

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Summer 2021, Acts 3-4

July 11, 2021

"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:10-12 (Peter's third sermon, quoting from Psalm 118:22)

A Day in the life

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:1-9

Four things to observe:

- 1) Count the "names"
- 2) When and why do people "leap"? (See Isaiah 35:1-10; John 4:14; Job 6:10)
- 3) What do you learn about being a witness to Jesus death, resurrection and presence in our lives?
- 4) How does the Jerusalem church respond to opposition?

Two sermons, one Name

¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see”

Acts 3:12-16

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ He is

“ ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:8-12

- 1) One God: the Father of our Lord who is the God of Abraham (his promises are ours!)
- 2) One story: Jesus’ death and resurrection
- 3) Through faith in this Jesus, healing happens!

The Prayer

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:23-31

- 1) They looked to Scripture for praise and confidence in God’s providence
- 2) Boldness

Even more Pentecost lessons for the church today

1) Prayer is also about when and where

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to [the] prayer[s].

Acts 2:42

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

Acts 3:1 (ESV)

2) We respond to opposition with praise and with confidence in God's Creator providence

¹² *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,*

*“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”*

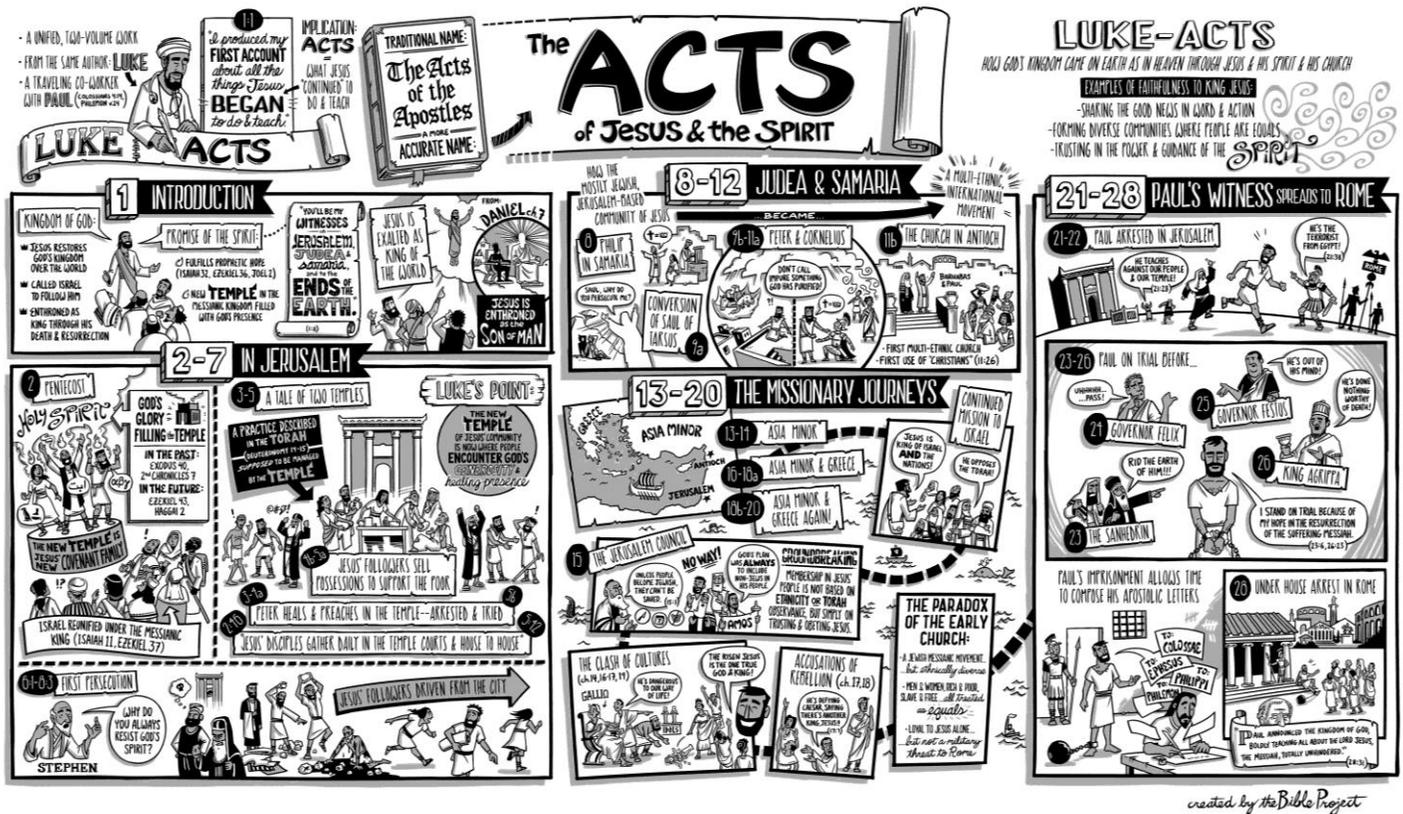
¹⁹ *So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

1 Peter 4

3) The uniqueness of Jesus' name

⁸ *But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Romans 10



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 sermons on this text at <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols4-6/chs209.pdf> and, on repentance in Peter's sermon, at <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols13-15/chs804.pdf>

Jonathan Edwards has a wonderful essay on this text at <https://www.monergism.com/unbelievers-despise-glory-and-excellency-christ>

Deffinbaugh has a helpful introduction at <https://bible.org/seriespage/unique-contribution-book-acts> and two sermons on this passage in his Acts series at <https://bible.org/series/studies-book-acts>

Tim Keller has a wonderful sermon at <https://www.monergism.com/signs-king-%E2%80%93-acts-237-47>

John Piper has a helpful look at repentance in his "Repentance, Forgiveness and the Gift of the Spirit" at <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/repentance-forgiveness-and-the-gift-of-the-spirit>

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).

Carl Trueman's conclusion in *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* (Crossway, 2020) influenced my thinking on the church. His third point, the importance of proper natural law thinking, is reflected in Kevin DeYoung's blog at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/gods-good-gift-in-making-us-men-and-women/>

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*)								█	█			