an anti Christ government, and further tribulation and unspeakable trials that only the return of Christ himself can

dispell in the power of his second coming.

And a fourth group could care less about any matter pertaining to Christ and his kingdom!!

### **The Upper Room Prayer Meeting**

**VS 12** *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, [b] with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

A: We do not have names of those other than the disciples and those frequently mentioned throughout the gospel accounts. The crowd had a particular focus and nature. **How would you describe this attitude???** (Get options from several.)

B. The actual place of this meeting must have been large enough for a good sized gathering and also accessible to most anyone. It was likely a part of the temple complex and reserved for those who were of the Jewish faith. Exactly what and where is a matter that I don't have better knowledge.

### **Matthias Chosen**

**15** And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples [c] (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, **16** "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; **17** for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

**18** (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. **19** And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

**20** "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; [d] and, 'Let [e] another take his office.' [f]

**21** "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

**23** And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. **24** And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen **25** to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." **26** And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

A: The matter of "Casting Lots". The precise nature of casting lots is not clear. It says above, that each cast his lot. Which indicates participation among each of the remaining 11.

B: Casting lots occurs frequently in the OT. More than 20 references but after Acts C.1 there are no further references. Presumably the presence of the Holy Spirit allows God to make his choice known more directly.

C: Some theologians hold to opinion that Peter was wrong in replacing Judas at this time and that it was Paul who was to be the chosen replacement as the twelfth apostle. This view is incorrect based on the nature of the prophecies in Psalm 69 and 109 about the traitor Judas and his replacement.

D: There are two qualifications here for Judas' replacement: **What are they?**  
(God's Choice & from the beginning.)

This also explains why Saul (Paul) is unqualified according to these criteria.

E: Paul is one chosen as one “out of due time” but qualifies to be an Apostle owing to the fact that he had a personal visit and audience with the risen Lord.

See: R- 1Cor. 15:5-10 :**5** *and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain;*

## **Chapter 2: THE VISITATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE UPPER ROOM!**

**R- 2** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord[a] in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

*3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The Crowd's Response

**R- 5** *And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”*

A: The description here can not fully impart the drama of the actual event. It was in fact an overwhelming moment that staggered the senses. It assaulted **sound**, **sight**, and **mind**. Those who have never been in the presence of God when a true supernatural event is occurring will struggle to understand.

B: Sound: Mighty rushing wind (the roar of a tornado or hurricane!)

C: Sight: Tongues of fire resting upon the participants! A flame that had never been seen before... Cloven.  
- - Men and women struck down with a palpable power; Struck down! Staggering; Disoriented!

D: Sound men and women prophesying in languages they could not have known!

## **Peter's Sermon**

**Do not compare this with any sermon that we are familiar with.**

**R- 14** *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

**17** *‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.*

**18** *And on My menservants and on My maidservants*

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;  
And they shall prophesy.

**R- 19** I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

**20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

**21** And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.’ **[b]**

**22** “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— **23** Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken **[c]** by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

**24** whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. **25** For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

**26** Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

**27** For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

**28** You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ **[d]**

**29** “Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, **[e]** **31** he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all

witnesses. **33** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. **34** “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,

**35** Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” **[f]** **36** “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” **37** Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

**38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

#### A Vital Church Grows

**40** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” **41** Then those who gladly **[g]** received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

**46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church **[h]** daily those who were being saved.