

*the book of*  
**ACTS**

*The account of the growth of the Church*

- A UNIFIED, TWO-VOLUME WORK
- FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: **LUKE**
- A TRAVELING CO-WORKER WITH **PAUL** (COLOSSIANS 4:14, PHILEMON v.24)



1:1

"I produced my **FIRST ACCOUNT** about all the things Jesus **BEGAN** to do & teach."

IMPLICATION:  
**ACTS**  
=  
WHAT JESUS  
"CONTINUED" TO  
DO & TEACH

**LUKE**

**ACTS**

# 1

# INTRODUCTION

## KINGDOM OF GOD:

- ✠ JESUS RESTORES GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE WORLD
- ✠ CALLED ISRAEL TO FOLLOW HIM
- ✠ ENTHRONED AS KING THROUGH HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION



## PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT:

🔥 FULFILLS PROPHETIC HOPE  
(ISAIAH 32, EZEKIEL 36, JOEL 2)

🕊️ NEW **TEMPLE** IN THE  
MESSIANIC KINGDOM FILLED  
WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

"YOU'LL BE MY  
WITNESSES

in  
JERUSALEM,  
JUDEA &  
*samaria*,  
and to the

**ENDS** OF THE  
EARTH."

(1:8)

# 2 PENTECOST

# HOLY SPIRIT



THE NEW TEMPLE IS  
JESUS' COVENANT FAMILY

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# LUKE

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT:

- ✦ FULFILLS PROPHETIC HOPE (ISAIAH 32, EZEKIEL 36, JOEL 2)
- ✦ NEW **TEMPLE** IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM FILLED WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

"YOU'LL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, JUDEA & samaria, and to the **ENDS** OF THE EARTH."  
(1:8)

# 6:1-8:3 FIRST PERSECUTION



**STEPHEN**

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS RESIST GOD'S SPIRIT?



"YOU'LL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, JUDEA & samaria, and to the ENDS OF THE EARTH."  
(1:8)

- A UNIFIED,
- FROM THE S
- A TRAVELING WITH PAUL

# 8-12 JUDEA & SAMARIA

HOW THE MOSTLY JEWISH, JERUSALEM-BASED COMMUNITY OF JESUS

A MULTI-ETHNIC, INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

...BECAME...

8 PHILIP IN SAMARIA



9b-11a PETER & CORNELIUS



11b THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH



- FIRST MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH
- FIRST USE OF "CHRISTIANS" (11:26)

SAUL, WHY DO YOU PERSECUTE ME?

CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSUS

9a

STEPHEN

# 13-20

# THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS



13-14 ASIA MINOR

16-18a ASIA MINOR & GREECE

18b-20 ASIA MINOR & GREECE AGAIN!

CONTINUED MISSION TO ISRAEL

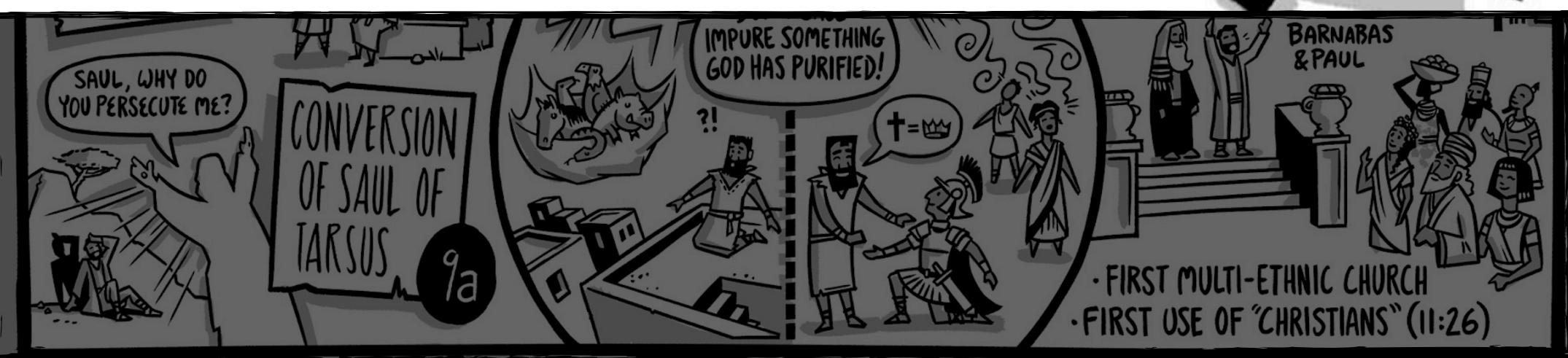


WITH PAUL (COLOSSIANS 4:14, PHILEMON v.24)

**LUKE ACTS**

BEGAN "to do & teach."

DO & TEACH



# ACTS 15:36-41

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**36** Some time later Paul said to Barnabas,  
“Let us go back and visit the brothers in all  
the towns where we preached the word of the  
Lord and see how they are doing.”

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**37** Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, **38** but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

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**39** They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

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**Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,  
40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended  
by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.  
41 He went through Syria and Cilicia,  
strengthening the churches.**

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**ACTS 15:36-41**



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“Let us go back and visit the brothers in all  
the towns where we preached the word of the  
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**ACTS 15:36**



**25** Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, **26** and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

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**ACTS 11:25-26**





**Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup> All those who heard him were astonished.**

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**ACTS 9:19-21**

*WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?*

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**37** Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, **38** but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

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**ACTS 15:37-38**



**13** From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John (Mark) left them to return to Jerusalem.

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**ACTS 13:13**



**39** They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

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**ACTS 15:39**



*WHO IS RIGHT?*

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**“No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”**

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**LUKE 9:62**



**22** News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

**23** When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

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**24** He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

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**ACTS 11:22-24**



*WHAT DOES GOD DO WITH  
THEIR ARGUMENT?*

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**ACTS 15:40-41**



Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,  
**40** but Paul chose Silas and left, commended  
by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.  
**41** He went through Syria and Cilicia,  
*strengthening the churches.*

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**ACTS 15:40-41**

**Paul's Second Journey**



*Paul and Silas go North West*

*Barnabas and Mark go to Cyprus*

1.

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*GRACE MEANS MISSIONAL  
FLEXIBILITY*



2.

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*SEPARATION DOES NOT  
HAVE TO MEAN DISUNITY*



*Sometimes we have too idealistic a view of the church and church leaders. When some church or church leader disappoints us, we're tempted to question the power of the gospel and give up on the Christian faith.*



*John Piper*

*But God wants us to be biblical realists. So he takes the needle of Acts 15 and pops the bubble of unhealthy idealism. He doesn't do it to make us disillusioned or cynical. He does it to help us learn to cope with the challenges of living in a sin-cursed world.*



*John Piper*



3.

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*REJECT ANIMOSITY AND  
TRUST GOD'S PROCESS*

**Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**

*Ephesians 4:3*

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**Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.**

*Romans 12:10*

**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,  
live at peace with everyone.**

*Romans 12:18*

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**Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.**

*2 Timothy 4:11*

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