



the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church



the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church

²³ As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them — ²⁵ you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, **Acts 4:23-25**

²⁵ 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? ²⁶

The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' ²⁷ "In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. ²⁸ But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. [Acts 4:25-28](#)

²⁹ And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

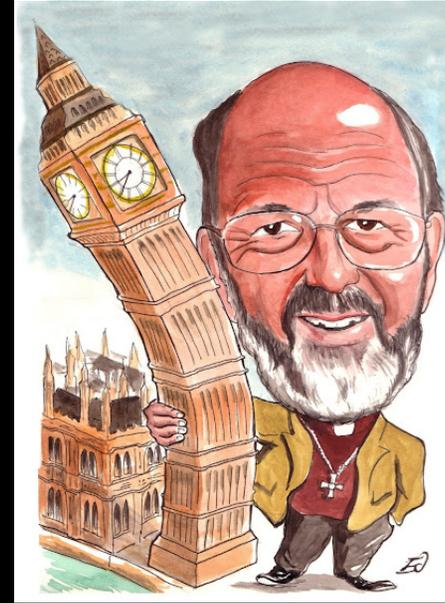
Acts 4:29-31

³² All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. [Acts 4:32-35](#)

²⁹ And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 4:29,30

N.T. Wright



The prayer is not 'Lord please cause them to die horribly' or 'Please stop them from being so unpleasant.' Not 'Lord, let this persecution stop,' or even 'Please convert the authorities, so that your work can go forward.' Rather, quite simply, 'Now Lord look on their threats; let us go on speaking boldly; and will you continue to please work powerfully.'



For this world in its present form
is passing away. | Corinthians 7:3 |



We know that we are children of
God and that the world around us
is under the control of the evil one.

1 John 5:19





For all creation is waiting eagerly
for that future day when God will
reveal who his children really are.

Romans 8:19



“Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away.”

Mark 13:31



But the plans of the Lord
stand firm forever, the purposes of
his heart through all generations.

Psalm 33:11



1 Corinthians 15:58

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31



Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2



"I am sending you out like sheep
surrounded by wolves, so be
wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Matthew 10:16



Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation.

1 Timothy 2:2





“And Jesus cried out in a loud voice and died. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. . . .⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Matthew 27



“On Sunday morning, there was a violent earthquake for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Matthew 28:1



“I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”

Revelation 1:18



(Jesus) suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:9



He broke the power of death and
illuminated the way to life and
immortality through the Good News.

2 Timothy 1:10



And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Romans 8:2



32 ...And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat."

2 Thessalonians 3:10







the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church



the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church