

# MEETING MATTHIAS

---

Pentecost #6, Acts 1:1-12-26

May 16, 2021

*"For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."*

Acts 1:22

## More on the transition from kingdom to church

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 1:12-14

1) The church is already practicing the disciplines of the New Testament church!

2) They are together, united and in prayer – ready for the Holy Spirit!

## A new way to interpret the Old Testament: A tale of two places

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— <sup>17</sup> he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

<sup>18</sup> (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup> Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

<sup>20</sup> "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms,

" 'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,'  
and,

" 'May another take his place of leadership.' "

Acts 1:15-20 (Luke quotes Psalm 69:25 and 109:8)

1) Peter's restoration to ministry is now complete

2) The apostles recognize the need for "oversight" (*epi + skopus*)

3) The church has already adopted the promises of Israel!

## **What Luke wants us to know about being witnesses**

<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

Acts 1:21-22 (begin with Acts 1:8, all the uses in Acts, then Revelation 17:6)

- 1) Question: Should they have waited for Paul?
- 2) Witnesses know the story and have experienced the resurrection
- 3) Witnesses are expected to be "with us"
- 4) Our Jerusalem might not always be friendly toward witnesses (see especially Acts 5:32)

## **Meet Matthias, the newest apostle**

<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:23-26

- 1) God provided gifted and available persons
- 2) Names don't matter
- 3) Lots can affirm both human and God's responsibility (see Proverbs 16:33)
- 4) Matthias enjoys full apostolic authority – so we have no "junior" Council members

## Lessons from New Testament leadership

### 1) Prayer and worship

*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

Acts 13:2-3

### 2) Leadership for the church is necessary

<sup>14</sup> *Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, <sup>15</sup> if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

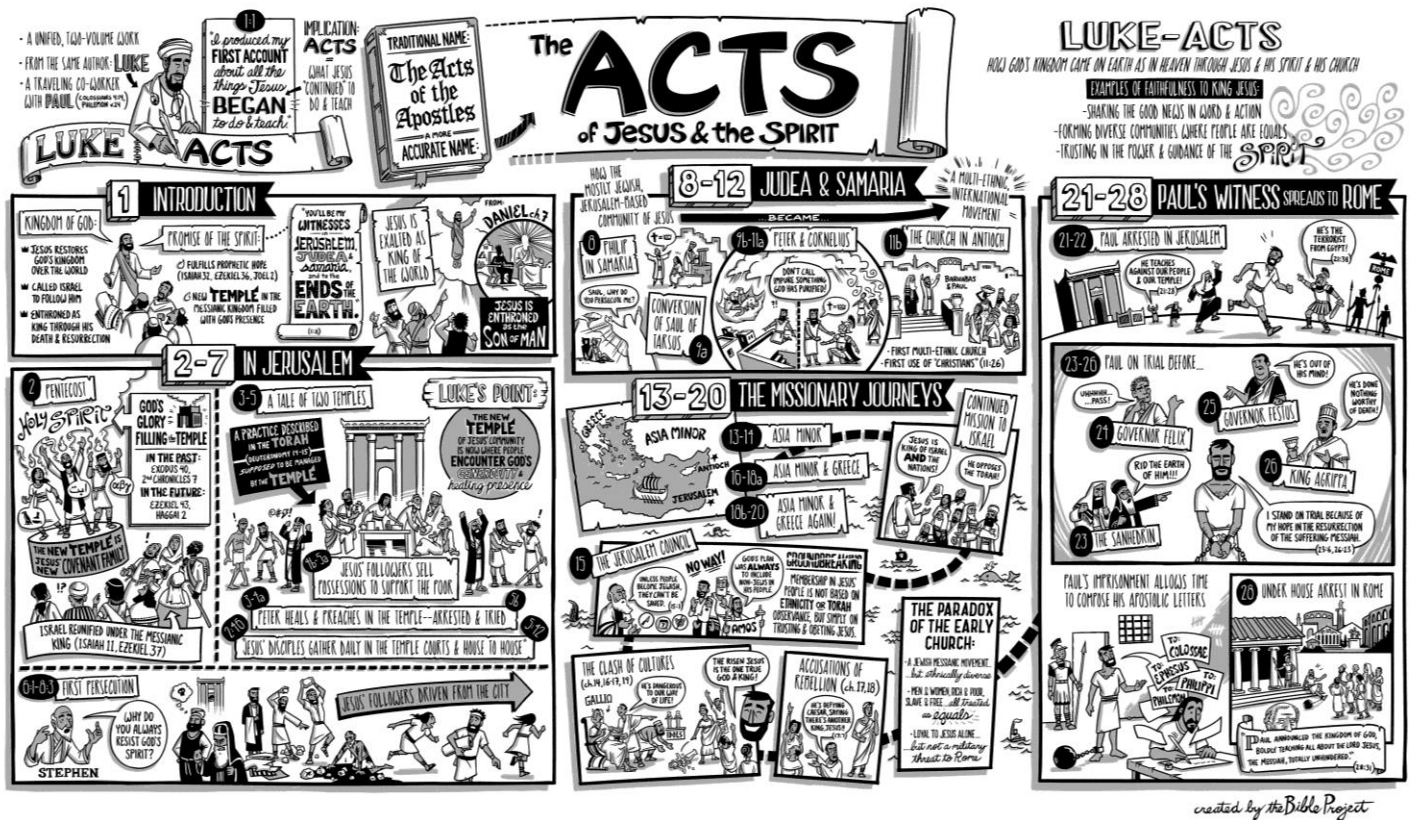
1 Timothy 3:14 (see Acts 1:21; Titus 1:7)

### 3) Jesus is already leading his church

<sup>44</sup> *Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart . . . .”*

Acts 1:24

	geographic outline of Acts	the experience of the Acts church	my 21 <sup>st</sup> century mission	what I am learning from the Acts church
Jerusalem				
all Judea				
and Samaria				
to the ends of the earth				



## Resources for further studies in Acts

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Acts at <https://open.life.church/items/179224-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has a sermon on this text at <http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/sermons/2330.htm>

Deffinbaugh's introduction at <https://bible.org/seriespage/unique-contribution-book-acts> and sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/2-preparation-pentecost-acts-11-26>

I have really appreciated John Stott's *The Spirit, The Church and the World: The Message of Acts* (IVP, 1990) and F. F. Bruce's work: *New Testament History* (Doubleday, 1980) and *The Book of the Acts* (Eerdmans, 1984).



## Acts Timeline (ESV Study Bible)

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30])†		█										
Pentecost (30/33)		█										
Stephen stoned (31/33)		█										
Paul converted (33/34*)			●									
Paul meets with Peter in Jerusalem (36/37*)				█								
Paul ministers in Syria/Cilicia (37–45)				█	█	█						
Peter witnesses to Cornelius (38*)					●							
James, brother of John, martyred (41–44)					█							
Peter rescued from prison, leaves Jerusalem (44)					●							
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					█	█						
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)						●						
Peter and Paul at Jerusalem council (48–49*)							█					
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						█	█					
Claudius expels Jews from Rome (49)							●					
Paul's third missionary journey (52–57*)							█	█				
Paul ministers in Ephesus (52–55)							█	█				
Claudius dies; Jews allowed back to Rome (54)								●				
Nero's reign (54–68)								█	█	█		
Paul arrested in Jerusalem (57*)									●			
Paul imprisoned in Caesarea (57–59)								█	█			
James, brother of the Lord, martyred (62)										●		
Paul under house arrest in Rome (62*)											●	
Luke writes Gospel of Luke and Acts (62*)												●
Paul released, resumes ministry, rearrested (62–64)									█	█		
Paul and Peter martyred in Rome (64–67*)										█	█	