

KEY THEME

Jesus offers salvation to everyone.

Acts

KEY VERSE

⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

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.”

Acts 1:8

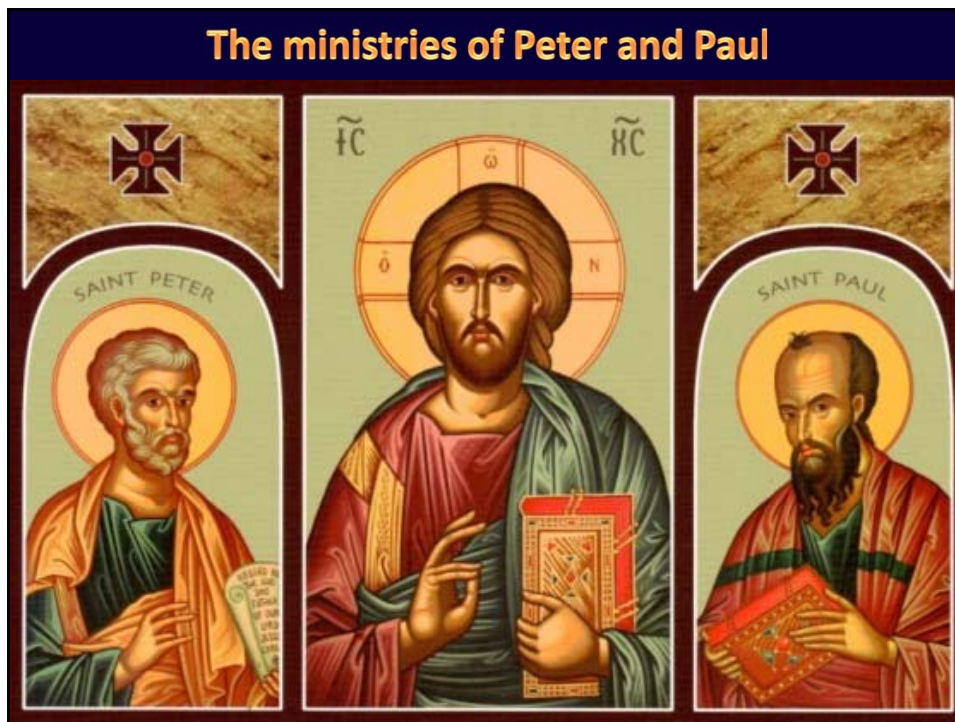
The book of Acts in two acts

THE MINISTRY OF PETER (Chapters 1-12)

- Peter and the Jews, Acts 1—7
- Peter and the Samaritans, Acts 8
- The conversion of Paul, Acts 9
- Peter and the Gentiles, Acts 10—11
- Peter’s arrest and deliverance, Acts 12

THE MINISTRY OF PAUL (Chapter 13-28)

- Paul’s first missionary journey, Acts 13—14
- The Council of Jerusalem, Acts 15
- Paul’s second missionary journey, 16:1—18:22
- Paul’s third missionary journey, 18:23—21:25
- Paul’s arrest and trial in Caesarea, 21:26—26:31
- Paul’s voyage to Rome, Acts 27-28



Relationship of the acts of Peter and Paul

Acts 1-12

Centre in Jerusalem
 Peter, chief figure
 Out to Samaria
 Word rejected by
 Jews in the homeland
 Peter imprisoned
 Judgement on Herod

Acts of
 Peter

Acts of
 Paul

Centre in Antioch
 Paul, chief figure
 Out to Rome
 Word rejected by
 diaspora Jews
 Paul imprisoned
 Judgement on Jews

Acts 13-28

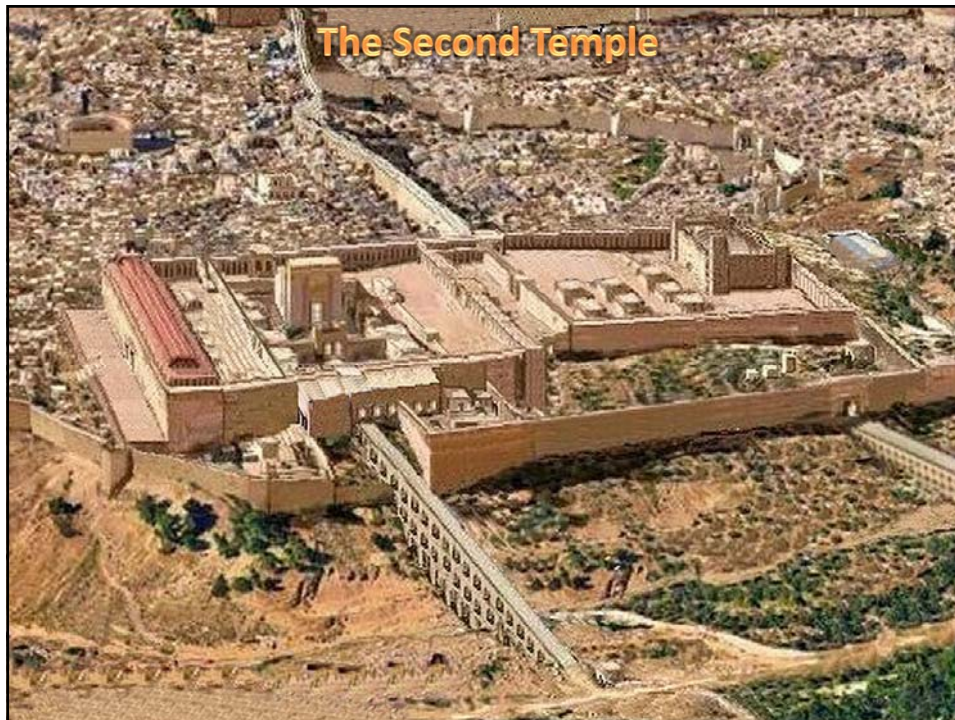
Seven Progress Reports

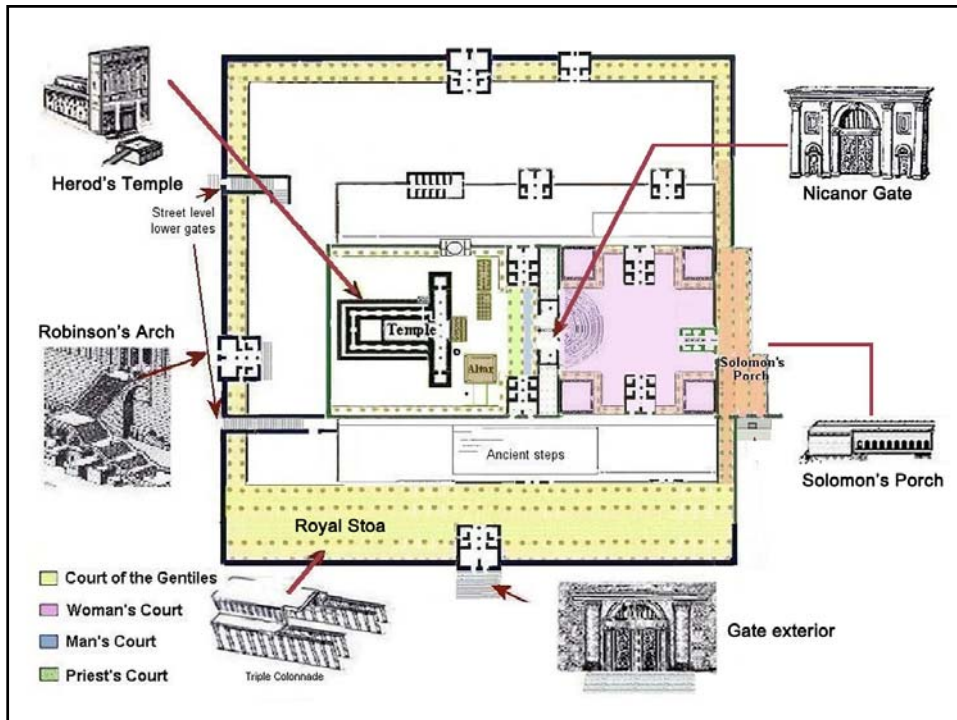
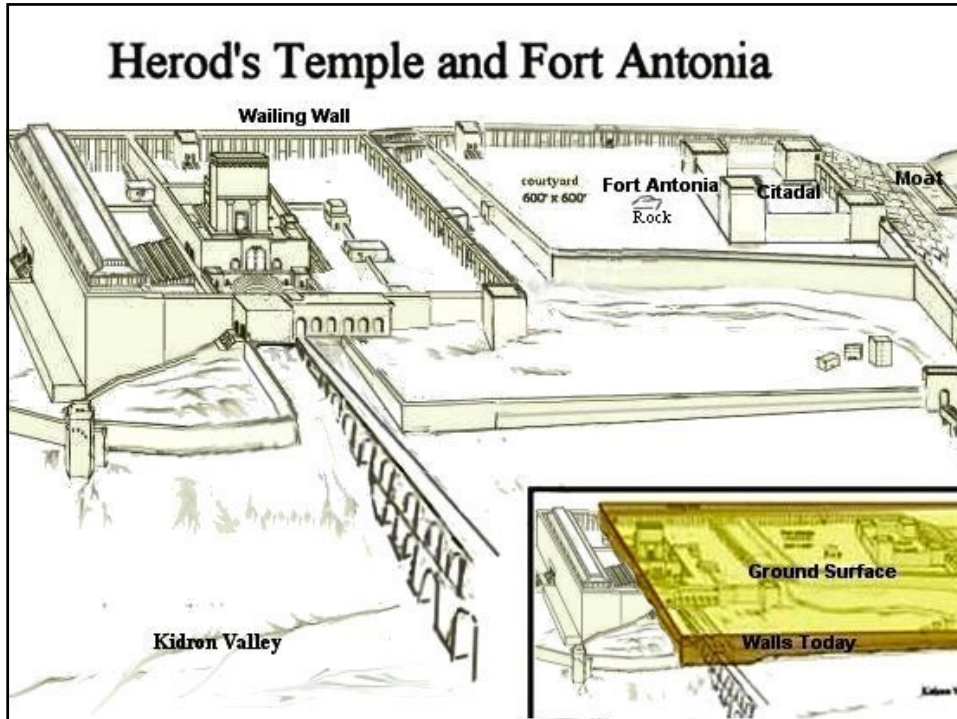
1. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).
2. "So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly" (Acts 6:7).
3. "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria...was strengthened; and [it was] encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord" (Acts 9:31).
4. "But the Word of God continued to increase and spread" (Acts 12:24).
5. "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (Acts 16:5).
6. "In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (Acts 19:20).
7. "Paul...welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:30-31).



Summary of Acts 1

1. Luke was writing a two-part legal treatise in defense of Paul per Roman law in advance of his appearance before the Roman Emperor as was Paul's right as a Roman Citizen.
2. During Paul's two-year imprisonment in Caesarea Maritima, Paul's companion Dr. Luke interviewed many early Christian figures including Peter, John, Mary to prepare his paper.
3. Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover, buried during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and resurrected on the Feast of First Fruits. In 40 days before he ascended, Jesus told of the Holy Spirit to come and people would witness in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
4. The expanded group of around 120 disciples gathered for prayer in the Upper Room. Matthias was chosen as the 12th disciple replacing Judas Iscariot.



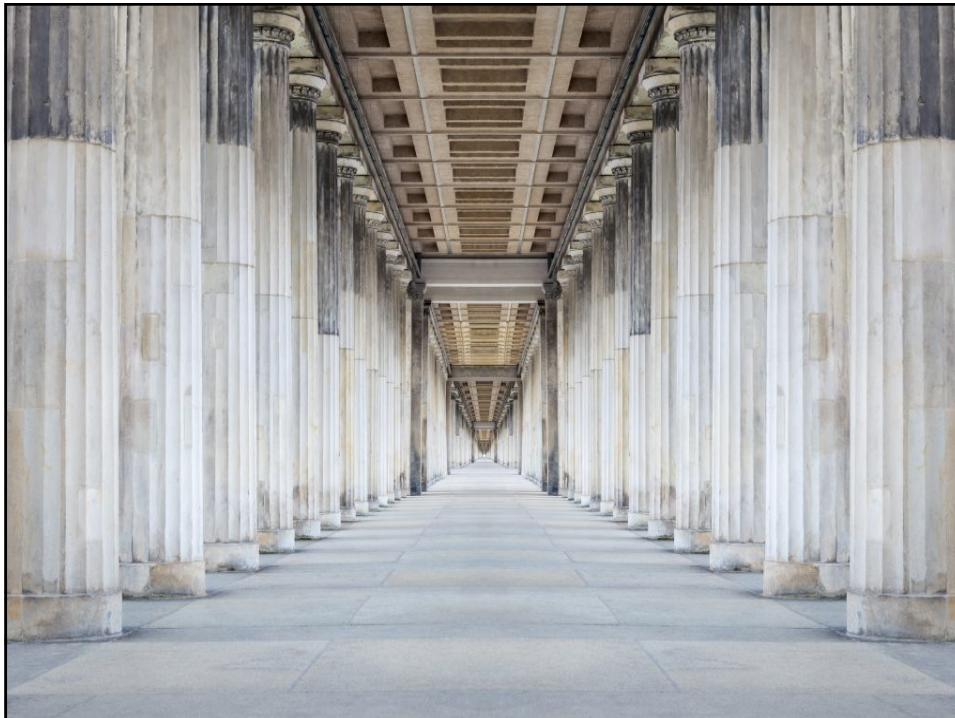


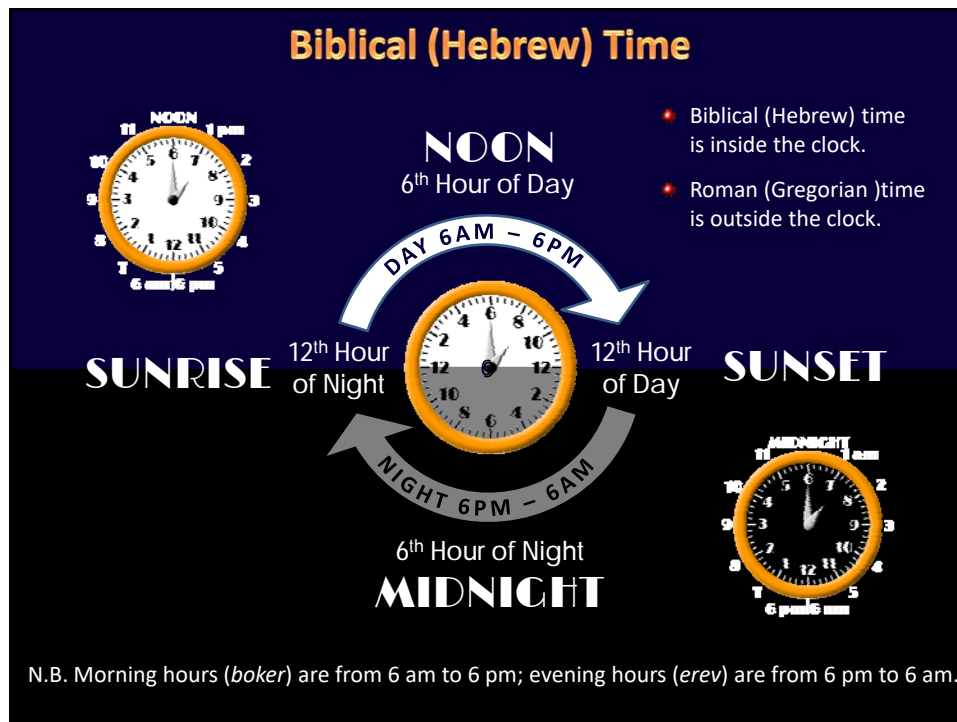
And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch*.



Solomon would dispense justice on Solomon's Porch, which led to the Court of the Gentiles. "There was a porch without the temple, overlooking a deep valley, supported by walls of four hundred cubits (183m)..." (Josephus). The roofed porch was 50 cubits (23m) long and 30 cubits (14m) wide. On the east side of the Temple, the Red Heifer Bridge connected the East Gate with the Mount of Olives.

Jesus was here often, speaking, teaching or just walking. After his death, his disciples gathered here often.





Acts 2

Coming of the Holy Spirit

- 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak **in his own language**.

* It was the 3rd Hour (9 am), the time of prayer, so probably at Solomon's Porch.

The Crowd's Response

⁷ Then they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? ⁸ And how *is it that* we hear, each **in our own language** in which we were born?

⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites,
those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene,
visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—

we hear them speaking **in our own tongues** the wonderful works of God."

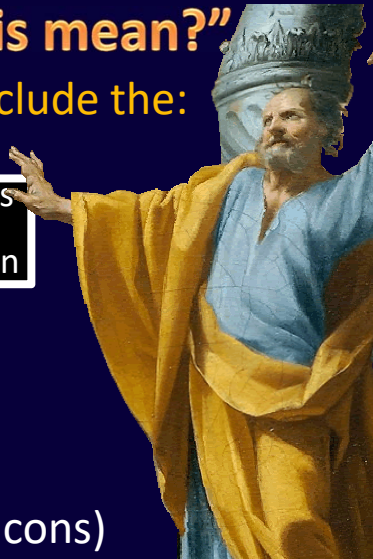
¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "**Whatever could this mean?**"

"Whatever could this mean?"

The following passages include the:

1. First impression
2. First message
3. First opposition
4. First discipline
5. First persecution
6. First organisation (deacons)
7. First martyr (Stephen) **of the *ekklesia***

Peter's
first
sermon



¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, **standing** up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day.



¹⁶ But this is what was **spoken by** the prophet Joel [Joel 2:28-32]:

¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on **all flesh**;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

²¹ And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'

Whoever
calls on the
name of
the LORD
shall be
saved.



This passage destroys every major Hebrew prejudice.

- Jew would probably get emotional as Peter talked.
- Note that this verse says that God will pour out His Spirit on ALL flesh, not just Israel... Gentiles AND Israel.
- As Peter continues, **Jesus Christ is the primary subject:**
 1. Naming the Person: "Jesus of Nazareth." (v.22)
 2. Approved (demonstrated) of God as a perfect Man.
 3. Referred to the death of this person. (v.23)
 4. This person raised from the dead. (v.24)
 5. ...exalted.
 6. Received the fulfillment of the ancient promise of Jehovah (Luke 24:49; Act 1:4; Joel 2:28).
 7. "Poured forth this": The Spirit.

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

²⁵ For David says concerning Him: [Psalm 16]

'I foresaw the LORD always before my face,
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

Threefold victory over Sin (KJV)

Life

Psalm 16:8,9a
(Acts 2:26a)

⁸I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: ...

... my flesh also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Death

16:9b, 10
(Acts 2:26b,27)

Resurrection

Psalm 16:11
(Acts 2:28)

¹¹Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

²⁹ "Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

³² **This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.**

∴ This prophecy cannot be of David, as he is dead and buried.

³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, **He poured out this which you now see and hear.**

³⁴ “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:

‘The LORD [YHWH] said to my Lord [Adonai],

“Sit at My right hand,

³⁵ Until I make Your enemies Your footstool.” [Psalm 110:1]*

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And Peter said to them,

REPENT and be
BAPTIZED

* Jesus quoted Psalm 110:1 in Matthew 22:41-45 to confuse the Pharisees.

³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

3,000

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

Acts 2:47

(NKJV)

“praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 3

- ¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. [3 p.m.]
- ² And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;
- ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.
- ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.”
- ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.
- ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though 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, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

¹⁶ And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,



²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.

²³ And it shall be *that* every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

²⁵ You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'²⁶ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities."