



Acts

Part I

Acts 1:1-12:25

By

Duane L. Anderson

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**American Indian Bible Institute
Box 511
Norwalk, CA 90651-0511**

<http://www.aibi.org>

Acts

This outline is taken from:

Acts 1:8

“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 Gospel Spreads in Jerusalem

Acts 1:1-7:60

- I. The Lord speaks His final words and returns to heaven 1:1-11
 - A. Christ appeared over a period of forty days 1:1-3
 - B. Christ gives His final instructions 1:4-8
 - C. Christ ascends into heaven 1:9-11
- II. The Lord prepares the disciples as they wait for the Holy Spirit 1:12-26
 - A. The disciples continue in prayer 1:12-14
 - B. The disciples choose a replacement for Judas 1:15-26
- III. The Lord sends the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost 2:1-47
 - A. The disciples receive the Holy Spirit 2:1-4
 - B. The disciples share the Gospel in many languages 2:5-13
 - C. The disciples listen as Peter preaches to the multitude 2:14-40
 - D. The disciples see the Lord start the church 2:41
 - E. The disciples begin helping others grow 2:42-47
- IV. The Lord causes the number of Christians to multiply 3:1-5:42
 - A. Peter and John are given power to heal a crippled man 3:1-11
 - B. Peter preaches his second recorded sermon 3:12-26
 - C. Peter and John preach to the religious leaders 4:1-12
 - D. Peter and John are told to stop preaching about Christ 4:13-22
 - E. Peter and John report to the other leaders what happened 4:23-30
 - F. Peter and the others continue to minister 4:31-37
 - G. Peter rebukes the sin of Ananias and Sapphira 5:1-11
 - H. Peter and the other apostles do many miracles 5:12-16
 - I. Peter and the other apostles are arrested again 5:17-28
 - J. Peter and the other apostles answer the religious leaders 5:29-39
 - K. Peter and the other apostles rejoice in persecution 5:40-42
- V. The Lord causes the number of disciples to multiply 6:1-7:60
 - A. The Lord multiplies the number of disciples 6:1-7
 - B. The Lord uses Stephen in the Greek culture synagogue 6:8-15
 - C. The Lord gives Stephen opportunity to preach to the leaders 7:1-53
 - D. The Lord welcomes Stephen to heaven 7:54-60

The Gospel Spreads in Judea and Samaria
Acts 8:1-12:25

- I. The Lord involves all Christians in spreading the Gospel 8:1-4
- II. The Lord uses Philip to share the Gospel in Samaria 8:5-25
 - A. Philip shares the Gospel in Samaria 8:5-13
 - B. Philip is joined by Peter and John 8:14-17
 - C. Philip sees Peter rebuke Simon, the sorcerer 8:18-24
 - D. Philip see Peter and John leave to minister throughout Samaria 8:25
- III. The Lord uses Philip to share the Gospel with an Ethiopian 8:26-40
 - A. Philip obeys the Lord and goes to the desert 8:26-28
 - B. Philip is led by the Holy Spirit in the desert 8:29-34
 - C. Philip preaches the Gospel to the Ethiopian 8:35-37
 - D. Philip baptizes the Ethiopian and then preaches in other cities 8:38-40
- IV. The Lord draws Saul to Himself 9:1-30
 - A. Saul meets the Lord on the road to Damascus 9:1-6
 - B. Saul spends three days in darkness 9:7-9
 - C. Saul waits as the Lord prepares Ananias to visit him 9:10-16
 - D. Saul becomes a believer and is baptized 9:17-19
 - E. Saul preaches the Gospel in Damascus 9:20-22
 - F. Saul is forced to flee from Damascus 9:23-25
 - G. Saul preaches the Gospel in Jerusalem 9:26-28
 - H. Saul is forced to flee to Tarsus 9:29-30
- V. The Lord causes the church to spread throughout Judea 9:31-43
 - A. The Lord multiplies churches throughout the region 9:31
 - B. The Lord gives Peter a ministry in Lydda and Sharon 9:32-34
 - C. The Lord gives Peter a ministry in Joppa 9:35-43
- VI. The Lord spreads the Gospel to the Gentiles 10:1-11:19
 - A. The Lord hears the prayer of Cornelius 10:1-8
 - B. The Lord prepares Peter to take the Gospel to Cornelius 10:9-18
 - C. The Lord lets Peter meet Cornelius and his friends 10:19-27
 - D. The Lord has Peter tell why he had come 10:28-33
 - E. The Lord gives Peter the opportunity to preach to Cornelius 10:34-43
 - F. The Lord saves the entire group 10:44-48
 - G. The Lord has to work in the rest of the church 11:1-3
 - H. The Lord had Peter tell about his vision 11:4-10
 - I. The Lord had Peter tell how the Lord had prepared Cornelius 11:11-14
 - J. The Lord had Peter tell how the Gentiles received the Spirit 11:15-16
 - K. The Lord caused the entire church to rejoice 11:17-18
- VII. The Lord spreads the Gospel to Antioch 11:19-30

- A. The Lord worked in the lives of many in Antioch 11:19-22
 - B. The Lord guided the church to send Barnabas to Antioch 11:23-24
 - C. The Lord added Saul to the team with Barnabas 11:25-26
 - D. The Lord gave the Christians in Antioch a concern for others 11:27-30
- VIII. The Lord protects Peter from Herod 12:1-25
- A. Peter was arrested and jailed by Herod 12:1-4
 - B. Peter was released from the prison by an angel 12:5-10
 - C. Peter knew where people would be praying 12:11-18
 - D. Peter left the judgment of Herod to the Lord 12:19-23
 - E. Peter heard how the Lord was continuing to work 12:24-25

The Gospel Spreads to the Ends of the Earth **Acts 13:1-28:31**

- I. The Lord sends Barnabas and Paul to the work to which He has called them (the first missionary trip) 13:1-14:28
- A. Paul and Barnabas were sent by the Lord to go to other areas 13:1-3
 - B. Paul and Barnabas took John Mark with them 13:4-5
 - C. Paul and Barnabas were opposed by Elymas 13:6-13
 - D. Paul and Barnabas shared the Gospel in Antioch of Pisidia 13:14-52
 - E. Paul and Barnabas shared the Gospel in Iconium 14:1-5
 - F. Paul and Barnabas shared the Gospel in Lystra 14:6-19
 - G. Paul and Barnabas established churches in this region 14:20-23
 - H. Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch and reported 14:24-28
- II. The Lord gives guidance for Gentile believers 15:1-35
- A. Paul and Barnabas were challenged by Jews from Judea 15:1-3
 - B. Paul and Barnabas shared how God worked with the Gentiles 15:4-5
 - C. Paul and Barnabas heard Peter tell about Cornelius 15:6-11
 - D. Paul and Barnabas told what the Lord did in their ministry 15:12
 - E. Paul and Barnabas heard the conclusion of James 15:13-21
 - F. Paul and Barnabas are commended by the leaders 15:22-26
 - G. Paul and Barnabas have two other brothers go with them 15:27-35
- III. The Lord sends Paul on a second missionary trip 15:36-18:22
- A. Paul and Barnabas both form ministry teams 15:36-41
 - B. Paul adds Timothy to his team 16:1-5
 - C. Paul and the team learn about closed and opened doors 16:6-10
 - D. Paul and the team minister in Philippi 16:11-40
 - E. Paul and the team minister in Thessalonica 17:1-9
 - F. Paul and the team minister in Berea 17:10-15
 - G. Paul ministers alone in the city of Athens 17:16-34
 - H. Paul and the team minister in Corinth 18:1-17
 - I. Paul returns to Antioch and Jerusalem 18:18-22

- IV. The Lord sends Paul on a third missionary trip 18:23-21:16
 - A. Paul strengthened the disciples throughout Galatia 18:23
 - B. Paul had left Aquila and Priscilla to minister in Ephesus 18:24-28
 - C. Paul and the team ministered in Ephesus and in all of Asia 19:1-41
 - D. Paul and the team ministered in Macedonia 20:1-5
 - E. Paul and the team ministered in Troas 20:6-12
 - F. Paul and the team ministered to the leaders of Ephesus 20:13-35
 - G. Paul and the team ministered in Tyre 21:1-6
 - H. Paul and the team ministered in Caesarea 21:7-14
 - I. Paul and the team go to Jerusalem 21:15-16
- V. The Lord protects Paul in Jerusalem 21:17-23:35
 - A. Paul gave a report of what the Lord was doing 21:17-19
 - B. Paul took a Jewish vow 21:20-26
 - C. Paul was seized in the temple 21:27-40
 - D. Paul spoke to the crowd who wanted to kill him 22:1-21
 - E. Paul heard the crowd call for his death 22:22-29
 - F. Paul made his defense before the Sanhedrin 22:30-23:10
 - G. Paul heard there was a death plot against him 23:11-22
 - H. Paul was removed by night to Caesarea 23:23-35
- VI. The Lord uses Paul in Caesarea 24:1-26:32
 - A. Paul gives his defense before Felix 24:1-27
 - B. Paul has his case discussed by Festus and Agrippa 25:1-27
 - C. Paul gives his defense before Agrippa 26:1-32
- VII. The Lord sends Paul to Rome and uses him there 27:1-28:31
 - A. Paul is sent to Rome by ship 27:1-44
 - B. Paul shares the Gospel on Melita (Malta) 28:1-10
 - C. Paul shares the Gospel in Rome 28:11-31
 - 1. Paul arrives in Rome 28:11-16
 - 2. Paul shares the Gospel with the Jews 28:17-24
 - 3. Paul says He will share the Gospel with the Gentiles 28:25-29
 - 4. Paul teaches and preaches in Rome for two years 28:30-31

The Gospel Spreads in Jerusalem

Acts 1:1-7:60

I. The Lord speaks His final words and returns to heaven - 1:1-11

A. Christ appeared over a period of forty days - 1:1-3

1. this is the second letter that Luke wrote to Theophilus - 1:1

Luke wrote the book of Luke to the most excellent Theophilus - Luke 1:3

(the title may indicate he was a person of high rank)

Luke wrote so Theophilus would know what he had been taught - Luke 1:4

(things that are written can be reviewed frequently for better remembrance)

Luke wrote the book of Luke to remind Theophilus of two things

the things that Jesus did

the things that Jesus taught

2. the book of Luke covered the life of Christ until He was taken up - 1:2

Luke gave the most details about the birth of Christ - Luke 1:1-2:39

Luke gave the most details about the childhood of Christ - Luke 2:40-52

Luke records that the Holy Spirit came on Christ in the form of a dove - Luke 3:22

Luke records that Christ was led by the Spirit into the wilderness - Luke 4:1

Luke records that Christ ministered in the power of the Spirit - Luke 4:14-21

Luke records that Christ expressed joy in the Spirit - Luke 10:21-24

Luke told that Christ said the Father would give the Holy Spirit - Luke 11:13

Luke told how Christ promised the Spirit would give words to speak - Luke 12:12

Luke recorded many of the miracles of Christ

Luke recorded many of the parables of Christ

Luke recorded the events of the last week of Christ - Luke 19:28-21:38

Luke recorded the last supper of Christ - Luke 22:1-46

Luke recorded the trial and death of Christ - Luke 22:47-23:56

Luke recorded the resurrection of Christ - Luke 24:1-12

3. the book of Luke included some of Christ's resurrection appearances - 1:3

Luke told how Christ ministered on the road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

Luke told how Christ appeared to the apostles - Luke 24:36-43

Luke told what Christ taught after the resurrection - Luke 24:44-48

Luke told why the apostles were to wait in Jerusalem - Luke 24:49

Luke finished with the return of Christ to heaven - Luke 24:50-53

B. Christ gives His final instructions - 1:4-8

1. The disciples were told to wait for the Holy Spirit - 1:4-5

a. Christ had taught the disciples about the Holy Spirit - 1:4

Christ gathered the disciples together in Jerusalem

Christ told them to wait in Jerusalem - Luke 24:49

Christ told them they would soon receive the promise of the Father

Christ said He had taught them about this promise - John 14:15-26

b. Christ compared two kinds of baptism - 1:5

Christ reminded them of the baptism of John - Matt. 3:1-6

Christ said that John baptized with water - Matt. 3:11

Christ now said that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit - Luke 3:16 the baptism with the Holy Spirit

Christ places the Holy Spirit in us - Mark 1:8

the baptism of the Holy Spirit

the Holy Spirit places us in the body of Christ - I Cor. 12:13

2. The disciples asked the Lord a final question - 1:6-7

a. Christ was asked if the time had come to restore the kingdom to Israel - 1:6

the disciples of Christ expected Christ to set up a kingdom - Luke 22:38
the disciples expected the kingdom to immediately appear - Luke 19:11
the disciples expected Christ to immediately redeem Israel - Luke 24:21
the disciples expected Christ to fulfill Old Testament promises - Zech. 14:9
the disciples of Christ did not yet understand God's timing - Rev. 18:11-16

b. Christ said it was not for them to know - 1:7

the disciples were not to know the times

Christ had things for them to do before the kingdom - Acts 1:8

the disciples were not to know the seasons

Christ wanted them to be focused on their mission - Matthew 28:19-20

the Father was the One who keeps those under His power

Christ came to do the will of the Father - John 6:38-40

Christ sent the disciples to do the will of the Father - John 20:21-23

Christ said the Spirit would give them the power to do it - Acts 1:8

3. the disciples were told what to do when they received the Holy Spirit - 1:8

a. the Holy Spirit gives us power

**“You shall receive power”
the disciples were to wait until they received this power - Luke 24:49**

b. the Holy Spirit gives us purpose

**“You shall be witnesses unto me”
the disciples were to talk about Christ - Acts 2:22-41; Acts 5:28; Acts 17:6**

c. the Holy Spirit helps us cross barriers

**Four barriers to cross in learning to share the Gospel
(Christ taught the disciples to cross these barriers in a progressive order)**

Jerusalem
the barrier of our own fear
John 15:5; Philippians 4:13 - Acts 4:13; 4:29-31; Ephesians 6:18-20
the disciples were shown how to share the gospel with people they knew
relatives - John 1:40-42
friends - John 1:43-46
co-workers - Matthew 9:9-13
neighbors and other acquaintances - Mark 1:29-33

Judea
the barrier of making contacts with strangers
Christ began to expand the vision of the disciples to Judea - John 3:22
the disciples learned first how to make contacts in Galilee - Matthew 10:1-6

Samaria
the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group
Christ began to expand the vision of the disciples to Samaria - John 4:1-42
the first trip the disciples were not to go to the Samaritans - Matthew 10:5
later the Holy Spirit sent Peter and John to the Samaritans - Acts 8:14-17

the uttermost part of the earth
the barrier of language
the first trip the disciples were not to go to the Gentiles - Matthew 10:5
later the Holy Spirit sent Peter to the Gentiles - Acts 10:1-11:18

C. Christ ascends into heaven - 1:9-11

1. the disciples saw the Lord taken to heaven - 1:9

the disciples went with Christ to Bethany - Luke 24:50
the disciples were blessed by Christ before He departed - Luke 24:51

2. the disciples were visited by two angels - 1:10

the disciples continued to look after Christ was hidden by the cloud
the disciples suddenly became aware that two angels were with them

3. the disciples were promised that Christ would return - 1:11

the disciples were asked why they were looking toward heaven
the disciples were promised that Christ would return - I Thess 4:13-18

II. The Lord prepares the disciples as they wait for the Holy Spirit - 1:12-26

A. the disciples continue in prayer - 1:12-14

1. the disciples returned to Jerusalem - 1:12

the disciples returned to the city of Jerusalem
the town of Bethany was about 2/3 of a mile from Jerusalem

2. the disciples gathered in an upper room - 1:13

the eleven disciples gathered in an upper room
the disciples waited for the Holy Spirit in the upper room - Acts 2:1

3. the disciples waited by spending the time in prayer - 1:14

the disciples had a unity of spirit - Acts 2:1; 2:46; 4:24-31
the disciples were experiencing great joy - Luke 24:52
the disciples were spending their time in prayer
the disciples later helped all believers become people of prayer - Acts 2:42
the disciples had times when they prayed together as a group - Acts 3:1
the disciples prayed when they experienced persecution - Acts 4:23-31
the disciples focused on prayer and the ministry of the Word - Acts 6:4
the disciples included the women in their times of prayer

B. the disciples choose a replacement for Judas - 1:15-26

1. the disciples included a larger group - 1:15

the disciples were all praying together - Acts 1:14
the disciples also included the women as they prayed - Acts 1:14
the disciples were being led by Peter at this time
(later James became the leader in Jerusalem - Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18)
the disciples totaled 120 at this time
the Lord had chosen the twelve to be apostles - Mark 3:13-15; Luke 6:13-16
the Lord had a larger group of seventy disciples - Luke 10:1
this group of seventy had now grown to 120

2. the disciples are reminded of the need to replace Judas - 1:16-20

a. Peter pointed out that David had predicted what Judas would do - 1:16

Peter said Judas had fulfilled Scripture
Peter said David had written what Judas would do - Psalm 41:9
Peter said Judas had walked with Christ - Psalm 55:12-15

b. Peter said that Judas had been one of the twelve apostles - 1:17

Judas was one of the twelve chosen to be an apostle - Luke 6:13-16

c. Peter said that Judas had killed himself - 1:18

the money Judas received was used to purchase a field - Matt. 27:3-10
the way Judas died was by hanging himself - Matt. 27:5

d. Peter said the people called the place, “The Field of Blood” - 1:19

the field was called the Field of Blood - Matt. 27:8
the field became a place to bury strangers - Matt. 27:7

e. Peter said this had been predicted by David - 1:20

the place where Judas was buried was considered desolate - Ps. 69:25
the apostleship of Judas was to be given to another - Ps. 109:8
the name of Judas was to be cut off - Ps. 109:9-15
the ministry of Judas was to be fulfilled by another - Acts 1:26

3. the disciples are reminded of the qualifications of an apostle - 1:21-22

a. the first qualification was to have walked with Christ - 1:21

the twelve had walked with Christ - Mark 3:13-15
the seventy had walked with Christ - Luke 10:1
there were others who had walked with Christ for a time - John 6:66
those qualified had to have walked with Christ throughout His ministry - Acts 1:22

b. the second qualification was to be a witness of the resurrection - 1:22

the eleven had seen Christ after the resurrection - John 20:19-29
others had seen Christ after the resurrection - John 20:11-18; Luke 24:13-32
a total of more than 500 saw Christ after the resurrection - I Cor. 15:6

4. the disciples selected two men who met the qualifications - 1:23

Joseph called Barsabbas was one who met both qualifications
Matthias was also one who met both qualifications

5. the disciples prayed for the Lord to lead in the decision - 1:24-26

a. the disciples prayed for the Lord's choice - 1:24

the disciples spent a total of ten days in prayer - Acts 1:14
the disciples prayed as the Lord is the only One who knows the hearts - I Sam. 16:7
the Lord was asked to reveal whom He had chosen

b. the disciples said the one would carry out the ministry of Judas - 1:25

the one chosen would take the ministry of Judas
the one chosen would take the apostleship of Judas
Judas had lost that ministry and apostleship by his sin

c. the disciples were led to choose Matthias - 1:26

the disciples cast their lots
the choice of Matthias was by lot
(the Old Testament way to make a choice - Prov. 18:18)
the Lord used lots as a way to make decisions - Prov. 16:33
Matthias was chosen to replace Judas

III. The Lord sends the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost - 2:1-47

A. The disciples receive the Holy Spirit - 2:1-4

1. the Lord had all of the disciples together in one place - 2:1

this happened on the Day of Pentecost

Pentecost was 50 days after the Feast of Passover
it was also called the Feast of Harvest or Feast of Weeks - Ex. 34:22
this feast was one of the three feasts when Jews were to gather - Ex. 23:14-19
(God gathered Jews from throughout the world to hear the Gospel)

the disciples were all in one accord

the disciples had been praying together for several days - Acts 1:14
the disciples were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come - Luke 24:49

the disciples were all in one place

this was probably the upper room mentioned earlier - Acts 1:13

2. the Lord sent a mighty wind from heaven - 2:2

the coming of the Holy Spirit was like a mighty wind

a wind is used in other places to describe the Holy Spirit - John 3:8

the Holy Spirit filled the house where they were sitting

first the building was filled with the Holy Spirit
second the people were filled with the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:4

3. the Lord sent tongues that looked like tongues of fire - 2:3

there appeared tongues that looked like fire

fire is used in other places to announce the presence of God - Ex. 3:2-6

these tongues sat on each of them

the Spirit came on the disciples as He earlier came on Christ - Matt. 3:16-17

4. the Lord filled the disciples with the Holy Spirit - 2:4

the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit

we are to be continually filled with the Spirit - Eph. 5:18

the disciples began to speak with other languages

the disciples spoke in at least sixteen dialects - Acts 2:9-11

the disciples were speaking through the power of the Spirit

we will speak with boldness when we yield to the Spirit - Acts 4:31
we have been given the Spirit of power, love and a sound mind - II Tim. 1:7

B. The disciples share the Gospel in many languages - 2:5-13

1. the Lord had gathered Jews from many nations - 2:5

there were many Jews in Jerusalem for this Feast - Ex. 23:14-19
these Jews were devout men (people who had a reverence for God) - Acts 8:2
these Jews were from every nation under heaven - Acts 2:9-11
(God had brought these people together for this particular time)

2. the Lord gave the disciples the ability to speak in different languages - 2:6-7

the Jews began telling others what was happening
the Jews came from various parts of the city to see what was happening
the Jews were amazed at what was happening
the Jews were filled with amazement
the Jews recognized that the speakers were all Galileans - Acts 4:13
(the Galileans normally spoke with what was considered an uneducated accent)

3. the Lord caused people to hear the Gospel in their own dialect - 2:8-11

the people heard in their own language and dialect
the people easily recognized the languages they had known since childhood
the languages that were being spoken were from three different continents
Asia - this included Jews whose families had been in the captivity
Europe - this included Jews from Rome
Africa - this included Jews from various parts of North Africa
the people in Jerusalem included both Jews and proselytes
the audience included Jews from these different countries
the audience included proselytes from these different countries
(a proselyte was a Gentile convert to Judaism)
the people heard them speak of the wonderful works of God

4. the Lord caused the people to be amazed - 2:12-13

The people had three different responses
Some were amazed
these were very surprised at what was happening - Acts 10:45
Some were perplexed
these were in doubt about what was happening - Acts 10:17
Some mocked and made fun
these accused the disciples of being drunk - Acts 2:13

C. The disciples listen as Peter preaches to the multitude - 2:14-40

1. Peter used the Old Testament to introduce his message - 2:14-21

a. Peter became the main speaker on the Day of Pentecost - 2:14

Peter stood up with the eleven - Acts 1:26
Peter spoke with a loud voice so that all could hear
Peter spoke especially to the men of Judea and Jerusalem
Peter asked the people to listen to what he had to say

b. Peter used the book of Joel to introduce his sermon - 2:15-16

Peter pointed out that those who had been speaking were not drunk
Peter said that people are not drunk at 9 o'clock in the morning
Peter said what was happening was an illustration of the prophecy of Joel
(the prophecy in Joel will be completely fulfilled in the millennial kingdom)
Peter used this passage to show that Pentecost was a taste
of what will happen in the millennial kingdom
Peter quotes the verses but does not explain them
(this is often a characteristic of the gift of prophecy - Rom. 12:6)

**c. Peter quoted a passage from the book of Joel - 2:17-21
(these verses are a quotation of Joel 2:28-32)**

this prophecy will be fulfilled in the last days - 2:17-18
in the last days people will prophesy, see visions and dream dreams
in the last days the Lord will pour out His Spirit
in the last days both the men and women will prophesy
(to prophesy is to quote what is already written in the Word of God)
this prophecy includes changes that will happen in heaven and earth - 2:19-20
the Lord will show wonders in the heaven above
the Lord will show wonders on the earth
these wonders will include blood, fire and vapor of smoke
these wonders will affect the sun - Luke 21:25
these wonders will affect the moon - Matt. 24:29
these wonders will all happen before the Day of the Lord comes - I Thess. 5:3-4
this prophecy includes an invitation to salvation - - 2:21
this invitation is an invitation to all - John 3:16
this invitation is to call on the name of the Lord - Romans 10:9-10
this invitation promises salvation through the Lord - Romans 10:13

2. Peter focused on the death and resurrection of Christ - 2:22-28

a. Peter reminded that that they knew about Jesus - 2:22

the Jews were familiar with Jesus of Nazareth - Matt. 21:11
the Jews had seen Him perform miracles, signs and wonders - John 3:2
the Jews had heard Christ say this was by the power of God - John 7:28
the Jews knew that these things were true - Matt. 28:11-15

b. Peter reminded them of the death of Jesus - 2:23

Jesus went to the cross because of the plan of God - Phil. 2:5-8
Jesus did this according to the foreknowledge of God - Acts 4:27-28
Jesus was placed on the cross by wicked men - John 19:17-18
Jesus was crucified by wicked men - John 19:15-16
Jesus was slain by wicked men - Acts 5:28; 7:51-52

c. Peter told them about the resurrection of Jesus - 2:24

Jesus was raised from the dead by the Father - Acts 4:10
Jesus was loosed from the pains of death - John 2:18-22
Jesus could not be held by death - I Cor. 15:16-26

d. Peter told them that David had prophesied about these - 2:25-28 (this is a quotation from Psalm 16:8-11)

David spoke of the resurrection of Christ - 2:25

David spoke of Christ a thousand years earlier - Ps. 16:8-11

David said that the Lord was always there - Heb. 13:5

David said the Lord was at his right hand - Ps. 73:23

David said the result was he could not be shaken - Ps. 21:7

David said that the resurrection gave him joy and hope -2:26

David said the resurrection gave him joy in his heart -Ps. 22:22-24

David said the resurrection caused him to speak words of gladness - Ps. 30:11

David said the resurrection gave him hope - I Thess. 4:13-18

David said that the Father would not leave Christ in hades -2:27

David knew he would not remain in the place of the dead - I Cor. 15:55

David knew the Father would not allow the body of Christ to corrupt - Acts 2:31

David said that the Lord had shown him the way of life - 2:28

David said the Lord had shown him the ways of life - Ps. 21:4

David said the Lord had caused him to be filled with joy -Ps. 17:15

3. Peter showed how the resurrection has changed lives - 2:29-36

a. the resurrection had changed the life of David - 2:29-31

David was dead and the place of his grave was known - 2:29

David died and was buried about a thousand years earlier - Acts 13:36

David had been placed in the grave - I Kings 2:10

David had prophesied that God would raise Christ - 2:30

David had prophesied that Christ would descend from him - II Sam. 23:1-5

David had prophesied that God would raise Christ from the dead - Ps. 89:19-37

David had prophesied that Christ would sit on the throne - Ps. 110:1-5

David had said Christ would not stay in the grave - 2:31

David spoke of the resurrection of Christ - Ps. 16:8-11

David said Christ would not be left in the grave - Ps. 16:10

David said that the body of Christ would not corrupt - Ps. 16:10

b. the resurrection had changed the lives of Christ's followers - 2:32-33

the disciples were witnesses of the resurrection - 2:32

the Father raised up Christ from the dead - Acts 5:31-32

the Father made the disciples witnesses of the resurrection - Luke 24:46-48

the disciples had received the promised Holy Spirit - 2:33

the Father exalted Christ and set Him at His right hand - Acts 7:55-56

the Father sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples - John 14:15-17

the Father was causing the multitude to see and hear the results - Acts 2:1-7

c. the resurrection meant that Christ is now in heaven - 2:34-35

Christ is sitting on the right hand of the Father - 2:34

David had not yet ascended into the heavens - Acts 13:36

David was able to hear the words of the Father to Christ - Ps. 110:1-5

David was able to hear that Christ would sit at the right hand of the Father - Ps. 110:1

Christ will see His enemies become His footstool - 2:35

David was able to know the enemies would become a footstool - Ps. 110:1

d. the resurrection also offers hope to Israel - 2:36

Israel was now being offered the message of life - Romans 1:16

Israel was now being told what God had done - Matt. 10:6

Israel knew that they had crucified Jesus - Acts 2:23

Israel could now know that Jesus is both Lord and Christ

4. Peter invited the people to repent of their sins – 2:37-40

a. the people asked what they should do – 2:37

the people were convicted in their hearts – John 16:8-11
the people questioned Peter and the other apostles
the people asked what they should do – Acts 16:30

b. the people were told to repent – 2:38

the people were told to repent – Acts 26:20
this was an invitation to all of the people
the people who believed were to be baptized – Acts 8:36-37
each one who repented was then to be baptized
the people were to do this in the name of Jesus Christ
this points out that salvation is only through Christ – John 14:6
the people would receive remission of sins – Acts 10:43
remission means forgiveness and pardon or removal of the penalty
the people would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – Acts 10:45
the Holy Spirit is our down payment and guarantee of eternal life - Eph. 1:13-14

c. the people were reminded of the promise of the Father – 2:39

the people heard that this offer was for all
God offers salvation to all – John 3:16; Romans 10:13
the people heard that God was calling people to Himself
Christ says He will receive all who come to Him – John 6:37
Christ said the Father is the One who draws people to Him – John 6:44

d. the people were told to be saved from this wicked generation – 2:40

Peter spoke many other things
Peter and the apostles encouraged the people to turn to God
true repentance causes people to turn to God from sin – I Thess. 1:9

D. The disciples see the Lord start the church – 2:41

the people who received the Word were baptized
Baptism is an outward testimony that we have believed – Acts 16:32-33
the people who believed that day were about 3,000

E. The disciples begin helping others grow – 2:42-47

1. the believers gathered for growth – 2:42

the believers met in groups for Bible study – Acts 17:11
the believers met in groups for fellowship – Heb. 10:24-25
the believers met in groups for communion – Acts 2:46
the believers met in groups for prayer – James 5:16

2. the believers saw the Lord work in mighty ways – 2:43

the people developed a fear of God
fear of God in believers causes worship – I Cor. 14:25
fear of God by unbelievers causes fright – Acts 19:17
the people saw signs performed by the apostles
God gave the apostles signs to verify their message – Acts 5:12; Heb. 2:3-4

3. the believers shared with one another – 2:44-45

the believers were spending time with one another – Acts 4:32
the believers were sharing with one another – Acts 4:34-35
the believers sold their possessions to help needy believers – Acts 4:36-37

4. the believers were gathering daily – 2:46

the believers were gathering daily in the temple
this was for a time of prayer and witness – Acts 3:1, 11-26
the believers were breaking bread together daily in their homes
this included both meals and communion together
the believers were filled with gladness – Rom. 14:17
the believers had singleness of heart – Acts 1:14

5. the believers had an impact on the people around them – 2:47

the believers were praising God
the believers were having favor with all the people
the people magnified the believers - Acts 5:13
the people saw the Lord adding to the church
the Lord added to the church many believers – Acts 4:4
the people saw the Lord saving people daily
the Lord caused the disciples to multiply – Acts 6:1; 6:7

IV. The Lord causes the number of Christians to multiply – 3:1-5:42

A. Peter and John are given power to heal a crippled man – 3:1-11

1. Peter and John heard about the need of the crippled man – 3:1-5

a. the crippled man was at the temple – 3:1

Peter and John went to the temple together
these men often ministered as a team – Acts 8:14
Peter and John went at the hour of prayer – Luke 1:10
the hour of prayer was the time of the evening sacrifice – about 3 p.m.

b. the crippled man was begging at the temple – 3:2

the man had been crippled since birth
God can use physical problems to reveal His works – John 9:3
the man was carried daily to the temple
this man had been there for many years – Acts 4:22
the man was placed each day at the gate called “Beautiful”
this gate was about 75 feet high and decorated with gold and silver
the man asked those who entered through that gate for alms
the word “alms” was the word for donations given to the poor and needy

c. the crippled man asked Peter and John for money – 3:3

the man saw that Peter and John were going into the temple
the man asked Peter and John for alms

d. the crippled man was asked to look at Peter and John – 3:4

Peter focused his eyes on the man
Peter told the man to look at them

e. the crippled man expected to receive something from them – 3:5

the man did give them his full attention
the hypocrites often called attention to themselves – Matt. 6:2
the man expected to receive something from them
the man was going to receive something he did not expect – Acts 3:6-7

2. Peter and John healed the man in the name of Jesus Christ – 3:6-11

a. the crippled man was raised up by Peter – 3:6

Peter said he had no money
Christ promised suffering not riches – Matt. 24:9
Peter said he would give what he had
Peter said what he gave was from Jesus Christ
Peter knew he could do nothing in himself – John 15:5
Peter told the man to get up and walk
the apostles were given signs to confirm their message – Acts 5:12

b. the crippled man was healed by Christ – 3:7

the man had his right hand taken by Peter
the man was lifted up by Peter
the man received strength in his feet and ankles

c. the crippled man walked and leaped in praise to God – 3:8

the man leaped and stood
the man walked with Peter and John into the temple
the man was leaping and praising God
this resulted in other people giving glory to God – Acts 4:21

d. the crippled man was seen by all of the people – 3:9-10

the people saw the man leaping and praising God
the people knew he was the one who begged at the Beautiful gate
the people were filled with wonder and amazement

e. the crippled man caused a crowd of people to gather – 3:11

the people saw the man holding on to Peter and John
the people all came running to them
this would provide Peter an opportunity to preach – Acts 3:12-26
the people gathered around them in Solomon's porch
this provided a place for a large crowd to gather
the people were surprised and filled with wonder
this wonder continued for a period of time – Acts 5:13-16

B. Peter preaches his second recorded sermon – 3:12-26

1. This sermon included a review of their rejection of Christ – 3:12-18

a. Peter said the miracle did not happen by his power – 3:12-13

Peter asked the people why they were surprised
Peter asked if they thought they did it by their own power
Peter asked if they thought he and John did it by their own holiness
Peter said the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had glorified Jesus
Peter said Jesus was the One that they had crucified

b. Peter reminded them of their rejection of Christ – 3:14-15

Peter said that they had denied the Holy One
even the demons recognized Christ was the Holy One of God – Luke 4:34
Peter said that they had killed the Prince of Life
the death was included in every message of Peter – 2:23; 4:10; 5:30; 10:39
Peter said that God had raised Christ from the dead
the theme of Peter's messages – Acts 2:24; 30; 4:10; 5:31; 10:40-41
Peter said that they were witnesses of the resurrection
a common statement in Peter's messages – Acts 2:32; 5:32; 10:39-41

c. Peter said the miracle happened through the power of Christ – 3:16

Peter said that faith in the name of Christ healed the man
this man had placed his faith in the name of Christ – Acts 3:6
Peter said that they all knew the man who was healed
this man had been crippled throughout life – Acts 4:22
Peter said that Christ had restored Him to perfect soundness
this man had been completely healed by Christ – Acts 3:8

d. Peter said he knew they crucified Christ in ignorance – 3:17-18

Peter said that he realized they had killed Christ in ignorance
Christ had said they had done it in ignorance – Luke 23:34
Peter said that the rulers had killed Christ in ignorance
Peter said that the prophets predicted the suffering of Christ
these sufferings were predicted in passages like Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53
Peter said that God had fulfilled what the prophets predicted
Christ came to carry out the will of the Father – Acts 2:23; Heb. 10:7-14

2. This sermon included a call to repentance – 3:19-26

a. Peter called on the people to repent – 3:19

Peter called on the people to repent and be converted – Luke 24:47
repentance was the call Peter made in messages – Acts 2:38; 5:30-31
repentance was also the call Paul made in messages – Acts 20:21; 26:18-20
Peter said that repentance would cause their sins to be blotted out
Christ came to blot out the things that were written against us – Col. 2:14
Peter said that the times of refreshing would come from the Lord
the times of refreshing are closely related to the resurrection – Luke 2:25, 34

b. Peter said Christ was promised in the Pentateuch – 3:20-23

Christ had been preached unto them – Acts 5:28
Christ was in heaven until the time of restitution – Heb. 10:2
Christ came to restore all things to their former state
the final restoration will happen after the judgments – Rev. 21:1
Christ will fulfill all that has been spoken by the prophets
Christ had been predicted by Moses – Deut. 18:15-19
Christ would bring life to all who would hear – John 10:10
Christ would bring judgment to all who rejected – John 3:36

c. Peter said that Christ was promised in the prophets – 3:24-25

the people had the prophets who foretold what Christ would do
the people were the children of the prophets
later Stephen would tell what their fathers did to the prophets - Acts 7:52
the people were the sons of the covenant made to Abraham
this covenant promised blessing to all people through Abraham – Gen. 12:3

d. Peter said the Father sent Christ to turn them from sin – 3:26

God sent Christ to the Jews first – Rom. 1:16
the Gospel was to be given to the Jews first – Acts 1:8; 13:46-47
God was the One who raised Christ from the dead
God was the One who raised Christ – Acts 2:24; 32-33; 5:31
God sent Christ to bring blessing to the Jews
God is the source of all spiritual blessings – Eph. 1:3-4
God sent Christ to turn each person from sin
Christ came to save each person from their sins – Matt. 1:21

C. Peter and John preach to the religious leaders – 4:1-12

1. Peter and John were arrested by the religious leaders – 4:1-4

a. the religious leaders interrupted the sermon of Peter – 4:1

**the priests came with the captain of the temple
the priests were accompanied by the Sadducees
the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection – Matt. 22:23**

b. the religious leaders were grieved that they taught the people – 4:2

**the religious leaders viewed themselves as the only ones who should teach
the religious leaders did not want the message of the resurrection taught**

c. the religious leaders put them in jail overnight – 4:3

**the religious leaders arrested them in the temple
the religious leaders put them in jail for the night**

d. the religious leaders could not stop the growth of the church – 4:4

**the message of Peter caused many to believe
the number of believers had now grown to 5000**

2. Peter and John were brought before the religious leaders – 4:5-7

a. the religious leaders all gathered together in Jerusalem – 4:5-6

**the religious leaders gathered together the next day
these religious leaders had condemned Christ to death – Mark 15:1; John 19:15
the high priest and his relatives also gathered with them
Annas and Caiaphas had said that Christ should die – John 11:49-51; 18:13-14**

b. the religious leaders asked by what power they healed the man – 4:7

**the religious leaders asked Peter and John their source of power
their source of power was the power of Jesus Christ – Acts 4:10
the religious leaders asked in whose name they healed the man
the name of Jesus was the theme of their messages – Acts 5:28, 40**

3. Peter preached the Gospel to the religious leaders – 4:8-12

a. Peter spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit – 4:8

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit

we will speak the Word with boldness when we are filled with the Spirit – Acts 4:31

Peter spoke to the rulers of the people and the elders

these were the men who were grieved with their message – Acts 4:2

b. Peter told them the man was healed through Christ – 4:9-11

Peter asked if they were being examined for doing a good deed

Peter later wrote about suffering for doing good – I Pet. 2:20

Peter asked if they were being examined for making the man well

the crippled man had been healed – Acts 3:6

Peter said that his message was for all the people

this message has always been for all people – Ps. 67:1-7

Peter said that the man was healed by Christ whom they crucified

the religious leaders did not want to take responsibility for their actions – Acts 5:28

Peter said that the man was healed by Christ who God raised from the dead

this was the message Peter preached the previous day also – Acts 3:13-15

Peter said that Christ was the One who made the man well

the man was healed in the name of Jesus of Nazareth – Acts 3:6

Peter said Christ is the stone the builders rejected

this had been predicted in Psalm 118:22-23

Peter said that He had become the head cornerstone

Christ is the chief cornerstone – Eph. 2:20

c. Peter told them that Christ was the only one who could give salvation – 4:12

Peter said that no one else can give salvation

Peter had said earlier that Jesus was both Lord and Christ – Acts 2:36

Peter said that Christ is the one who forgives sin – Acts 5:31

Paul said that all who call on the Lord will be saved – Acts 16:31

Paul warned of those who try to present another Gospel – Gal. 1:6-9

Luke wrote that the Son of man came to seek and to save – Luke 19:10

Peter said that no one else under heaven can provide salvation

Jesus is the only way to come to the Father – John 14:6

John wrote that those who do not believe are already condemned – John 3:18

Paul wrote that we can only be saved by grace through faith – Eph. 2:8-9

D. Peter and John are told to stop preaching about Christ – 4:13-22

1. the religious leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John – 4:13

the leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John
boldness is given by the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:4; 5:29-31
the leaders realized that they were uneducated men
these men were formerly fishermen – Mark 1:16-20
the leaders realized that they were untrained men
these men had not grown up being trained by religious leaders – Acts 22:3
the leaders were amazed as they saw the men

2. the religious leaders could not deny what had happened – 4:14

the leaders could see the man who had been healed
the leaders could not say anything against his healing

3. the religious leaders discussed how to deal with the apostles – 4:15-17

a. the leaders had a private discussion – 4:15

the religious leaders commanded Peter and John to leave the room
the religious leaders talked among themselves

b. the leaders had to admit a great miracle had happened – 4:16

the religious leaders did not know what to do
the religious leaders admitted a great miracle had happened
the leaders could not deny that the man had been healed – Acts 4:14, 22
the religious leaders knew that everyone in Jerusalem had heard about it
the leaders realized that all Jerusalem was listening to the apostles – Acts 5:28
the religious leaders said that they could not deny the miracle
the leaders had earlier tried to deny the resurrection – Matt. 28:11-15

c. the leaders decided to threaten Peter and John – 4:17

the religious leaders did not want this news to spread among the people
the religious leaders decided to threaten Peter and John
this was the first of many threats by the religious leaders - Acts 5:40
the religious leaders decided to tell them not to speak about Christ any more
the leaders were trying to fight against God – Acts 5:38-39

4. the religious leaders commanded them to stop preaching – 4:18

the religious leaders called Peter and John back into the room
the religious leaders commanded them to stop speaking
the religious leaders commanded them not to teach in the name of Jesus

5. the religious leaders heard the answer of Peter and John – 4:19-20

Peter and John asked the leaders a question
Peter and John were totally without fear – Acts 4:13
Peter and John asked whether they should ignore God
Peter and John were going to obey God – I Sam. 15:22
Peter and John asked if they should obey the leaders
Peter and the other apostles were going to obey God – Acts 5:29
Daniel put God first even when it meant the lion's den – Dan. 6:10
Peter and John said the leaders would have to answer their question
the leaders knew the right answer whether they answered or not
Peter and John said they would keep speaking
the Christians all prayed that they could speak with boldness – Acts 4:29-31

6. the religious leaders threatened them again – 4:21

the leaders threatened them one more time
threats only work when we are controlled by fear – I John 4:18
threats do not work when we are controlled by the love of Christ – I John 4:18
the leaders then let them go
the leaders would soon arrest them again – Acts 5:17-18
the leaders could not find an excuse to punish them
the leaders would later accuse them again – Acts 5:28
the leaders actually feared the people
fear controls those who do not know the love of Christ – I John 4:18
fear is not the spirit that the Lord has given us - II Tim. 1:7
the leaders heard all of the people glorifying God
the Lord kept leading more people to believe – Acts 5:14

7. the religious leaders had to admit a great miracle had happened – 4:22

the man that was healed was over 40 years old
the man had been crippled since birth – Acts 3:2
the man was evidence a great miracle was performed
the religious leaders could not deny that a great miracle happened – Acts 4:16

E. Peter and John report to the other leaders what happened – 4:23-30

1. the believers heard what happened to Peter and John – 4:23

Peter and John returned to the other Christians
Peter and John told all that the religious leaders said to them
the believers were being taught how to deal with threats to their faith – Acts 4:8-21

2. the believers all prayed to God in one accord – 4:24-28

the believers all lifted up their voices to God in one accord
the believers handled problems by praying – Acts 12:12
the believers recognized the creation of God in their prayers
the believers included the Word of God in their prayers
when we pray the Word of God we better understand the will of God
the believers spoke of the opposition of the world against Christ
the believers spoke of how the people killed Christ
the believers recognized that God carried out His will
the will of God was determined before the world was created – Eph. 1:5-6

3. the believers prayed for boldness to speak – 4:29-30

the believers spoke of the threats of the leaders
the believers were not intimidated by the threats of the leaders - Acts 4:31
the believers prayed for boldness to speak the Word of God
we can also pray for boldness to speak the Word of God – Eph. 6:20
the believers asked the Lord to back their words with miracles
the Lord answered by doing many miracles – Acts 5:12-16
the believers prayed that these miracles would be done in the name of Jesus
all miracles should bring glory to Jesus Christ – Acts 3:12-13; 4:10

4. the believers all spoke the Word of God with boldness – 4:31

the Lord heard their prayers
the Lord will always hear when we pray according to His will – I John 5:14-15
the Lord shook the place where they were meeting
the Lord has a way of shaking up places – Acts 16:25-26
the Lord filled them all with the Holy Spirit
the people had been filled with the Spirit at Pentecost – Acts 2:1-4
the Lord gave them power to speak the Word of God with boldness
the people spoke the Word of God with boldness at Pentecost – Acts 2:5-12

F. Peter and the others continue to minister – 4:32-37

1. the believers had a great concern for one another – 4:32

the believers were of one heart and one soul
there was great unity among the believers – Acts 1:14; 2:46
the believers were not selfish with what they had
they shared to meet the needs of one another – Acts 2:44-45
the believers shared what they had with one another
they shared ministry when they did not have money – Acts 3:6

2. the believers were witnessing with great power – 4:33

the Lord gave the apostles great power
the Lord bore witness to their ministry with signs and wonders – Heb. 2:3-4
the Lord made them powerful witnesses about the resurrection
the resurrection was the focus of the message – Acts 2:22-37; 3:26; 4:10
the Lord caused them all to experience great grace

3. the believers were sharing to meet the needs of one another – 4:34-35

the believers were sharing with one another so none lacked
the believers were concerned to meet the needs of one another – Acts 2:45
the believers were even selling their lands and houses
the believers were bringing the money from the things they sold
the believers were bringing the money to the apostles
the apostles eventually had to delegate this responsibility to others – Acts 6:1-7
the believers were sharing with all who had needs

4. the believers were given a godly example by Barnabas – 4:36-37

Barnabas was originally named Joseph
Barnabas had his name changed because of his ministry to others
Barnabas means the “Son of Encouragement”
Barnabas was an encouragement to Saul – Acts 9:26-27
Barnabas was an encouragement to John Mark – Acts 15:39
Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus
Barnabas had some land that he sold
Barnabas brought the money to the apostles
Barnabas had a different heart attitude than Ananias – Acts 5:1-11

G. Peter rebukes the sin of Ananias and Sapphira – 5:1-11

1. Peter deals with the sin of Ananias – 5:1-6

a. Ananias and his wife sold a piece of land – 5:1

**Ananias was married to a woman named Sapphira
Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of land**

b. Ananias brought part of the money to the apostles – 5:2

Ananias made a plan to deceive others
the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked – Jer. 17:9
Ananias and his wife both agreed to the plan
the wife later agreed with what Ananias said – Acts 5:7-9
Ananias took part of the money with him
Ananias laid that money at the feet of the apostles

c. Ananias claimed that he had given the entire amount to the Lord – 5:3-4

Peter was shown that Ananias was being led by Satan
Peter faced a similar attitude in a man named Simon – Acts 8:17-24
Peter was shown that Ananias was lying to the Holy Spirit
the wife told the same lie a few hours later – Acts 5:7-9
Peter was shown that Ananias was trying to deceive the church
Peter told Ananias that the possession had been his before he sold it
Peter told Ananias the money belonged to him after he sold the possession
(Ananias could have kept part of the money if he had not lied)
Peter asked Ananias why he had tried to deceive others
no person can deceive God even when he deceives others - Gal. 6:7
Peter said Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit
the Lord looks on the heart and cannot be deceived – I Sam. 16:7
the sin was trying to deceive and lie to the Holy Spirit

d. Ananias died for lying to the Holy Spirit – 5:5-6

Ananias heard these words and fell down and died
Ananias caused the people to have a holy fear of God
a godly fear is a fear of displeasing God – Acts 2:43
Ananias had his body wrapped up by the young men
Ananias had his body buried by the young men

2. Peter deals with the sin of Sapphira – 5:7-11

a. Sapphira came to Peter about three hours later – 5:7

Sapphira came about three hours later
Sapphira did not yet know what happened to Ananias
Sapphira came to where the apostles were

b. Sapphira gave the same story as Ananias – 5:8

Sapphira was questioned by Peter
Sapphira was asked if they sold the land for a certain price
Peter wanted to make certain that they agreed together to deceive – Acts 5:2
Sapphira said that was the price they received for the land

c. Peter said she was also testing the Holy Spirit – 5:9-10

Sapphira was asked why they agreed together to test the Holy Spirit
they had chosen to lie to God – Acts 5:4
Sapphira heard that the young men who buried her husband were at the door
Sapphira heard that they would also carry her out
these young men would do the same for her as they did for her husband - Acts 5:6
Sapphira immediately fell down and died
Sapphira learned what happened to her husband – Acts 5:5
Sapphira was pronounced dead by the young men
Sapphira was carried out by the young men
Ananias had earlier been carried out by these young men – Acts 5:6
Sapphira was buried by her husband
Ananias had earlier been buried – Acts 5:6

d. Peter saw great fear come on the church – 5:11

this event caused great fear to come on the church
the fear of God is a godly fear of displeasing Him – Gen. 39:9
this kind of fear causes us to recognize our sin – Luke 5:8
this kind of fear produces godly wisdom – Prov. 1:7
this event caused great fear to come on all who heard about it
the fear of unbelievers is a fear of judgment – Heb. 2:14-15
this fear will bring some to repentance – I Cor. 14:25; Jude 23
it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God – Heb. 10:31
this fear without repentance produces eternal judgment – Rev. 21:8

H. Peter and the other apostles do many miracles – 5:12-16

1. the church saw many miracles done by the apostles – 5:12

the Lord used the apostles to perform many signs and wonders

these signs and wonders were given to the apostles – Heb. 2:4

the Lord caused these signs and wonders to be seen by the people

these signs were to confirm their witness of the resurrection – Acts 1:22

the Lord saw the believers were all in agreement

the Lord desires unity among Christians – Eph. 4:3

the Lord saw the believers regularly gathered in Solomon's porch

this had become the public meeting place of the believers – Acts 3:11

2. the church continued to grow and multiply – 5:13-14

the people who were not believers were afraid to join them

they had seen what happened to Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11

the people had high respect for the Christians

this respect and favor had lasted for several years – Acts 2:47

the people were seeing many others become believers

the Lord was adding large numbers of believers to the church – Acts 4:4

the people saw large numbers of both men and women believe

the Gospel is for all people both men and women – Acts 17:12

3. the church saw the Lord work in a mighty way – 5:15-16

the people brought the sick and laid them in the streets

the people had earlier brought many sick to Christ – Matt. 8:16

the people laid them on their beds and couches

the people had earlier brought people to Christ in this way – Mark 2:1-5

the people hoped that Peter would come down their street

the people hoped that the shadow of Peter would touch the sick

the Lord was using Peter to make a great impact - Acts 2:14; 3:4; 4:13

the people saw crowds of people come from the surrounding area

the Gospel was spreading throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria – Acts 9:31

the people saw the crowds bring the sick to Jerusalem

the Lord eventually scattered them from Jerusalem – Acts 8:1

the people saw the crowds bring those vexed with evil spirits

the One who is in us is greater than the one in the world – I John 4:4

the people saw that every one of the people that were brought were healed

the Lord was confirming the message of the apostles – Heb. 2:4

I. Peter and the other apostles are arrested again – 5:17-28

1. the apostles are put in jail and freed by the Lord – 5:17-21

a. the Lord allowed the apostles to be arrested a second time – 5:17-18

the high priest was the one who took charge

the high priest had earlier condemned Christ – John 18:13-14; Acts 4:6

the Sadducees were the ones who backed the high priest

the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection – Luke 20:27

the Sadducees were angry and envious

the Sadducees were grieved that they taught about the resurrection – Acts 4:2

these religious leaders arrested the apostles

the religious leaders were experiencing conviction from God – Acts 5:28

these religious leaders put the apostles in jail

the religious leaders had tried to stop the apostles earlier – Acts 5:19-21

b. the Lord delivered the apostles from the prison – 5:19

an angel came and opened the prison doors

an angel brought the apostles out of the prison

an angel would open the prison again – Acts 12:5-10

c. the Lord told the apostles to go speak in the temple – 5:20

the angel told the apostles to go to the temple and speak

the apostles had prayed for openings to share the Gospel – Acts 4:29-31

the angel told them to share all the words of this life

the message of life includes the resurrection – I Cor. 15:1-6

the message of life includes the forgiveness of sins – Acts 26:18

d. the Lord used them to speak to the people again – 5:21

the apostles went out of the prison

the apostles were following the instructions of the Lord - Acts 5:20

the apostles went and taught in the temple early in the morning

the apostles were teaching salvation through Christ – Acts 4:12

the religious leaders called a council to accuse the apostles

the religious leaders were still continuing to threaten them – Acts 4:21

the religious leaders sent officers to bring the apostles from prison

the officers were going to get a real surprise – Acts 5:23

2. the apostles are brought before the council – 5:22-28

a. the apostles were not in prison when the officers came – 5:22-23

the officers came to the prison
the officers did not find the apostles in the prison
the officers told the leaders they found the prison securely shut
the officers said the guards were standing outside the door
the officers said the prison was empty when they opened the door
these officers could be thankful they did not have to tell Herod - Acts 12:19

b. the apostles caused the religious leaders to be perplexed – 5:24

the religious leaders listened to this report
the religious leaders were beginning to feel they were losing control – Acts 5:40
the religious leaders were perplexed when they heard the report
the religious leaders did not understand how God was working – Acts 4:19-20
the religious leaders wondered what the outcome would be
some religious leaders realized they might be fighting against God – Acts 5:34-39

c. the apostles were preaching in the temple– 5:25-26

the apostles had returned to the temple
the apostles had been going to the temple each day – Acts 3:1
the apostles were teaching the people
the apostles continued to do what they had done each day – Acts 2:46
the apostles were brought to the religious leaders again
this was becoming a habit – Acts 4:1; Acts 5:18
the apostles were bold but the religious leaders were afraid
the apostles were depending on the strength of the Lord – Acts 4:13

d. the apostles were brought before the religious leaders – 5:27-28

the apostles were brought before the council
the council knew they could not deny the resurrection – Acts 4:16-17
the apostles were told they had been forbidden to teach about Jesus
the apostles had told the leaders they would speak what they had seen – Acts 4:19-20
the apostles were accused of filling Jerusalem with their teaching
the apostles were teaching daily in the temple and from house to house – Acts 2:46
the apostles were accused of blaming the leaders for the death of Christ
the leaders were not afraid of this charge when they condemned Christ – Matt. 27:25

J. Peter and the other apostles answer the religious leaders – 5:29-39

1. the religious leaders were ready to kill the apostles – 5:29-33

a. the apostles said they were going to obey God – 5:29

the apostles were not afraid to answer the religious leaders
the apostles witnessed in the power of the Holy Spirit – Acts 4:13, 31
the apostles said they would obey God rather than man
the apostles were going to speak the things they had seen and heard – Acts 4:20

b. the apostles spoke of the death of Christ – 5:30

the apostles said God raised Christ from the dead
this was their regular message – Acts 2:23-24; 3:15; 4:10
the apostles said the religious leaders had crucified Christ – Acts 4:10
the religious leaders had said this themselves – Matt. 27:25

c. the apostles spoke of the resurrection of Christ – 5:31

the apostles said Christ was at the right hand of the Father – Acts 7:55
the apostles said Christ was a Prince and a Savior Matt. 1:21
the apostles said Christ came to call Israel to repentance – Matt. 4:17
the apostles said Christ came to offer forgiveness of sins – Mark 2:10
this is a message that gives hope to all who believe - Acts 26:18

d. the apostles spoke of the witnesses of the resurrection 5:32

the apostles said they were witnesses of the resurrection
this was their most important ministry – Acts 1:22
the apostles said the Holy Spirit was a witness of the resurrection
the Holy Spirit was testifying through the apostles – John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-14
the apostles said the Holy Spirit had been given to those who obey God
the Holy Spirit is given as a gift to all who repent – Acts 2:38

e. the apostles brought great conviction on the leaders – 5:33

the religious leaders were furious when they heard this
the religious leaders would become even more furious – Acts 7:54
the religious leaders plotted to kill the apostles
the religious leaders would have killed them except for Gamaliel – Acts 5:34-39

2. the religious leaders listened to the advice of Gamaliel – 5:34-39

a. Gamaliel was a highly respected teacher of the Jews – 5:34

Gamaliel was a Pharisee rather than a Sadducee
the Pharisees and Sadducees usually argued against each other – Acts 23:6-9
Gamaliel was a teacher of the law
Gamaliel was highly respected by the people
Paul had been brought up as a student of Gamaliel – Acts 22:3
Gamaliel had the officers remove the apostles from the room

b. Gamaliel told the leaders to think about what they were doing – 5:35

Gamaliel told them to think since they were the leaders of Israel
Gamaliel warned them about the danger of killing the apostles

c. Gamaliel reminded them of Theudas and Judas – 5:36-37

Gamaliel reminded them of Theudas
Gamaliel said that Theudas had boasted that he was somebody
Gamaliel said that 400 people had become followers of Theudas
Gamaliel said that these 400 followers had obeyed Theudas
Gamaliel said these followers had been scattered and brought to nothing
Gamaliel reminded them how Judas of Galilee gathered many followers
this happened in the days of the registration – Luke 2:1-3
Gamaliel said that Judas had died
Gamaliel said that then his followers had scattered

d. Gamaliel gave them a reason not to kill the apostles – 5:38

Gamaliel encouraged them not to kill the apostles
Gamaliel was a man of wisdom even though he did not follow Christ - Acts 5:39
Gamaliel said if they were following men it would come to nothing
those who do not obey the teachings of Christ will come to nothing – Matt. 7:24-27

e. Gamaliel told them they could not fight against God – 5:39

Gamaliel said if the apostles were following God they could not be stopped
if God is for us, no one can stand against us – Rom. 8:31
Gamaliel said they would actually be fighting against God
God makes us more than conquerors – Rom. 8:37

K. Peter and the other apostles rejoice in persecution – 5:40-42

1. the apostles were beaten and told not to speak – 5:40

the religious leaders listened to Gamaliel

the people had great respect for the teachings of Gamaliel – Acts 22:3

the religious leaders called the apostles back into the room

the apostles had been sent out of the room by Gamaliel – Acts 5:34

the religious leaders had the apostles beaten

the religious leaders were still furious – Acts 5:33

the religious leaders commanded them to not speak in the name of Christ

the religious leaders had tried this before – Acts 4:19-21

the religious leaders let them go

the religious leaders did not know what else to do – Acts 4:23

2. the apostles rejoiced for the privilege of suffering – 5:41

the apostles left the meeting with the religious leaders

earlier they had returned and had a prayer meeting – Acts 4:23

in that prayer meeting they had prayed for boldness – Acts 4:29-31

the apostles rejoiced that Christ counted them worthy to suffer shame

all Christians need to be prepared for tribulation – Acts 14:22

the apostles rejoiced that they had the privilege of suffering for Christ

all who live godly in Christ will suffer persecution – II Tim. 3:12

3. the apostles continued to preach about Christ – 5:42

the apostles continued their daily ministry

the apostles were sharing the Word of God with boldness – Acts 4:31

the apostles were focused on prayer and the ministry of the Word – Acts 6:4

the apostles continued their ministry in the temple

the apostles went to the temple daily – Acts 3:1

the apostles taught daily in the temple - Acts 2:46

the apostles continued their ministry in every house

the apostles were also teaching from house to house - Acts 2:46

Paul also taught from house to house – Acts 20:20

the apostles continued to teach about Christ

the word teach means to discuss or explain something – Acts 17:11; 18:26

the apostles continued to preach about Christ

the word preach means to share the good news of the Gospel – Acts 8:35

the apostles became an example and all the believers started preaching – Acts 8:4

V. The Lord causes the number of disciples to multiply – 6:1-7:60

A. The Lord multiplies the number of disciples – 6:1-7

1. the believers had a problem as the disciples multiplied – 6:1

the disciples were multiplying in number

notice the change from addition to multiplication – Acts 2:47; 4:4; 6:1

notice also the change from believers to disciples – Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:1

the Greek speaking disciples complained to the Hebrew speaking Jews

the Greek speaking Jews said their widows were being neglected

2. the believers heard the priorities of the twelve – 6:2-4

the twelve called the believers together for a meeting

the twelve said it was not desirable for them to neglect the Word

the twelve told the believers to choose seven men to distribute food

the twelve said to choose men with the following qualifications, men of:

honest report – a qualification for deacons – I Tim. 3:8

full of the Holy Spirit – walking in the Spirit – Gal. 5:16

full of wisdom – godly wisdom – I Cor. 2:13

the twelve said they would focus on two things:

prayer – Acts 13:2

the ministry of the Word – Acts 2:42; 4:31; 5:28

3. the believers chose men to meet the needs – 6:5-6

the believers were all pleased with the decision

the believers chose seven men and presented them to the apostles

the apostles prayed for the seven who had been selected

the apostles confirmed the appointment by laying hands on them

laying on of hands was a sign of commissioning - I Tim. 4:14

4. the believers continued to multiply – 6:7

the Word of God increased

the Word would continue to increase and spread – Acts 19:20

the number of disciples multiplied greatly

this increase changed from addition (Acts 2:46) to multiplication – Acts 6:1

a great number of the priests were obedient to the faith

(there were approximately 22,000 priests in New Testament times)

B. The Lord uses Stephen in the Greek culture synagogue – 6:8-15

1. Stephen began to have a great ministry for the Lord – 6:8

Stephen was a man full of faith and power
Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit – Acts 6:3, 5
Stephen was used by God to perform great wonders
Stephen was used by God to perform great miracles
these had previously only been done by the apostles – Acts 5:12

2. Stephen began preaching in the Greek speaking synagogues – 6:9-10

this included the synagogue for the Freedmen (descendants of Jewish slaves)
these were Jews captured at Pompei (63 B.C.) taken to Rome and later freed
this included the synagogue of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians
this would be Jews from North Africa who now lived in Jerusalem
this included the synagogue for those from Cilicia and Asia
Saul (Paul) was probably from this synagogue (present day Turkey)
the men of these synagogues could not resist the wisdom of Stephen
the men of these synagogues could not resist the Spirit
Gamaliel had earlier warned about trying to resist God – Acts 5:38-39

3. Stephen was falsely accused to try and stop him from preaching – 6:11-12

the leaders of these synagogues secretly raised up false witnesses
the witnesses said Stephen spoke blasphemous words against Moses and God
the witnesses stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes
the witnesses caused Stephen to be seized and brought to the council

4. Stephen was taken to the religious leaders – 6:13-14

these witnesses gave false testimony against Stephen
these witnesses accused Stephen of speaking blasphemous words
these witnesses accused Stephen of saying Jesus would destroy the temple
these witnesses accused Stephen of saying Jesus would destroy the customs

5. Stephen reflected glory before the religious leaders – 6:15

the whole council was looking at Stephen
the whole council saw his face shining like an angel
Stephen was reflecting the glory of the Lord - II Cor. 4:18

C. The Lord gives Stephen opportunity to preach to the leaders – 7:1-53

1. Stephen reviewed the history of Abraham – 7:1-8

a. Abraham was the first person Stephen mentioned as he spoke – 7:1-2

Stephen was asked if the charges against him were true

Stephen did not worry about trying to defend himself
(instead Stephen is going to give a review of Israel's rejection of God)

Stephen was depending on the Holy Spirit for wisdom - Acts 6:10

Stephen asked the religious leaders to listen to him

God had a very important message for Stephen to give to the religious leaders

Stephen said that God had appeared to Abraham – Gen. 12:1

Stephen said this first happened in Mesopotamia – Gen. 11:27-28

Stephen said this was before Abraham went to Haran – Gen. 11:29

b. Abraham had the Lord call him to leave his own country – 7:3-4

Abraham came out of Mesopotamia and lived in Haran – Gen. 11:31

Abraham stayed in Haran until his father died – Gen. 11:32

Abraham then left Haran and came to Canaan (Israel) - Gen. 12:1-4

Abraham came to the land where the Jews now lived – Gen. 12:5

c. Abraham did not receive a permanent possession – 7:5

Abraham was given no land as an inheritance

Abraham was given a promise to him and his descendents

Abraham received this promise when he had no descendents

d. Abraham was told that his descendents would be in bondage – 7:6-8

God said the descendents would live in a strange land – Gen. 15:13

God said the descendents would be brought into bondage – Gen. 15:13

God said they would be treated evilly in bondage – Gen. 15:13

God said he would judge the nation that enslaved them – Gen. 15:14

God said He would bring them out of that land Gen. 15:14-15

God said He would bring them to this land to serve Him – Gen. 15:16

God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision – Gen. 17:10-14

God gave Abraham a descendent named Isaac – Gen. 18:10-15, 21:1-5

God gave Isaac a son named Jacob – Gen. 25:26

God gave Jacob twelve sons - Gen. 46:8-27

2. Stephen reviewed the history of Joseph – 7:9-16

a. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt – 7:9

the brothers of Joseph were filled with envy – Gen. 37:4-11
this was a result of hate in their hearts – Gen. 37:3-4, 8
the brothers of Joseph sold him into slavery – Gen. 37:28
the brothers rejected the one the Lord raised up – Gen. 37:20
the brothers of Joseph could not stop God from being with him – Gen. 39:2

b. Joseph was made governor in Egypt – 7:10

God delivered Joseph out of his affliction – Gen. 41:14
God was with Joseph in prison – Gen. 39:21-23
God was with Joseph and brought him out of prison – Gen. 41:14
God was with Joseph and gave him a forgiving heart – Gen. 50:19-21
God gave Joseph favor and wisdom before Pharaoh – Gen. 41:39-40
God led so that Joseph became governor of Egypt – Gen. 41:41-44
God blessed the one the brothers had rejected - Gen. 41:38-44

c. Joseph was revealed to his brothers in Egypt – 7:11-13

a famine came in the lands of Canaan and Egypt – Gen. 41:56
a famine caused great trouble in these lands – Gen. 41:57
a famine left the people lacking food – Gen. 42:1
Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt – Gen. 42:1
Jacob sent Joseph's brother to Egypt to get food – Gen. 42:1-5
Joseph revealed himself to his brothers the second time – Gen. 45:3
Joseph introduced his family to the Pharaoh – Gen. 45:16; 47:1-2

d. Joseph brought his family to Egypt – 7:14-16

Joseph sent for his father, Jacob – Gen. 45:23-28
Joseph saw the entire family come to Egypt – Gen. 46:1-27
the brothers were saved by the one they rejected – Gen. 45:7
the brothers were cared for by the one they rejected – Gen. 50:21
the brothers were promised future deliverance by Joseph – Gen. 50:24
Jacob went down to Egypt to Joseph – Gen. 46:29
Jacob died in the land of Egypt – Gen. 49:33
Jacob was taken back to Shechem and buried – Gen. 50:1-12
Jacob was placed in the same burial cave as Abraham – Gen. 50:13

3. Stephen reviewed the early history of Moses – 7:17-22

a. Moses was born after an extended period – 7:17-19

the time came close for God to keep His promise

God had promised Abraham he would bring them out of Egypt – Gen. 15:13-16

God remembered His covenant with Abraham – Ex. 2:24-25

God told Moses He had seen their affliction – Ex. 3:7

God told Moses He was going to deliver Israel – Ex. 3:8-10

the people were increasing and multiplying in Egypt – Ex. 1:7

the people got a new king who did not know about Joseph – Ex. 1:8

this king worked craftily to control Israel – Ex. 1:10

this king oppressed the people of Israel – Ex. 1:12-14

this king forced them to get rid of their baby boys – Ex. 1:16

this king did not want the baby boys to live – Ex. 1:20

b. Moses was protected for three months from Pharaoh – 7:20

Moses was born during this time - Ex. 3:2

Moses was well pleasing to God – Heb. 11:24-29

Moses was hidden in his father's house for three months – Ex. 3:2

c. Moses was raised in the family of Pharaoh – 7:21

Moses was set out by his family – Ex. 2:3-4

Moses was found by the daughter of Pharaoh – Ex. 2:5-6

Moses was brought up as the son of the daughter of Pharaoh – Ex. 2:10

Moses was willing to suffer to please God - Heb. 11:24-25

d. Moses was given the best possible training in Egypt – 7:22

Moses was taught all of the wisdom of Egypt

Moses was raised in the house of Pharaoh – Ex. 2:10

Moses became a man who was mighty in words

Moses tried to use the excuse that he could not speak – Ex. 4:10

Moses became a man who was mighty in actions

Moses led the people out of Egypt – Ex. 12:31-36

Moses led the people through the Red Sea – Ex. 12:13-14

Moses led the people to victory over Amalek – Ex. 17:8-16

Moses organized the people so they could move forward – Ex. 18:24-26

Moses spoke to God for the people – Ex. 20:18-21

4. Stephen reviewed the rejection of Moses by Israel – 7:23-29

a. Moses saw an Israelite suffering when he was 40 years old – 7:23-24

Moses lived in the house of Pharaoh until he was 40 years old – Ex. 2:11

Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter – Heb. 11:24

Moses decided in his heart that he needed to visit his brethren – Ex. 2:11

Moses was choosing to suffer with his people – Heb. 11:25

Moses went to visit the people of Israel – Ex. 2:11

Moses was looking to the long term reward – Heb. 11:26

Moses saw one of the Israelites treated unfairly – Ex. 2:11

Moses decided to punish the Egyptian who was doing this – Ex. 2:12

Moses killed the Egyptian – Ex. 2:12

b. Moses was not understood by the people of Israel – 7:25

Moses thought the people of Israel would understand his concern

Moses thought the people would understand God would use him to deliver them

Moses learned that his own people did not accept him – Acts 7:35

Moses found out the people did not understand - Ex. 2:14

Moses was rejected by both the people of Israel and of Egypt

c. Moses was rejected by the people of Israel – 7:26-28

Moses found two men of Israel fighting the next day – Ex. 2:13

Moses tried to reconcile the two men – Ex. 2:13

Moses asked them why they were treating each other wrong – Ex. 2:13

Moses received an angry reply from the one who was doing wrong – Ex. 2:14

Moses was asked who made him a ruler and a judge – Ex. 2:14

Moses experienced the first of many rejections by his people – Acts 7:35, 39

Moses was asked if he was going to kill the man – Ex. 2:14

d. Moses fled to the land of Midian – 7:29

Moses heard these words and fled from the land – Ex. 2:15

Moses spent 40 years in the court of Pharaoh learning to be a somebody

Moses went and lived in the land of Midian – Ex. 2:16-21

Moses then spent 40 years in Midian learning to be a nobody

Moses was then ready to be used by God – Ex. 3:5

Moses had two sons while he was in Midian – Ex. 2:22; 18:3-4

Moses had two sons named Gershom and Eliezer - Ex. 18:3-5

5. Stephen reviewed the deliverance of Israel through Moses – 7:30-36

a. Moses had God appear to him in a burning bush – 7:30-31

Moses was in the land of Midian for 40 years – Ex. 3:1
Moses had an Angel of the Lord appear to him – Ex. 3:2
Moses saw this Angel in a flame of fire in a bush – Ex. 3:2
Moses had this happen in the wilderness of Sinai
Moses was amazed at what he was seeing – Ex. 3:3
Moses went closer to the bush to watch – Ex. 3:4
Moses heard the Lord speak to him from the bush – Ex. 3:5

b. Moses had God speak to him from the burning bush – 7:32-34

Moses heard that God was the God of his fathers – Ex. 3:6
Moses was suddenly afraid to even look – Ex. 3:6
Moses was told to take off his sandals – Ex. 3:5
Moses was told he was standing on holy ground – Ex. 3:5
Moses was told God had seen the oppression of Israel – Ex. 3:7
Moses was told that God had heard the groaning of the people – Ex. 3:9
Moses was told that God was going to send him to Egypt – Ex. 3:10
Moses was not willing to go to Egypt at first – Ex. 3:11

c. Moses was sent to be a deliverer to Israel – 7:35

Moses was the one who was rejected by Israel – Ex. 4:1
they rejected him when he first tried to help them – Ex. 2:12
Moses was the one who had been asked who made him a ruler
Moses was sent by God to be a ruler
Moses was sent by God to be a deliverer
God was the One who sent Moses to deliver Israel – Ex. 3:14
Moses was sent by the Angel who appeared to him in the bush – Ex. 3:14
this was an Old Testament appearance of Christ – Ex. 3:13-14

d. Moses brought Israel out of Egypt – 7:36

Moses brought the people out of Egypt – Ex. 12:31-33
Moses had first shown wonders and signs in Egypt
this included a series of ten plagues in Egypt – Ex. 7:1-12:30
Moses had shown wonders and signs at the Red Sea – Ex. 14:13-31
Moses had shown wonders and signs in the wilderness – Ex. 17:1-7

6. Stephen reviewed the rejection of God by Israel – 7:37-43

a Moses led the people through the wilderness – 7:37-38

Moses taught the people of Israel in the wilderness – Deut. 18:15-19
Moses taught the people that God would raise up a Prophet – Deut. 18:15
Moses said this prophet would be raised up from among them – Deut. 18:18
Moses said this was the Prophet they were to hear – Deut. 18:19
Moses was with the people in the wilderness – Ex. 19:5-25
Moses had the Angel speak to him on Mt. Sinai – Ex. 19:20-24
Moses received the Ten Commandments for the people – Ex. 20:1

b. Moses had his leadership rejected again in the wilderness – 7:39-41

Moses was again rejected in the wilderness – Ex. 32:1
Moses had the people turn in their hearts to the gods of Egypt – Ex. 32:1
Aaron was asked to make gods to go before them – Ex. 32:1
Aaron was told the people did not know what happened to Moses - Ex. 32:1
Aaron made a golden calf in those days – Ex. 32:4
Aaron would not take responsibility for his actions – Ex. 32:2
Aaron participated in offering sacrifices to the idol – Ex. 32:6
Aaron was the one who built the altar – Ex. 32:5-6
Aaron and the people rejoiced in the works of their own hands - Ex. 32:6
Aaron did not take responsibility for his own actions - Ex. 32:24

c. Moses saw the people turn and worship the stars – 7:42

God allowed the people to make their own choices – Josh. 24:15, 20
God saw the people worship the sun, moon and stars – II Kings 17:16
the people were warned not to worship the stars – Deut. 4:19
God saw the people offer sacrifices to other things – Amos 5:25-27

d. Moses saw the people turn and worship idols – 7:43

God saw the people worship Molech – Amos 5:25-27
God saw them worship the star of the god Remphan – Amos 5:25-27
God saw them worship these images – Amos 5:25-27
God said He would take them away beyond Babylon – Deut. 28:63
God said they would be scattered among the nations – Deut. 28:64
God said they would have it difficult in those nations – Deut. 28:65
God said their lives would be in doubt – Deut. 28:66-67

7. Stephen said that Israel was still rejecting God – 7:44-53

a. God said David later found favor before God – 7:44-46

God had seen the tabernacle they built in the wilderness – Ex. 40:34
God had given instructions to Moses on how to build it – Ex. 25:1-28:43
God had seen Moses follow the building instructions – Ex. 40:33-34
God had seen the people bring it into the land under Joshua – Josh. 18:1
God had driven out the people of the land until the time of David
David found favor before God – I Chron. 17:3-15
David asked if he could build a dwelling for God – I Chron. 17:1-2

b. God allowed Solomon to later build the temple – 7:47

c. God said He did not dwell in temples made with hands – 7:48-50

God does not live in temples made with hands
these verses are a quotation from Is. 66:1-2
God says that heaven is His throne
Solomon realized that even heaven could not contain God – I Kings 8:27
God says that the earth is His footstool
God said that no house could be built for Him
God does not dwell in temples made with hands – Acts 7:24
God said no man could create a place of rest for Him
God is the One who made all things
Christ is the Creator of all things – John 1:3

d. God was still being resisted by the Jews – 7:51-53

Stephen told the people they were stiff-necked – Ex. 34:9
Stephen said the people were uncircumcised in heart and ears – Ezek. 44:7-9
Stephen said they had always resisted the Holy Spirit – John 16:8-11
Stephen said Israel had persecuted all of the prophets
Christ said they were the sons of those who killed the prophets – Matt. 23:31-33
Stephen said they killed those who foretold the coming of Christ
many Old Testament prophets died for their witness – Heb. 11:36-37
Stephen said they had now become the murderer of the Just One
this had been their choice when Christ was condemned – Matt. 27:25
Stephen said that they had received the Law of God
Stephen said that they had not kept the Law
the people talked but did not obey throughout their history - Matt. 15:8

D. The Lord welcomes Stephen to heaven – 7:54-60

1. Stephen was rejected by the religious leaders – 7:54

the religious leaders had heard what Stephen was saying
the religious leaders were angry when their hearts were exposed
the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked – Jer. 17:9
the religious leaders ground their teeth in their anger

2. Stephen saw Christ standing to receive him – 7:55-56

Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit as he spoke
that was why he was able to speak with boldness – Acts 4:31
Stephen turned his gaze and looked into heaven
Stephen saw the glory of God
Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God
Christ normally sits on the right hand of God – Col. 3:1
Stephen told the people to look at what he was seeing
Stephen said he saw the Son of Man standing
Stephen said He was standing at the right hand of God

3. Stephen was stoned to death by the Jews – 7:57-59

the Jews cried out with a loud voice
the Jews plugged their ears
the Jews all ran toward Stephen
the Jews cast Stephen out of the city and stoned him
the Jews laid their coats down at the feet of a man named Saul
Saul soon became the leading persecutor of the church – Acts 8:3
the Jews heard Stephen calling on God as they stoned him
the Jews heard Stephen ask Jesus to receive his spirit
Stephen knew where he was going – II Cor. 5:8

4. Stephen asked the Lord to forgive those who were stoning him – 7:60

Stephen kneeled down as they stoned him
Stephen prayed for those who persecuted him – Matt. 5:44
Stephen asked the Lord to forgive them in a loud voice
Stephen followed the example of Christ – Luke 23:34
Stephen then fell asleep (died)
those who sleep with Jesus will come with Him - I Thess. 4:14

The Gospel Spreads in Judea and Samaria

Acts 8:1-12:25

I. The Lord involves all Christians in spreading the Gospel – 8:1-4

A. The church began to experience great persecution – 8:1

Saul was in agreement with the death of Stephen

Saul had held the coats for those who stoned Stephen – Acts 7:58

there began a great persecution against the church at Jerusalem

this persecution would continue for many years – Acts 12:1-4

the believers were scattered throughout Judea

this resulted in the spread of the church throughout Judea – Acts 9:31

the believers were scattered throughout Samaria

this resulted in the spread of the church throughout Samaria – Acts 8:5, 25

the apostles remained in Jerusalem when the church was scattered

the apostles went out from there to encourage others – Acts 8:14; 9:32

B. The church had a great sorrow at the death of Stephen – 8:2

Godly men carried Stephen to be buried

the church had great grief over the death of Stephen

C. The church saw Saul take the lead in persecution – 8:3

Saul began to make havoc of the church

Saul even went to other cities – Acts 9:1-2

Saul began entering the houses of all of the believers

Saul began dragging the believers out of their houses

Saul began putting the believers in prison

Saul was determined to stop the spread of the church – Acts 9:1

Saul was actually helping to spread the church - Acts 11:19-21

D. the church went everywhere preaching the Word – 8:4

the believers were scattered everywhere by the persecution

the Lord used persecution to spread the church – Acts 9:31

the believers went everywhere preaching the Word

the word spread to Samaria – Acts 9:5

the word spread to the Gentiles – Acts 11:18

the word spread as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus – Acts 11:19

II. The Lord uses Philip to share the Gospel in Samaria – 8:5-25

A. Philip shares the Gospel in Samaria – 8:5-13

Philip began preaching in Samaria and many people believed – 8:5-8

Philip went to the city of Samaria

Christ said the Gospel should be taken to Samaria – Acts 1:8

Philip preached Christ in that city – I Cor. 2:2

Philip saw the people listen closely to the message – Acts 17:11

Philip saw the people observe the miracles that he was doing

Philip was given power by Christ to cast out demons

the Lord gives power as He chooses – Acts 6:8

Philip was given power by Christ to heal various diseases

Philip saw great joy develop in that city

Philip met Simon who had long controlled the people – 8:9-11

Simon had previously practiced sorcery in that city – Deut. 19:9-12

Simon had previously astonished the people of that city

Simon had previously claimed that he was someone great

Simon had been able to control all of the people

Simon was in bondage himself – Acts 8:23

Simon was thought to have great power from God

Satan often tries to imitate the power of God - II Cor. 11:13-15

Simon had seen the people listen to him for a long time

Simon had astonished them with his sorcery for a long time

Philip saw many people believe – 8:12

Philip saw many people believe in Christ

the Lord was adding many people to the church – Acts 5:14

Philip saw this happen as he preached about the kingdom of God

the kingdom of God is entered by the new birth – John 3:3-5

Philip saw many people believe and be baptized

these people gave testimony to their faith – Acts 2:41

Philip saw Simon believe – 8:13

Simon also believed and was baptized

Simon was amazed at the miracles and signs that Philip did

B. Philip is joined by Peter and John – 8:14-17

1. Peter and John were sent by the church to Samaria – 8:14

the apostles in Jerusalem heard what was happening in Samaria
the apostles often sent people to help new Christians – Acts 11:22
the apostles heard the Samaritans had received the Word of God
the apostles had originally seen Christ bring the Gospel to the Samaritans - John 4
the apostles sent Peter and John to help their spiritual growth
the concern of the apostles was for believers to mature – Acts 2:42, 46
our concern should also be to help believers mature – Eph. 4:11-16
our concern should be to share all that is profitable with new believers – Acts 20:20
our concern should be to share the whole counsel of God – Acts 20:27

2. Peter and John prayed for the believers in Samaria – 8:15-16

Peter and John came to the city of Samaria
Peter and John often ministered as a team – Acts 3:1
Peter and John prayed for those who had believed
Paul also continually prayed for those who believed – I Cor. 1:4
Peter and John prayed they would receive the Holy Spirit
the Lord had apostles present each time a new group received the Gospel – Acts 10:44
Peter and John realized the Holy Spirit had not yet come on the Samaritans
this gift had originally come on the Jews as a group – Acts 2:4, 38
Peter and John learned that they had been baptized in the name of Jesus
the disciples of John had received John's baptism – Acts 19:4-7

3. Peter and John saw the believers receive the Holy Spirit – 8:17

Peter and John laid their hands on the Samaritans
this helped to develop unity between Jews and Samaritans – John 17:21-23
the Jews and Samaritans had a mutual distrust – Luke 9:52-53
this helped both groups accept one another - Acts 8:14
the Lord wants all Christians to become one – Eph. 4:16
Peter and John saw the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit
the Holy Spirit was promised as a gift to all Christians – Acts 2:38
(the Holy Spirit came on four groups as groups the first time)
the Holy Spirit came on the first Jewish believers as a group – Acts 2:38-41
the Holy Spirit came on the first Samaritan believers as a group – Acts 8:17
the Holy Spirit came on the first Gentile believers as a group – Acts 10:44; 11:15
the Holy Spirit came on a group of Old Testament believers as a group – Acts 19:6

C. Philip sees Peter rebuke Simon, the sorcerer – 8:18-24

1. Simon wanted to buy power to give the Holy Spirit – 8:18-19

Simon observed as the apostles laid hands on the Samaritans
Simon observed as the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit
Simon offered the apostles money – I Tim. 6:10
Simon thought he could buy the power of the Holy Spirit
Simon did not understand that the Holy Spirit is a gift – Acts 2:38
Simon wanted to be able to give (sell) power to others
false teachers are often controlled by the love of money – I Tim. 6:9-10

2. Simon was told he could not buy the Holy Spirit – 8:20-21

Simon was told his money would perish with him
Simon was told that his thinking was wrong
the heart is the source of evil thoughts – Mark. 7:21
Simon was told that he thought the gift of God could be purchased
Simon was told that he could not be a part of this ministry
Simon was told that his heart was not right with God
the words of the mouth show the thoughts of the heart – Prov. 23:6-7

3. Peter told Simon to repent – 8:22

Simon was told to repent of this wickedness
our message is both repentance and faith – Acts 20:21
Simon was told to pray to God
Simon was told to ask God to forgive his wicked thoughts

4. Peter said Simon was controlled by bitterness – 8:23-24

Simon was actually poisoned by bitterness – Heb. 12:15
Simon was in bondage to sin – Heb. 2:14-15
Simon asked Peter to pray for him - Acts 8:22
Simon asked Peter to pray that none of these things would come on him

D. Philip sees Peter and John leave to minister throughout Samaria – 8:25

Peter and John then started their return to Jerusalem
Peter and John preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans
the Lord wanted to plant churches throughout Samaria - Acts 9:31

III. The Lord uses Philip to share the Gospel with an Ethiopian – 8:26-40

A. Philip obeys the Lord and goes to the desert – 8:26-28

1. Philip received a message from an angel – 8:26

Philip was told to leave the city of Samaria – Acts 8:5
Philip was told to go to the road that led from Jerusalem to Gaza

2. Philip obeyed the message of the angel – 8:27-28

Philip obeyed immediately and went
the one who knows and obeys is wise in the sight of God – Matt. 7:24-27
Philip saw a man from Ethiopia riding in his wagon (chariot) down the road
Philip later learned he was the treasurer for the queen
Philip later learned he had come to worship at Jerusalem
people can desire to worship but not know how to worship - John 4:24
Philip saw he was reading the book of Isaiah as he returned – Rom. 10:17

B. Philip is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert – 8:29-34

1. Philip was led by the Holy Spirit – 8:29

Philip was sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
Philip gives us an example of what it means to be led by the Spirit – Gal. 5:18
Philip was told to go catch up with this chariot

2. Philip asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he read – 8:30-33

Philip ran to the man in the chariot
Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading
the natural man cannot understand the things of God – I Cor. 2:14
Philip heard the man needed someone to help him understand
this is the great need of all who have not yet trusted Christ – I Cor. 2:13
Philip was asked to ride with him and explain what he read
Philip saw he was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8

3. Philip was asked to explain what the Ethiopian was reading – 8:34

Philip was asked if the prophet was speaking about himself
Philip was asked if he might be speaking of some other man

C. Philip preaches the Gospel to the Ethiopian – 8:35-37

Philip started with the very verses that he was reading
he was reading about the suffering and death of Christ – Is. 53:7-8

Philip explained to him what the verses teach about Jesus
Philip and the Ethiopian passed a place where there was water

Philip heard the Ethiopian ask if he could be baptized

Philip asked if he believed Christ with all of his heart
the Ethiopian was asked if he believed in his heart – Rom. 10:9

Philip heard the answer of the Ethiopian
the Ethiopian recognized Christ as the Son of God - Rom. 10:9-10

Philip heard him say that he believed Jesus is the Son of God
the Ethiopian testified of true faith in Christ – Rom. 10:10

D. Philip baptizes the Ethiopian and then preaches in other cities – 8:38-40

1. Philip immediately baptized the Ethiopian – 8:38

Philip and the Ethiopian stopped by the water

Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water
John baptized in a place where there was much water – John 3:23

Philip baptized the Ethiopian in that water
(there are eight different kinds of baptism in the New Testament)
this baptism speak of baptism as a public testimony of belief – Rom. 6:3-4

2. Philip was caught away by the Spirit – 8:39

Philip was caught away by the Spirit as they came out of the water

Philip continued to be led by the Spirit – Gal. 5:16, 18

Philip and the Ethiopian did not see each other again

Philip caused the Ethiopian to leave with rejoicing
true salvation and obedience produces joy in our hearts – Acts 5:42

3. Philip preached in several other cities – 8:40

Philip was next found at the city of Azotus

this city is near the coast a few miles north of Gaza - Acts 8:26

Philip preached in all the cities along the coast

Philip shared the Gospel wherever he went – Acts 8:4

Philip preached all the way to the city of Caesarea

Philip made Caesarea the center for the rest of his ministry – Acts 21:8-10

IV. The Lord draws Saul to Himself – 9:1-30

A. Saul meets the Lord on the road to Damascus – 9:1-6

1. Saul was planning to arrest Christians in Damascus – 9:1-2

Saul was continuing to threaten the believers - Acts 8:3
Saul wanted to destroy the disciples of the Lord
Saul asked the high priest for letters to the synagogues in Damascus
Saul told Agrippa how he persecuted Christians even in foreign cities – Acts 26:11
Saul asked for permission to arrest those who followed Jesus
Saul told Agrippa this was why he was on his way to Damascus – Acts 26:12
Saul asked for permission to bring them in chains to Jerusalem

2. Saul was asked a question by the Lord – 9:3-4

Saul went on his journey and was almost to Damascus
Saul later described this event to the Jews – Acts 22:6-8
Saul suddenly had a bright light shine on him from heaven
Saul told Agrippa how this bright light stopped him – Acts 26:13
Saul fell to the earth and heard a voice speak from heaven
Saul told Agrippa how he had fallen to the ground – Acts 26:14
Saul was asked, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”
those with Saul did not understand the voice that spoke – Acts 22:9

3. Saul was asked a second question by the Lord – 9:5

Saul responded by asking, “Who are you, Lord?”
we each need to get to know the Lord better each day – Phil. 3:10
Saul received the answer, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”
Saul was also told, “It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”
the goads were iron sticks to prod cattle and cattle could not resist them

4. Saul immediately submitted to the Lord Jesus – 9:6

Saul was filled with trembling and astonishment
Saul had thought he was serving the Lord - Acts 22:3-4
Saul asked Jesus, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”
this is a question that we need to ask the Lord every day – James 4:7
Saul was told to go into the city and he would be told what to do
Saul told the Jews how he was told to go into the city – Acts 22:10

B. Saul spends three days in darkness – 9:7-9

**Saul had other men who were traveling with him
the men heard a voice but saw no one
the Lord was speaking particularly to Saul – Acts 22:6-8
Saul got up from off the ground – Acts 26:14
Saul had been blinded by the Lord – Acts 22:11
Saul was led by the hand into Damascus – Acts 22: 10
Saul was blind for three days
Saul did not eat or drink during those days**

C. Saul waits as the Lord prepares Ananias to visit him – 9:10-16

1. Ananias was told to go to Saul who was praying – 9:10-12

**Ananias was a disciple living in Damascus – Acts 22:12-16
Ananias received a vision from the Lord – Acts 9:17
Ananias was available to be used by the Lord – Acts 9:17
Ananias was told to go to the street called Straight
Ananias was told that Saul of Tarsus was praying in the house of Judas
Ananias was told that Saul had seen a vision of him coming
Ananias was told the vision showed he would put his hand on Saul – Acts 9:17**

2. Ananias told the Lord how evil Saul was – 9:13-14

**Ananias said that he had heard from many people about Saul – Acts 9:1-2
Ananias had heard how much evil Saul did to the saints in Jerusalem – Acts 8:3
Ananias heard Saul had authority to arrest all the believers in Damascus**

3. Ananias learned that the Lord had chosen Saul – 9:15-16

**the Lord told Ananias to go – Acts 9:11
the Lord said Saul was a chosen vessel of Christ's – Acts 13:2
the Lord chose Paul to be a minister and a witness – Acts 26:16
the Lord said Saul would share the Gospel with the Gentiles – Acts 26:17
the Lord said Paul would share the Gospel with kings – Acts 25:22-26:1
the Lord gave Paul opportunity to share the Gospel with kings – Acts 26:6-8, 20
the Lord said Paul would share the Gospel with Israel – Rom. 1:16
Paul started in most cities at the synagogue - Acts 13:14; 14:1; 17:1, 10
the Lord said Paul would suffer greatly for Him
Paul listed some of his sufferings for the Corinthians – II Cor. 11:24-33**

D. Saul becomes a believer and is baptized – 9:17-19

1. Ananias went and laid his hands on Saul – 9:17

Ananias was obedient and went to visit Saul – Acts 22:12
Ananias laid his hands on Saul – Acts 9:12
Ananias recognized Saul as a brother – Acts 22:13
Ananias told Saul that it was the Lord who appeared to him – Acts 22:14
Ananias said he had been sent so Saul could receive sight – Acts 22:12-13
Ananias said he had been sent so Saul could be filled with the Holy Spirit
we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit – Eph. 5:18
we will speak with boldness when we are filled with the Holy Spirit – Acts 4:29-31

2. Ananias then baptized Saul – 9:18

Saul immediately received his sight – Acts 22:13
Saul immediately got up and was baptized – Acts 22:16

3. Ananias and the other disciples encouraged Saul – 9:19

Saul received food and was strengthened
Saul spent a number of days with the disciples in Damascus – Acts 26:20

E. Saul preaches the Gospel in Damascus – 9:20-22

1. Saul immediately began to preach in the synagogues – 9:20

Saul immediately began to preach Christ in the synagogues – Acts 26:20
Saul was proving that Jesus is the Son of God – Acts 9:22

2. Saul caused all of the Jews to be amazed – 9:21

the people were amazed as they heard Paul speak – Acts 9:23
the people knew he was the one who destroyed believers in Jerusalem
the people knew he was the one who came to Damascus for that purpose

3. Saul continued to increase in strength – 9:22

Paul continued to grow in spiritual strength – Acts 26:20
Paul amazed the Jews who lived in Damascus – Acts 26:20
Paul was proving that Jesus is the Christ

F. Saul is forced to flee from Damascus – 9:23-25

1. the Jews decided to kill Saul – 9:23
the Jews heard Saul preach for many days – Acts 26:20
the Jews decided to kill Saul – Acts 9:29; 22:22

2. the Jews were lying in wait to catch Saul – 9:24
Saul found out they were waiting to kill him – II Cor. 11:32
Saul knew they were watching the gates of the city day and night

3. the Jews could not prevent the escape of Saul – 9:25
the disciples helped Paul escape at night – II Cor. 11:32
the disciples let Saul down over the wall in a large basket – II Cor. 11:33

G. Saul preaches the Gospel in Jerusalem – 9:26-28

1. Saul caused the believers in Jerusalem to become fearful – 9:26
the disciples in Jerusalem had Saul try to join them
the disciples were all afraid of Saul – Acts 8:3
the disciples did not believe that Saul was now a disciple – Gal. 1:21-24

2. Saul was introduced to the apostles by Barnabas – 9:27
Barnabas took Saul and brought him to the apostles – Acts 4:36
Barnabas told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus
Barnabas told them how the Lord had spoken to Saul – Gal. 1:18
Barnabas told them he had preached about Jesus in Damascus

3. Saul was with the apostles in Jerusalem – 9:28

H. Saul is forced to flee to Tarsus – 9:29-30

1. Saul spoke boldly in the name of Christ – 9:29
Saul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus – Acts 6:8
Saul disputed with the Greek speaking Jews – Acts 6:9-10
Saul had those Jews try to kill him – Acts 6:11; 7:57-60

2. Saul returned to his home town of Tarsus – 9:30
the brethren knew the Jews were trying to kill Saul
the brethren brought Saul down to Caesarea
the brethren sent Saul to Tarsus – Acts 9:11
Saul would spend the next ten years in Tarsus - Gal. 1:21

V. The Lord causes the church to spread throughout Judea – 9:31-43

A. The Lord multiplies churches throughout the region – 9:31

the Lord gave the churches rest throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria

this was the area where the Christians had been scattered – Acts 8:1

the Lord caused the churches to be built up

the Lord caused the churches to be built up through the Word – Acts 20:32

the Lord caused the churches to walk in the fear of the Lord

the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge – Prov. 1:8

the Lord caused the churches to walk in the comfort of the Holy Spirit

the result of the fear of the Lord is joy in the Holy Spirit – Rom. 14:17

the Lord caused the churches to multiply

the Lord caused the believers to increase – Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14

the Lord caused the number of disciples to multiply – Acts 6:1, 8

the Lord now caused the number of churches to multiply – Acts 9:31; 16:5

B. The Lord gives Peter a ministry in Lydda and Sharon – 9:32-35

1. Peter went down to the city of Lydda – 9:32

Peter traveled through all parts of the country

Peter was being led to various areas by the Lord - Acts 8:14, 25

Peter came to visit the saints who lived at Lydda

2. Peter was used by the Lord to heal Aeneas – 9:33

Peter met a man in Lydda named Aeneas

Peter heard that Aeneas had been in bed for eight years

Peter saw that Aeneas was paralyzed

3. Peter was led by the Lord to heal Aeneas – 9:34

Peter told Aeneas that Jesus Christ was making him well

Peter told Aeneas to get up and make his bed

Peter saw Aeneas immediately healed and he got up

4. Peter saw all of the people of Lydda and Sharon turn to the Lord – 9:35

the people all saw what had happened to Aeneas

the people all turned to the Lord

C. The Lord gives Peter a ministry in Joppa –9:36-43

1. Peter received word that Dorcas had died – Acts 9:36-38

**Dorcas was her Greek name and Tabitha was her Hebrew name
Dorcas was a woman who was full of good works and kind deeds
Dorcas was always doing things to help others – Acts 10:4, 31
Dorcas became sick and died
Dorcas had her body prepared for burial
Dorcas had her body laid in an upstairs room
Lydda was only 10 miles from Joppa
the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda
the disciples sent two messengers to Joppa
the disciples asked Peter to come quickly to Joppa**

2. Peter was led by Christ to raise Dorcas from the dead – Acts 9:39-41

a. Peter came to the place where they had the body of Dorcas – 9:39

**Peter was taken to the room where the body had been placed
Peter saw a room filled with widows weeping – Acts 9:36
Peter saw the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for these widows**

b. Peter prayed and then told Dorcas to arise – 9:40

**Peter put all of the people out of the room
Peter knelt down and prayed to the Lord
Peter turned to the body and spoke
Peter said, “Tabitha arise” – Matt. 10:8
Peter saw her open her eyes and sit up**

c. Peter presented Dorcas to the other believers – 9:41

3. Peter saw many believe in the Lord in Joppa – Acts 9:42-43

**a. Peter saw many people believe in Joppa – 9:42
this miracle became known throughout the town of Joppa
this miracle caused many to believe in the Lord – Acts 9:34-35
the Lord was leading many to believe in the Lord - Acts 9:35
b. Peter was staying at the house of Simon, a tanner - 9:43
most Jews would not stay with a tanner because he worked with dead animals**

VI. The Lord spreads the Gospel to the Gentiles – 10:1-11:18

A. The Lord hears the prayer of Cornelius – 10:1-8

1. Cornelius was a man who feared God – 10:1-2

Cornelius lived in the city of Caesarea
Cornelius was a centurion in charge of the Italian Regiment
Cornelius was a devout man - Acts 10:4
Cornelius was a man who feared God with all of his household
Cornelius had taught his entire household about God – Acts 10:24
Cornelius was continually sharing generously with the needy
Cornelius had a great concern for the needs of others – Acts 9:36
Cornelius was continually praying to God
Cornelius was now going to be told how to be saved – Acts 11:14

2. Cornelius received a vision of an angel of God – 10:3-4

Cornelius received a vision from God about 3:00 in the afternoon
Cornelius saw a vision of an angel of God coming and speaking to him
Cornelius was afraid when he saw the vision of the angel
Cornelius immediately asked what the angel wanted
Cornelius was told that his prayers were a memorial before God
God brings the Gospel to those who are seeking Him – Rom. 10:14-15
Cornelius was told his gifts of kindness were a memorial before God

3. Cornelius was told to send men to Joppa to get Peter – 10:5-6

Cornelius was told to send men to Joppa
Cornelius was to tell the men to ask for Simon whose surname was Peter
Cornelius was told that he was staying with Simon, the tanner
Cornelius was told that Peter would tell him what to do
Peter would tell him how to be saved – Acts 11:14-16

4. Cornelius sent a team of three men to Joppa – 10:7-8

Cornelius called two servants and a devout soldier to him
Cornelius knew that these men were faithful men
Cornelius told them all that he had seen in his vision
the Lord was working in the life of Cornelius - Acts 10:3
Cornelius sent the men to Joppa

B. The Lord prepares Peter to take the Gospel to Cornelius – 10:9-18

1. Peter was praying and became very hungry – 10:9-10

Peter did not know that three men were coming to see him – Acts 10:7-8

Peter went up on the housetop to pray – Acts 6:4

Peter went for this time of prayer about 12:00 noon

Peter became very hungry while he was praying

we can experience many feelings and emotions while praying – Luke 22:44

Peter really wanted to eat

Peter fell into a trance while they were getting the food ready

(a trance is a throwing of a mind out of its normal state while awake) - Acts 22:17
in this trance the Lord was speaking to Peter through what his mind was seeing

2. Peter saw a vision of a sheet being let down from heaven – 10:11-14

Peter saw heaven opened in his trance – Acts 22:17-21

Peter saw an object like a great sheet tied at each of the four corners

Peter saw this sheet coming down to him – Acts 11:5

Peter saw all kinds of animals, creeping things and birds in the sheet – Acts 11:6

Peter heard a voice telling him to kill and eat – Acts 11:7

Peter answered and told the Lord that he could not do that – Acts 11:8

Peter said that he had never eaten anything common or unclean – Acts 11:9

the Jews were not to eat anything that was unclean – Lev. 11:2-47; Deut. 14:4-20

3. Peter saw this vision a total of three times – 10:15-16

Peter received this vision a second time

Peter heard a voice tell him, “What God has cleansed you must not call common”

God tells us not to call any person common (unholy) – Acts 10:28

God tells us not to call any person unclean (defiled) – Acts 10:28

Peter saw the same thing happen a third time – Acts 11:10

Peter then saw the object taken up into heaven

4. Peter had visitors arrive at the very time he was seeing this vision – 10:17-18

the three men came while Peter was wondering what the vision meant

the Lord would soon explain the vision – Acts 10:19-20

the three men from Cornelius were standing at the gate – Acts 11:11

these men had been sent by Cornelius - Acts 10:8

the three men asked if Simon Peter was staying there

C. The Lord lets Peters meet Cornelius and his friends – 10:19-27

1. Peter was told by the Spirit to go with the men who had come – 10:19-20

Peter continued to think about the vision – Acts 10:10-16
Peter had the Holy Spirit speak to him as he thought – Acts 11:12
Peter was told that there were three men looking for him – Acts 11:11
Peter was told that he was to go with these three men – Acts 11:12
Peter was told that he was not to doubt because God sent them

2. Peter heard from the men why they had come – 10:21

Peter went down to the three men
Peter told them that he was the one they were looking for
Peter asked them the reason why they had come

3. Peter went with them to the house of Cornelius – 10:22-24

Peter heard that Cornelius was a just man who feared God – Acts 10:2
Peter heard that Cornelius had a good reputation among Jews and Gentiles
Cornelius was a man who feared God – Acts 10:2, 10:4, 10:31
Peter heard that an angel told Cornelius to invite Peter to his house
Peter heard that the angel had instructed Cornelius to listen to Peter
Peter invited the men to come in and stay at the house
Jews and Romans did not visit the homes of one another – Acts 11:28
Peter went with the three men the next day
Peter took six men from Joppa with him
Peter knew that he would be questioned about his actions – Acts 11:12
the six men Peter took with him were Jewish believers – Acts 10:45
Peter and the group reached Caesarea the following day
Peter found that Cornelius was waiting for him
Peter found Cornelius had invited his relatives and close friends
Cornelius had the same concerns as the disciples – John 1:40-46; Matt. 9:9-10

4. Peter met many people who had come to hear him – 10:25-27

Peter had Cornelius fall down and worship him
Peter showed that we are not to worship any other human person – Acts 14:11-15
Peter told Cornelius to get up because he was just an ordinary man
Peter talked with Cornelius and went in and found a large group gathered
we also need to have a great concern for family and friends - John 1:40-46

D. The Lord has Peter tell why he had come – 10:28-33

1. Peter said it was against Jewish law to fellowship with non-Jews – 10:28

Peter reminded them it was unlawful for a Jew to befriend a Gentile

here we see that Peter was willing to break Jewish traditions

Peter reminded them it was unlawful for a Jew to visit a Gentile

Peter knew that he would be challenged for doing this – Acts 11:2-3

Peter said the Lord had shown him he was not to call any man common

God created man in his own image – Gen. 1:27; 9:6

Peter said the Lord had shown him he was not to call any man unclean

Peter realized that God is not a respecter of people – Acts 10:34-35

2. Peter said that God was the One who had sent him to them – 10:29

Peter said that he had come without any objections

Peter had his objections handled by the Lord earlier – Acts 10:13-20

Peter said he had come as soon as he was sent for

Peter had come the very next day – Acts 10:23

Peter asked the reason why they had sent for him

Peter heard why they had sent for him – Acts 10:33

3. Peter heard Cornelius review the vision God had given him – 10:30-33

Cornelius said that he had been fasting four days earlier – Acts 10:2

Cornelius said he was praying at 3:00 in the afternoon – Acts 10:3

Cornelius said that he had a man in bright clothing appear to him – Acts 10:3

Cornelius said he had been told his prayer had been heard – Acts 10:4

Cornelius said he had been told his deeds of kindness were noticed – Acts 10:4

Cornelius said he had been told to send to Joppa for Simon Peter – Acts 10:5-6

Cornelius said he had been told Peter was at the house of Simon the tanner

Cornelius said that he had immediately obeyed the Lord – Acts 10:7-8

Cornelius thanked Peter and those with him for coming

Peter had six brethren who had come with him – Acts 10:23-24; 11:12

Cornelius said that they had all gathered to hear

Cornelius had a concern to reach relatives and friends for Christ – Acts 10:24

Cornelius said they wanted to hear the things that God commanded

Peter said God commanded the believers to preach to the people – Acts 10:42

Peter said God commanded them to speak about the need for repentance – Acts 10:42

Peter said God commanded them to share how to believe – Acts 10:43

Peter said God told them to tell how to have forgiveness of sin – Acts 10:43

E. The Lord gives Peter the opportunity to preach to Cornelius – 10:34-43

1. Peter realized that God is offering salvation to all – 10:34-35

a. Peter saw that God does not respect persons – 10:34

Peter began to speak to the people gathered together
Cornelius had a concern for his relatives and friends – Acts 10:24
Peter said that he now realized that God shows no partiality
God says that it is a sin to show partiality – James 2:9

b. Peter saw that God wanted to save people from every nation – 10:35

Peter realized that there are people in every nation who fear God
Christ had commanded that the Gospel should be preached to all – Mark 16:15
Peter realized that people of every nation can turn to righteousness
all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved – Rom. 10:17
Peter realized that people of every nation will be accepted by God
it is the plan of God to save people from every nation – Psalm 67; Rev. 5:9; 7:9

2. Peter reviewed how the Gospel had been preached – 10:36-38

a. God had sent the message of peace through Christ – 10:36

God originally sent His Word to the Jews
God had said that peace comes by Jesus Christ
God had said that Christ is Lord of all

b. God had led Christ to share this message in Galilee and Judea – 10:37

this message was proclaimed throughout Judea – Acts 9:31
this message had begun in Galilee – Matt. 3:12-17
this message began to be proclaimed after the baptism of John – Matt. 3:11-12

c. God had verified the ministry of Jesus with miracles – 10:38

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power – Matt. 3:16-17
Jesus went about doing good – Matt. 4:23-25; Luke 4:14-15
Christ carried on this ministry throughout the land of Israel - Matt. 4:25
Jesus went about healing all who were oppressed with demons – Mark 5:1-20
Jesus knew that God was with Him – John 17:21

3. Peter reviewed the death and resurrection of Christ – 10:39-41

a. the apostles were witnesses of the death of Christ – 10:39

Peter said that they were witnesses of what Jesus did in the land – Acts 1:21
Peter said they were witnesses of what Jesus did in Jerusalem – Acts 1:22
Peter said that the Jews killed Jesus by crucifying Him – Acts 5:28

b. the apostles were witnesses of the resurrection of Christ – 10:40

Peter said that God raised Jesus the third day
God is the One who raised Christ from the dead – Acts 4:10
Peter said that God showed Jesus openly
God chose the apostles to be witnesses of the resurrection – Acts 1:21-22

c. the apostles had been chosen by God to be witnesses – 10:41

Peter said God did not show Jesus to all of the people
God showed Christ to His chosen witnesses – Acts 13:30-31
Peter said God showed Jesus to witnesses that He had chosen
Christ appeared to more than 500 witnesses at once – I Cor. 15:5-8
Peter said they ate with Him after He arose from the dead
Christ both talked and ate with them – Luke 24:36-43

4. Peter told the people how to have forgiveness of sins – 10:42-43

a. Peter said that Christ had commanded them to preach to the people – 10:42

God commanded them to preach to the people – Acts 1:8
God said that Jesus was appointed by God to be Judge – John 5:22
God said Jesus would judge the living and the dead – Rom. 14:9-10

b. Peter said that belief in Christ would result in forgiveness of sin – 10:43

God said all the prophets gave witness to Christ
God gave witness of Christ through the prophets – Acts 3:18
God said they wrote of the need to believe through His name
God said the Lord is the gate of righteousness – Ps. 118:19-23
God said all who believe would receive forgiveness
remission of sins (forgiveness) is promised to all who repent – Acts 2:38
remission of sins is only through the shedding of blood - Heb. 9:22

F. The Lord saves the entire group – 10:44-48

1. Peter saw the Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit – 10:44

Peter was speaking to the people who were gathered

Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends – Acts 10:24

Peter saw the Holy Spirit come on the Gentiles

Peter recognized that God gave them the Holy Spirit – Acts 11:17

Peter saw this happen to all who were there

Peter saw the Holy Spirit come on the entire group – Acts 11:15

2. Peter saw the surprise of those who came with him – 10:45-46

Peter had brought six Jewish believers with him

Peter had not gone alone to the house of Cornelius – Acts 11:12

Peter saw the surprise of these Jewish believers

Peter would soon deal with the contending of Jewish believers – Acts 11:2

Peter had asked these Jewish believers to come with him

Peter had brought some Jewish believers from Joppa – Acts 10:23

Peter and the other Jews saw the Holy Spirit come on the Gentiles

Peter and the other six had all witnessed this event – Acts 11:15-17

Peter and the Jews heard the Gentiles speak with tongues

Peter said they had received the same gift – Acts 2:1-4; 11:17

Peter and the Jews heard the Gentiles magnify God

we are called to magnify the Lord together – Ps. 34:2-3

true fear of God will cause people to magnify His name – Acts 19:17

those who love God's salvation will magnify the Lord – Ps. 40:16

3. Peter baptized all of those who had believed – 10:47-48

Peter asked if there were any who could forbid them to be baptized

Peter told the initial believers to be baptized as a testimony of their faith – Acts 2:38

Peter and the others saw the Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit

Peter thus fulfilled the words of Christ – Acts 11:16-17

Peter had seen the same thing happen on the Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:1-4

Peter said this was like the time they first received the Holy Spirit

both Jews and Gentiles received the Holy Spirit as a group – Acts 11:15

Peter commanded the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of the Lord

baptism is identification with the death and resurrection of Christ – Rom. 6:3-7

Peter and the other Jews stayed with them for several days

Peter followed the example of Christ with new believers – John 4:42-43

G. The Lord has to work on the rest of the church – 11:1-3

1. the believers in Judea heard that the Gentiles received the Word – 11:1

the apostles and brethren in Judea heard what had happened

Peter had prepared for this event – Acts 10:23

(the believers still did not understand the full meaning of what Christ said) - Acts 1:8

the apostles and brethren heard the Gentiles received the Word of God

Peter knew that the Jews would not understand or accept – Acts 11:17

Peter himself shows what happens when we are motivated by fear – Gal. 2:11-14

2. the believers contended with Peter – 11:2-3

Peter returned to the city of Jerusalem

Peter was prepared to explain what had happened – Acts 10:28-29

Peter had the Jewish believers contend with him

the Jewish believers were still zealous for the law – Acts 21:20

Peter was rebuked for going to people who were uncircumcised

the Jews did not go to the homes of Gentiles – Acts 10:28

Peter was rebuked for eating with believers who were uncircumcised

the Jews did not eat with the Gentiles – Gal. 2:12

H. The Lord had Peter tell about his vision – 11:4-10

1. Peter told how the vision came when he was praying in Joppa – 11:4-5

Peter reviewed what had happened from the beginning

Peter was even able to share about the men coming to him – Acts 11:11

Peter explained the events to them in order

Peter realized the importance of explaining everything carefully – Acts 15:6-8

(this was something that was totally new for the Jewish believers)

Peter told how he was praying in the city of Joppa

Peter had been praying while lunch was being prepared – Acts 10:9

Peter told them that he had experienced a trance

Peter fell into a trance while he was praying – Acts 10:10

Peter told them that he had seen a vision

Peter saw the vision and then thought about the meaning of it – Acts 10:19

Peter told about the great sheet that came down from heaven

Peter told about this vessel that looked like a large sheet – Acts 10:11

Peter said that this sheet came to him

Peter had the sheet appear to him three times - Acts 10:16

2. Peter told how a voice told him to eat these unclean animals – 11:6-7

Peter said that he had looked carefully at this sheet

Peter had seen this great sheet come down from heaven – Acts 10:11

Peter said that he saw it was full of unclean animals

Peter had seen that the sheet was full of wild beasts – Acts 10:12

Peter saw it contained creeping things and unclean birds

Peter had seen that it contained creeping things and birds – Acts 10:12

Peter said that a voice spoke to him

Peter had heard the voice speak to him from heaven – Acts 10:13

Peter said the voice told him to kill and to eat

Peter had been told what to do by that voice from heaven – Acts 10:13

3. Peter told how he answered the voice – 11:8

Peter said he told the Lord he could not do that

Peter said he refused the instructions of the Lord – Acts 10:14

Christ asked how we can call Him Lord and then not obey – Luke 6:46

Peter told the Lord he had never eaten anything common or unclean

Peter tried to put a difference between the unclean and clean – Lev. 10:10

Peter had always followed the Jewish dietary restrictions – Acts 10:28

Peter told the Lord such things had never entered his mouth

Peter had always followed the example of Daniel – Dan. 1:8

4. Peter told the believers what God had said to him – 11:9-10

Peter said the voice spoke again from heaven

Peter had this vision happen a total of three times – Acts 10:16

(God often has to speak to us more than once before we listen)

Peter showed that God is patient when teaching us new things - I Thess. 5:14

Peter said he was told that God had cleansed these things

Peter had been taught these things by God – Acts 10:28

God often has to remind us of the need to reach out to others - Rom. 10:12-15

God wants the people of all the nations to hear – Psalm 67:1-7

Peter said that what God cleansed is no longer unclean

Peter had learned that God is the one who cleanses – Acts 10:15

Peter also learned the Lord wanted to save the Gentiles – Acts 10:19-20

Peter said this vision happened three times

Peter saw the vision three times before he accepted what God said – Acts 10:16

Peter said that then the sheet was caught up into heaven

Peter said the sheet was taken to heaven after the third time – Acts 10:16

I. The Lord had Peter tell how the Lord had prepared Cornelius – 11:11-14

1. the Lord brought three men looking for Peter – 11:11

Peter said that there were already three men at the door

God even takes care of the timing for sharing the Gospel – Acts 10:17-18

Peter said that these men had come to the house where he was

these men were at the door when Peter came down from the roof – Acts 10:19-20

Peter said that these men had come from Caesarea

Cornelius had sent these men from Caesarea – Acts 10:1-8

2. the Lord led Peter to take six brethren with him – 11:12

Peter said that the Holy Spirit told him to go with them

we also need to learn to be sensitive to the Spirit – Acts 10:19-20

Peter said he was told not to doubt

we also need to obey when the Spirit speaks to us – Gal. 5:16, 18

Peter said that the six men with him now had gone with him

Peter had prepared for this meeting in Jerusalem – Acts 10:23, 45

Peter said that they had all entered into the house of Cornelius

they had gone into the house and found many gathered – Acts 10:27

3. the Lord had Peter review the words of Cornelius – 11:13-14

Peter told how Cornelius had seen an angel

Cornelius told Peter how the angel had come to him – Acts 10:30

Peter said that Cornelius said the angel had spoken to him

Cornelius said that the angel told him that his prayer was answered – Acts 10:31

Peter said that the angel had told Cornelius to send men to Joppa

Cornelius said the angel told him to send men to Joppa – Acts 10:32

Peter said that the angel had told Cornelius to ask for Peter by name

Cornelius said that the angel told him to ask for Peter – Acts 10:32

Peter said Cornelius had heard Peter would speak to him

Cornelius said the angel said Peter would speak to him – Acts 10:32

Peter said Cornelius had heard that Peter would tell him how to be saved

Peter was able to tell Cornelius and his family the Word of God – Acts 10:33

Peter saw all those in the house of Cornelius respond - Acts 10:44-45

God often reaches entire households with the Gospel – Acts 16:31-34

Peter said Cornelius had heard that Peter would tell his family how to be saved

Cornelius had gathered his family and close friends – Acts 10:24

Cornelius and all present heard the Word – Acts 10:44

J. The Lord had Peter tell how the Gentiles received the Spirit – 11:15-16

1. Peter said the Holy Spirit came on the Gentile believers – 11:15

Peter said that the Lord worked while he was speaking – Acts 10:42-43

Peter said the Holy Spirit came on all those gathered

the Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles as a group – Acts 10:44

Peter said it was the same as happened to the Jews at the beginning

this was the initial receiving of the Holy Spirit by a group – Acts 2:1-4; 10:44

2. Peter said Christ promised to baptize believers with the Holy Spirit – 11:16

Peter said what was happening caused him to remember the word of the Lord

this was some of the final instructions that Christ gave the disciples – Acts 1:4-5

Peter said that Jesus said John had baptized with water

Christ contrasted the baptism with water and the baptism with the Spirit – Acts 1:5

Peter said that Jesus said they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit

Christ gave this promise just before returning to heaven – Acts 1:5

K. The Lord caused the entire church to rejoice – 11:17-18

1. Peter said that he could not withstand God – 11:17

Peter said God gave the Gentiles the same gift as the Jews

the Jews received the Holy Spirit as a group – Acts 2:1-4; 10:44

Peter said both groups had believed on the Lord Jesus Christ

the Jews had believed on the Lord Jesus Christ – Acts 2:38-41

the Gentiles had believed on the Lord Jesus Christ – Acts 10:42-44

Peter said he could not try and withstand God

Peter had said he was going to obey God earlier – Acts 4:19-20

2. Peter saw the whole church rejoice in what God was doing – 11:18

the church heard what God had done

the Lord does more than we can ever imagine – Eph. 3:20-21

the church was quiet when they heard what God had done

the church was realizing that this was the work of God – Acts 5:39

the church then glorified God for what He had done

the church was sensitive to what the Lord was doing – Acts 15:28

the church realized that God had granted repentance to the Gentiles

the Gospel is for both the Jews and the Gentiles – Rom. 1:16

VII. The Lord spreads the Gospel to Antioch – 11:19-30

A. The Lord worked in the lives of many in Antioch – 11:19-22

1. the believers traveled to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch – 11:19

the believers had been scattered because of the persecution
this was the persecution after the death of Stephen – Acts 8:1-4
the believers had gone as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch
these were Gentile areas north and west of Judea and Galilee (see a map)
the believers were only preaching the Gospel to the Jews
these Jews had not yet heard about the Gospel going to the Gentiles – Acts 10

2. the believers shared the Gospel with the Hellenists – 11:20

the believers came from various places including Cyprus and Cyrene
these were Greek speaking areas (Hellenists are Greeks-speaking)
the believers from these cities came to Antioch
Antioch was the second largest city in the Roman Empire (about 500,000 people)
Antioch would later become the center for the spread of the Gospel – Acts 13:1-3
the believers from these cities shared the Gospel with the Hellenists
the believers from these cities were Greek speaking Jews – Acts 6:1-5
the believers were preaching the Lord Jesus
this was the message wherever believers went – Acts 8:4, 35; 9:20

3. the believers saw a great number believe – 11:21

the Lord was with these Jewish believers
the Lord will use us when we share the Gospel with others – Rom. 1:16
the Lord led a great number of Hellenists to believe
the Lord would lead many other Greek speaking people to believe – Acts 17:11-12
the Lord led a great number of Hellenists to turn to the Lord
the Gospel would later spread from Antioch to many other places – Acts 13:1-3

4. the believers had the news travel back to Jerusalem – 11:22

the news about what was happening in Antioch traveled to Jerusalem
this news came after Peter had been to the house of Cornelius – Acts 10:1-11:18
the news caused the leaders at Jerusalem to send Barnabas to Antioch
Barnabas was a Jew who was originally from Cyprus – Acts 4:36
Barnabas had also ministered to Saul ten years earlier - Acts 9:27

B. The Lord guided the church to send Barnabas to Antioch – 11:23-24

1. Barnabas encouraged the new believers – 11:23

Barnabas came and saw the results of the grace of God
Barnabas was glad when he saw how God was working
Barnabas provided great encouragement to the new believers
Barnabas had earlier had this same ministry in Jerusalem – Acts 4:36
Barnabas encouraged them to purpose in their hearts to continue in the Lord
Barnabas knew the importance of preparing believers for tribulation – Acts 14:22

2. Barnabas was full of the Holy Spirit – 11:24

Barnabas was a good man
Barnabas had been renamed the Son of Encouragement by the apostles – Acts 4:36
Barnabas was full of the Holy Spirit
Barnabas was depending on the Holy Spirit – Acts 13:2
Barnabas was full of faith
Barnabas was not afraid to do what others feared to do – Acts 9:26-27
Barnabas saw the number of believers continue to increase
Barnabas saw the Lord building the church in Antioch – Acts 11:26; 13:1-3; 14:27-28

C. The Lord added Saul to the team with Barnabas – 11:25-26

1. Barnabas added Saul to the team – 11:25

Barnabas left Antioch for a short time to go to Tarsus
Barnabas knew that Saul had returned to Tarsus - Acts 9:30
Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Saul
Barnabas knew that Saul taught the word with boldness – Acts 9:26-29

2. Barnabas and Saul taught the people and saw them called Christians – 11:26

Barnabas found Saul and brought him to Antioch
Saul had returned to Tarsus ten years earlier – Acts 9:30; Gal. 1:18; 2:1
Barnabas and Saul met with the church for a year
they focused on the same things as the church in Jerusalem – Acts 2:42, 46
Barnabas and Saul taught a large number of people
Barnabas and Saul saw others develop as teachers – Acts 13:1; 15:35
Barnabas and Saul saw the believers called Christians
(this was originally a name to make fun of the believers)

D. The Lord gave the Christians in Antioch a concern for others – 11:27-30

1. the Lord brought a new opportunity to the Christians in Antioch – 11:27

the Lord brought some prophets to Antioch
the Lord was bringing additional believers to Antioch – Acts 11:19-20
the Lord brought these prophets from Jerusalem
believers were continuing to take the Word to other places – Acts 8:4

2. the Lord spoke to the Christians through Agabus – 11:28

Agabus was one of these prophets
Agabus is mentioned again in Acts 21:10-11
Agabus was given a message by the Holy Spirit
Agabus was being led by the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:18
Agabus said that there would be a worldwide famine
historians say there was a great famine in Israel in A.D. 45-46
Agabus' prophecy was fulfilled during the time Claudius Caesar ruled
Claudius Caesar was emperor in Rome from A.D. 41-54

3. the Lord gave all of the disciples a concern for other Christians – 11:29

the disciples all became concerned
the disciples followed the earlier example of those in Jerusalem – Acts 2:44-45
the disciples gave according to the ability of each one
the disciples gave less or more depending on what they had – Acts 4:34-35
the disciples wanted to help provide relief
the Gentiles saw the opportunity to help the Jews – II Cor. 9:7
as Christians they saw an opportunity to minister - Gal. 6:10
the disciples were concerned about the disciples in Jerusalem
the disciples in Jerusalem had been helping many others – Acts 2:5-13

4. the Lord used Barnabas and Saul to deliver their gifts – 11:30

the disciples collected a gift for the Christians in Jerusalem
this example was later followed by other Gentile churches – II Cor. 8:1-2; 9:2
the disciples sent this gift to the elders in Jerusalem
the elders were now leading in the church at Jerusalem – Acts 15:6, 22
the disciples sent this gift by the hands of Barnabas and Saul
Barnabas and Saul had both previously been in Jerusalem – Acts 9:26-27
Barnabas and Saul were the leaders at Antioch – Acts 11:24-26

VIII. The Lord protects Peter from Herod – 12:1-25

A. Peter was arrested and jailed by Herod – 12:1-4

1. Herod began to actively oppose the church – 12:1

Herod was the king of Judea from A.D. 37-44

this was the grandson of the Herod who tried to kill Christ – Matt. 2:16-18

Herod began reaching out to persecute the church

Herod had great pride and wanted to be popular with the Jews – Acts 12:20-23

Herod was trying to harass the leaders of the church

2. Herod killed James, the brother of John – 12:2

James was the first to be arrested and killed by Herod

this is not the James who was the leader of the church at Jerusalem – Acts 12:17

this is not the James who wrote the book of James – James 1:1

James was the brother of John and an apostle

this is the James who was formerly a fisherman – Matt. 4:20-21

this is the James who became one of the twelve – Mark 3:14-17

James was put to death by the sword

3. Herod next arrested Peter and put him in jail – 12:3

Herod saw that his actions pleased the Jews

the Jewish leaders were glad to see any Christians die – Acts 5:32-33; 7:54, 57

Herod then decided to arrest Peter also

Herod knew this would be popular with the Jewish leaders – Acts 4:19; 5:20

Herod had his plan postponed because of the days of unleavened bread

the days of unleavened bread were the seven days after Passover – Lev. 23:5-6

4. Herod was planning to put Peter on trial – 12:4

Herod was able to arrest Peter before the days of unleavened bread

the days of unleavened bread follow the Passover - Matt. 26:17

Herod had Peter placed in the prison

Peter was held in the prison for a period of time – Acts 12:6

Herod had four squads of soldiers guarding Peter

these were four groups of four who took turns guarding Peter – Acts 12:6

Herod was planning to put Peter on trial after the Passover

Herod was very angry when this did not happen – Acts 12:19

B. Peter was released from the prison by an angel – 12:5-10

1. Peter had many people praying for him while he was in prison – 12:5

Peter was being kept in prison
Peter was being prayed for 24 hours a day
the ones who were praying did not expect God to answer – Acts 12:14-15
Peter was being prayed for by the church
there were many who were praying for Peter – Acts 12:12

2. Peter was sleeping the night before Herod would have killed him – 12:6

Peter was about to be killed by Herod
Herod wanted to hold on to power by pleasing the Jews – Acts 12:3
Peter was scheduled for death the very next day
Peter was sound asleep in the prison
Peter had the peace of God in the middle of persecution – Phil. 4:7
Peter was chained to his two guards
Peter was guarded by guards at the doors

3. Peter had his sleep interrupted while he was in prison – 12:7-8

the angel from the Lord woke Peter up
the angel caused it to become very bright in the prison
the Lord had put the guards to sleep – Acts 12:18-19
the angel had to hit Peter on the side to wake him up
the angel told Peter to get up quickly
the angel stood there as the chains fell from Peter's hands
the angel told Peter to get dressed
the angel told Peter to put on his coat and follow him

4. Peter was led out of the prison by an angel – 12:9-10

Peter followed the angel as he had been instructed
Peter did not realize that it was actually happening
Peter thought he was seeing a vision
Peter had seen a vision earlier in his life - Acts 10:17
Peter was led past the first and second guard
Peter came to the iron gate which immediately opened for them
Peter later told how he was brought out of prison – Acts 12:17
Peter was led down one street and then the angel left him

C. Peter knew where people would be praying – 12:11-19

1. Peter went to the home where many were praying for him – 12:11-12

**Peter realized that the Lord had sent His angel
Peter realized that the Lord had delivered him from Herod – Acts 12:4
Peter realized that the Lord had delivered him from the Jews – Acts 5:33
Peter knew where to find the Christians praying
Peter went to the home where many were gathered in prayer**

2. Peter interrupted the prayer meeting – 12:13-15

**Rhoda came to answer the door when Peter knocked on it
Rhoda recognized the voice of Peter outside the door
Rhoda was so excited she ran into the house without opening the door
Rhoda left Peter standing outside the gate – Acts 12:16
Rhoda told everyone that Peter was knocking at the door – Acts 12:17
Rhoda was told that she was crazy to think it was Peter – Matt. 17:20
Rhoda was told that it was Peter's angel – Matt. 18:10**

3. Peter kept knocking until he got an answer – 12:16-17

**Peter kept knocking on the door – Acts 12:13
Peter finally had the door opened for him – Acts 12:14
Peter caused the Christians inside to be astonished – Luke 8:25
the Christians were probably praying Peter would be a good martyr - Acts 12:2
Peter told them to listen quietly while he explained
Peter told how the Lord had brought him out of prison – Acts 12:7-10
Peter told them to go tell James and the brethren – Acts 15:13-21
Peter left for another place where he could be safe**

4. Peter and his escape caused Herod to become furious – 12:18-19

**the next day the soldiers at the prison were very upset – Acts 12:19
the next day the soldiers did not know what had happened to Peter
the next day Herod told them to bring Peter
the next day Herod found out Peter was not there – Acts 12:10
the next day Herod examined the soldiers – Acts 12:6-10
the next day Herod ordered the death of the soldiers – Acts 12:18
the next day Herod was so angry he left Judea – Acts 12:20
the next day Herod went to the city of Caesarea**

D. Peter left the judgment of Herod to the Lord – 12:20-23

1. Herod was very unhappy with the people of Tyre and Sidon 12:20

the people of Tyre and Sidon knew Herod was angry with them
the people of Tyre and Sidon made a visit to Herod in Caesarea
the people of Tyre and Sidon made friends with the personal aide of the king
the people of Tyre and Sidon asked for peace with the king
the people of Tyre and Sidon had to get their food from the king

2. Herod made a great speech to these people – 12:21

Herod came to speak to the people of Tyre and Sidon
Herod was wearing his fanciest robes
Herod was sitting on his throne
Herod gave a speech to the people

3. Herod was told his voice was the voice of a god – 12:22

Herod heard the people give a great shout
Herod heard them call him a god
(this appealed to the pride of Herod)

4. Herod died a terrible death – 12:23

Herod was filled with pride – Prov. 28:25
Herod was immediately struck by an angel of the Lord – Acts 5:5, 10
Herod was judged for not giving the glory to God – Mark 9:44-48
Herod was eaten by worms and died

E. Peter heard how the Lord was continuing to work – 12:24-25

1. the Word of God continued to grow and multiply – 12:24

(nothing can stop the spread of the Word of God)

God promises His Word will not return empty - Is. 55:11

2. the ministry of Paul and Barnabas in Jerusalem was completed – 12:25

Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem – Acts 11:30
Barnabas and Saul had fulfilled their ministry in Jerusalem
Barnabas and Saul took John Mark with them – Acts 12:12