**Acts Introduction**

**Acts chapters 1-8**

 The 69th week of Daniel has come to an end with the Messiah being cut off. The 70th week of Daniel was supposed to begin but an additional year is given to Israel to repent. Acts 1-8 is the story of that additional year given to Israel. Daniel 9:224-27.

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See the chart on the cover and at the end of Acts 8.

**Acts**

**Chapter One**

**The kingdom**

 The book of Acts was completed around 62 A.D. by Luke the physician, and author of the gospel of Luke.

**1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,**

**The former treatise:** A reference to the book of Luke, which served as a legal treatise for Paul’s defense in Rome,given to Theophilus, while the book of Acts served as his second treatise.

**2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:**

**The day:** Jesus ascended 40 days after his resurrection. Jesus appeared to Stephen in Acts 7:55, Paul in Acts 9 mentioned in 1st Corinthians 15:8. John saw him in the Spirit on the Lord’s day. Revelation 1:10.

**Commandments:** Identified as things pertaining to the kingdom, not the Church in v:3:

**3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**

**His passion:** His crucifixion.

**Forty days:** A time of waiting in the Bible.

**The things pertaining to the kingdom:** Jesus did not spend 40 days teaching about the body of Christ, because that would be revealed to the apostle Paul.

**4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.***Luke 24:49.*

**Wait for the promise of the Father:** Jesus would baptize believing Israel with the Holy Ghost, and He would baptize unbelieving Israel with fire (Hell). Matthew 3:11.

**5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

**Baptized with the Holy Ghost:** Paul never tells believers to tarry, or to wait for the holy Spirit today because we are baptized by the holy Spirit into one body the moment, we believe the gospel. 1st Corinthians 12:13.

**6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

**Restore again the kingdom:** Israel’s original kingdom ended when they no longer had a king ruling in Jerusalem, which occurred at the carrying away into Babylon.

 The question was the natural question to ask seeing how Jesus had just spent his last forty days teaching the apostles things pertaining to the kingdom. They were not expecting him to leave to be gone into exile for two thousand years.

**7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

 Jesus did not answer yes, or no, to their question, because a genuine offer of the kingdom had to be offered to Israel, so they would have no excuse. Since Christ had just risen from the dead, the kingdom could now be offered.

 If the requirements for the kingdom’s arrival would have been met, (Israel’s repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God), then the kingdom would have begun.

**Ye shall receive power:** The purpose for believing Israel to be baptized with the Holy Ghost was for them to receive power to be witnesses unto him.

**The Holy Ghost is come upon you:**This is another way of saying they were baptized with the Holy Ghost, or they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

**In Jerusalem, In Judaea, In Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth:** This was the order they were to go out in with Jerusalem being converted first.

 This is why the apostles stayed in Jerusalem when the kingdom church was scattered by Saul of Tarsus. They had to win Jerusalem first, as it would become the future capital of Christ’s coming kingdom. Acts 8:1. Judaea and Samaria could now begin to be reached.

**9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.**

**He was taken up:** Jesus departed from them both physically and visibly, just like he will return one day to Israel. He returns for us secretly.

**10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

**Two men stood by them in white apparel:** These men were angels. They were possibly the same two as at the tomb earlier, but this time they are standing up, not sitting down.

 They did not say that Jesus was coming back to rapture them prior to the tribulation period. All Jews knew that they were appointed to go through the time of Jacob’s trouble which shall come upon the whole world. Jeremiah 30:7.

 The rapture would not be revealed until God revealed it to the apostle of the Gentiles (Paul) later. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-17.

 With the ascension of Christ, the 69th week of Daniel was coming to an end, the time of Jacob’s trouble (Daniel’s 70th week) was the next thing on Israel’s prophetic calendar before the kingdom would come.

 If the apostles would have remembered his words when he was with them then they would have remembered that he had to go away for a while so that the Comforter would come.

***John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.***

**Shall so come as ye have seen him go into heaven:** Jesus ascended to heaven visibly and physically, and he will return to the same place in the same way to establish his kingdom, physically and visibly. Zechariah 14:4.

 The apostles were looking for the kingdom to come, not for the dispensation of grace to be established.

**12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.**

**The mount called Olivet:**The mount of Olives.

**A sabbath day’s journey:**2,000 Cubits. Numbers 35:5 and Joshua 3:4. It was a little over a half mile.

**13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.**

 Here, the eleven remaining apostles were doing what the Lord commanded them by tarrying in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. This would occur on Pentecost when they were baptized with the Holy Ghost.

**15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)**

**An hundred and twenty:**The number 120 appears twelve times in the old testament, and once here. 12 x 10 = 120. Twelve is the number of Israel, and ten is the number of authority. Ten men were required to judge matters, or to have prayer, or to establish a synagogue. Ruth 4:2.

 Man’s life span is reduced from 1,000 years to 120 in Genesis 6:3. Moses dies at 120 years of age in Deuteronomy 34:7. Solomon slew 120,000 sheep at the dedication of the temple in 2nd Chronicles 7:5.

 The Queen of Sheba gave Solomon 120 talents of gold in 1st Kings 10:10. 120 priests sounded trumpets when the temple was dedicated in 2nd Chronicles 5:12.

 The porch that was in front of the temple was 120 cubits. 2nd Chronicles 3:4. Darius put 120 princes over his kingdom in Daniel 6:1.

**16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.** *Psalm 109:8.*

**21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.**

 Peter got his direction from the Lord himself, as part of the commandments that Jesus gave the eleven during those forty days before his ascension.

 It was necessary that a twelfth apostle be chosen because God ordained that there would be twelve apostles sitting on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

***Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

 Paul didn’t meet the requirement to be one of the twelve apostles to the nation of Israel because he did not follow Christ in his earthly ministry beginning at the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from them.

 Saul would be saved later and become the apostle of the Gentiles (the Uncircumcision). Romans 11:13.

**23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

 Matthias became the twelfth apostle according to the bible. Paul himself said that Jesus was seen of the twelve, and then last of all by him.

***1st Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time*.**

 The apostles who were filled with the holy Spirit chose Matthias. Paul was not qualified to be one of Israel’s apostles according to the scripture, but he was qualified to be the apostle of the Gentiles.

**Chapter Two**

**The Day of Pentecost**

**1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.**

**The day of Pentecost:** Also called the feast of weeks, which occurs fifty days after Passover.Exodus 23:14-16 & Leviticus 23:15-20. It is the only feast day that does not have an exact set date. Leviticus 23:15.

**Was fully come:** It was not on the evening of Pentecost. In the bible the day begins at evening the night before.

 It was at the third hour of the day during the actual time that the ceremony of the wheat harvest was occurring at the temple, which was only a picture of what was actually occurring with the disciples on that day.

***Exodus 34:22 And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.***

 There would be 3,000 men saved plus women and children as the prophetic fulfillment of this feast. They were the firstfruits.

 There will be a much bigger number saved during the years end feast of ingathering that will not happen until the seven-year tribulation period comes to an end.

**2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

**Cloven tongues like as of fire:** The cloven tongues were not real fire. This was not the baptism of fire that John prophesied about in Matthew 3:11.

 That baptism was for the unbelievers when they are placed into hell. The holy Spirit however would have complete control of these men’s tongues on this day.

**They were all filled with the Holy Ghost:** In chapter one it mentions in verse eight that the disciples would all be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence, these two different verses were speaking about the exact same thing.

 Notice that it says that they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. They were prompted to speak another language than the one they had learned as a child. Verses 5-6.

 The people involved in this feast on this day, were all Jews, there was not a Gentile in the bunch. Proselytes were considered as Jews.

 This day was the fulfillment of something that the prophet Joel spoke about five hundred years earlier, that would happen to believers in the nation of Israel. Joel 2:28-29.

**5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.**

**Jews, devout men out of every nation:** Pentecost was a feast that men were required to attend each year. The Jews that were dispersed in every nation had to make a yearly pilgrimage to Jerusalem according to the law.

 This was a reversal of what happened when God confounded the tongues at Babel to divide the people. Now he would see Jews saved that all spoke a different language. In the kingdom God will return a pure language unto Israel. Zephaniah 3:9.

**7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?**

 Notice that sixteen different languages were spoken, but there were only twelve apostles, so who did the rest of the speaking? Some of the hundred and twenty that were with them in the upper room.

 Tongues were used on Pentecost to preach the wonderful works of God to all these Jews who spoke different languages now because they had been dispersed to all these other countries.

**13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.**

**Peter, standing up with the eleven:**Luke tells us that Peter was with the eleven other apostles on this day.

 Paul was not an apostle yet. He would become the apostles of the Gentiles. The twelve were apostles to the circumcision. Galatians 2:7-9.

**The third hour of the day:**9 AM.

**16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** *Joel 2:28-32.*

 Some of the things that the prophet Joel mentioned did not occur on that day because this feast was different from all the others.

 It represented the beginning of the fruit being harvested, and it stretches out until the last piece of fruit is harvested at the end of the Jewish year.

 Peter did not say that that day was the start of a new program that had been kept secret from the foundation of the world. He did say that this event was prophesied to happen at the onset of the great and notable day of the Lord.

 He was referring to the tribulation period that Joel spoke of in Joel 2:31, not the birthday of the Church. Tongues will be in use again during the tribulation period as well as many other gifts of the holy Spirit.

 They will enable the hundred and forty-four thousand to have this same ability to reach the world for the feast of the ingathering mentioned in Exodus 34:22. The things that did not occur two thousand years ago in Joel’s prophecy, will occur in those days. Joel 2:30-31.

**22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:**

**Ye men of Israel:** We do not tell people today that they are guilty of killing the Messiah, but Peter did on this day, because his audience was guilty, and they needed to repent and believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

 God was graciously giving them this opportunity along with the signs to verify the message, and its messengers, as being sent from God for the Jew requires a sign. 1st Corinthians 1:22.

**24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. 25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.** *Psalm 16:8-11.*

**29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.** *Psalm 110:1.*

 Notice that Peter tells them that David had not ascended into the heavens, because the Jews have an earthly destiny promised to them while the church has a heavenly destiny.

 David was in paradise (Abraham’s bosom) at that time awaiting resurrection. We in the dispensation of grace have a heavenly destiny, and we go immediately to heaven when we die to be with the Lord.

 Most believe that paradise is now in heaven today, and that all the old testament saints are in heaven separate from the Christians who are in the heavenly places. Psalm 68:18 & Ephesians 4:8.

 Jesus was able to rise from the dead because death had no hold over him, because he had never committed any sin to deserve the wages of sin, neither was he born a sinner as we were.

**36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know  assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**

**All the house of Israel:** Verse thirty-six was not the good news that we preach today, but it was an offer to Israel that if they would repent as a nation then the kingdom that was at hand, would soon be established.

 But, not before the time of Jacob’s trouble came and ran its course of seven years, however. There is no way Israel can escape the seventieth week of Daniel (the tribulation period).

**37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**

**Repent and be baptized:**Peter did not say that they must believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved, but to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins.

**For the remission of sins:** They could get the remission of sins, we however, get the forgiveness of sins today in the body of Christ.

 These were all Jews, or proselytes to Judaism, and they had to repent and be baptized in Jesus’ name for the remission of sins.

 This is not the method we observe today because we are not the Jewish nation, which was being called to repentance for breaking the law covenant, they made with God back at Sinai.

**40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**

**This untoward generation:** Inappropriate, wrong, sinful.

**Three thousand souls:** They were saved on the feast Pentecost, but do you know what else happened on the same feast day two thousand years earlier?

 Three thousand souls were killed when Moses brought the law down from the mount Sinai in Exodus 32:28.

 The three thousand on Pentecost were baptized with the baptism of repentance so that they might receive the remission of sins, and then receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

 None of the 3,000 new converts began to speak in tongues on that day because it was not necessary, the people had already heard the gospel of the kingdom and repented.

**42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.**

**The apostles’ doctrine:** Theses kingdom believers were living in full expectation of the kingdom being established in the near future.

**And had all things common:** They were to sell all that they had and to lay it at the apostles’ feet. This was in accordance with the commands Christ gave his disciples after his resurrection concerning the kingdom.

 There was no expectation that the dispensation of grace would intervene for the next two thousand years, until Saul got saved and God revealed the mysteries of the body of Christ to him.

**46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

 Here we find just the third mention of the word church in scripture. Some claim that the church did not start until the day of Pentecost.

**And the Lord added to the church:** So, the people who got saved were added to the church on the day of Pentecost, which means a church already existed prior to Pentecost.

 Scripture is clear that it did not exist prior to Christ saying “I will build my church” in Matthew 16:18, but then he mentions the church the second time in Matthew 18 as if it already existed.

 The church they had that was added to on Pentecost bared no resemblance to the church we know today which is Christ’s body.

 This was solely a kingdom church. What we are a part of today wouldn’t come to past until a few years later when Paul became the apostle of the Gentiles.

 The church which is Christ’s body is made up of Jews and Gentiles, which become one in Christ. Gentiles do not get saved for a while yet according to the word of God.

 This kingdom church will be functioning again during the tribulation period, but it is not in existence today. These in this church made up the little flock of believers mentioned earlier by Christ.

 A church is simply a called-out assembly. There was a church in the wilderness in Exodus, but it was not the church we are a part of today. Acts 7:38.

 The little flock of kingdom believers would inherit the kingdom that would be taken away from those unbelievers in Israel who would not repent.

***Matthew 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.***

***Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.***

***Luke 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

**Chapter Three**

**The offer of the kingdom**

**1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.**

 Peter and John were still going to the temple because they were never instructed not to by God. They went to the temple because the temple was still a part of God’s plan for Jewish worship at this transitional time in their history.

**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 of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**

 Why can’t we say, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk to a crippled man? We are not apostles verifying the kingdom message with signs and wonders as they were.

 Peter had power to heal, which came upon them, and then it left them. They had to pray for the holy Spirit to come upon them and fill them numerous times to have boldness to preach, and to do miracles. Acts 4:8 & 31.

***Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of* *Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.***

**7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.**

 Notice firstly that this man was not saved here, he was healed, and it was not his faith that healed him, but Peter’s.

 If it were his faith, he could have just said, “I believe I am healed,” and then stood up without any involvement by Peter and John, but he didn’t.

 God did give power to his apostles to heal people as a sign to the unbelieving Jews, that the messenger, and the message were from God. This does not happen today.

**11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. 12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? 13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. 16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.**

 Peter used this opportunity to preach to Israel’s leaders that they killed their Messiah and released a murderer, and that those signs proved that he was risen. It was a murder indictment.

 Because of the words of Christ on the cross, to forgive them for they know not what they do, God could lessen the charge against Israel on that day from murder to manslaughter.

 He would be able to do that for Saul of Tarsus when he stood responsible for Stephen’s death. He like Israel’s leaders did it ignorantly in unbelief.

***1st Timothy 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.***

**17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. 19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**

 Peter is not referring to the rapture as he spoke to this audience, he was referring to Christ’s revealing at the end of the tribulation period.

**The times of refreshing:** These are terms used for the return of Christ to set up his kingdom which comes from the presence of the Lord.

   This was a legitimate offer of the kingdom to the nation as a whole. We do not tell people today that if they will repent of killing Jesus, that God will send the kingdom to this earth.

**The times of the restitution of all things:**The is another way of saying the kingdom. A time when all things will be restored.

**22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. 24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.** *Deuteronomy 18:15-19.*

 The prophets knew nothing of the church, which is Christ's body, but they did know, and foretell about the tribulation period, and the kingdom of which was in reference here.

**25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.** *Genesis 12:3.*

**26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.**

 God sent his Son to the nation of Israel to turn them from their sins first, so that they could in turn bless the Gentiles, which unfortunately did not happen at his first coming.

 After the tribulation period Israel will turn from their sins and believe in their Messiah and become a blessing to the Gentile nations.

**Chapter Four**

**Filled with the Holy Ghost**

**1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, 2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. 4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.**

 The Pharisees believed in the resurrection while the Sadducees did not. It was because of the resurrection that the Sadducees had the big problem.

 It was the biggest thing that set them apart from the Pharisees, and if it were true then they as the intellectuals would look pretty stupid.

**The number of the men:** Even though the number of the men that were saved was about five thousand the kingdom could not come to Israel yet because the leaders of Israel were still rejecting their Messiah.

 The reason for the listing of three and five thousand men, without the women or children being counted, was because every male was required by Moses’ law to attend three feasts each year. Exodus 23:17.

 The resurrection is mentioned here, which was, and still is, the hope of the nation of Israel.

 They didn’t want anyone to believe that Jesus rose from the dead because that would link him to their belief of a resurrection into their kingdom. It would clearly identify Jesus as the Messiah who would bring about the kingdom.

**5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, 6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

**Peter, Filled with the Holy Ghost:** Peter is again filled with the Holy Ghost here to give him boldness (v:13).

**The stone which was set at naught of you builders:** Peter quotes from Matthew 21:42, who was quoting David in Psalms 118:22. Jesus is the chief cornerstone that Israel’s leaders rejected. Peter laid this indictment at their feet.

 He said that they were guilty of killing the Messiah. They would have none of this, but they were confronted with an actual healing which lent itself to the people to agree with the apostles that they were sent of God.

**13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. 17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. 22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed. 23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.**

**The man was above forty years old:**Forty is the number of testings in the bible. How could they be quiet when they had seen God’s power displayed over and over again before their eyes?

**24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.** *Psalm 2:1-2.*

**27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.**

**With all boldness they may speak thy word:**There were no prayers for protection from persecution here, but for boldness to witness, and for signs to follow that would verify their message.

**31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

**They were all filled with the Holy Ghost:** They were filled again and again as needed, and they spoke the word with boldness.

 The first time was at Pentecost, it was called the baptism with the Holy Ghost. It was also called being endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49.

**32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.**

**They had all things common:** Here, and in the beginning of chapter five, we see this exclusively Jewish church practicing kingdom teachings because they were taught so by Christ after his resurrection.

 Rich people will not rule over the poor in the kingdom reign of Christ. The rich had to sell all that they had and follow Christ if they wanted to enter into the kingdom.

 The kingdom that was at hand, and was offered, was rejected by the chief priests who said to Pilate, we have no king but Caesar. John 19:15.

**34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.**

**As many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them:** This was in accordance with what Christ taught during his three-year ministry concerning the coming kingdom. Luke 12:32-33 & 14:25-35.

**Riches and the kingdom**

***Luke 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. 20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery,* *Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. 22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. 23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. 24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? 27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. 28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. 29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, 30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.***

 The partial blindness that had set in for Israel because of their unbelief will be removed at the onset of the tribulation period.

 They will once again practice these same kingdom principles of selling all that they have, because their money will be useless in the tribulation period. Their homes will be confiscated if they do not take the mark of the beast.

**The son of consolation:** This Levite owned land and sold it. The Levites were not supposed to own any land as God was supposed to be their inheritance.

 This Levite also lived in Cyprus. How could a Levite (a priest) be a priest if he lived in Cyprus? He couldn’t. This is a small picture of just how far Israel had departed from God’s word. Numbers 18:23-24.

**Chapter Five**

**Kingdom justice**

**1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**

**His wife also being privy to it:**She had inside information concerning the price of the land.

According to Peter’s own words that when Ananias lied to the apostles about how much he had sold his land for he was lying to the Holy Ghost as well.

 Even more interesting is that by lying to the Holy Ghost Ananias was at the same time lying to God because they are one.

 Peter knew that Ananias and Sapphira were lying, because they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and he also gave Peter their sentence and the power to bring that to past.

 If the numerous gifts that were in operation on Pentecost and soon after, are still around today, then why isn’t anyone exercising the gifts on display here? These gifts are not for us today.

**5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.**

**Gave up the ghost:**His spirit departed from him, and he died. Verse 10 below, and Genesis 25:8.

**7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.** *Deuteronomy 6:16.*

**To tempt the Spirit of the Lord:** Notice the word spirit is capitalized, this denotes the deity of the spirit. Can the Spirit of the Lord be tempted? No!

***James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:***

**10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.**

**Yielded up the ghost:** This is kingdom justice, which will be the law of the land during the kingdom.

 No one will commit any crimes during those days and get away with it. This church in Jerusalem was made up solely of Jews. They were waiting for the kingdom and trusting in the gospel of the kingdom.

**12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.**

**By the hands of the apostles:** Many signs and wonders were wrought among the people.

 Why were the apostles able to heal people like Jesus did? Because the offer of a kingdom was still in play at this time, and no one could be priests if they had infirmities in their flesh.

 Signs and wonders were to validate the message, and the messenger as coming from God, as the kingdom of God was being preached as at hand. The Jews required a sign.

***1st Corinthians 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:***

**The shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them:**First we read above that it was by the hands of the apostles that people were healed.

 Then if one of them were just to walk by someone who was sick, or vexed with an unclean spirit they would be healed. That is what it meant to be filled with the Holy Spirit in those days.

**They were healed every one:** Jesus healed everyone that had an infirmity in their flesh. The apostles also healed everyone they came across, because a priest could not have any infirmities, nor could they be possessed by a devil.

 While the kingdom was still at hand God was preparing Israel to become a kingdom of priests. Exodus 19:5-6 & 1st Peter 2:9.

**17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, 18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.**

**The angel of the Lord:** An angel/messenger.

**21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, 23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. 24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. 25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. 26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.**

**Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree:**A cross is made from a tree. Both Paul and Luke use the word cross as well at other times. They use them interchangeably. Luke 9:23: 14:27 & 23:26. Acts 10:39.

***Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.*** Deuteronomy 21:22-23 below.

***Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***

***Deuteronomy 21:22 And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: 23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.***

**To give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins:** Peter didn’t mention the Gentiles, because he was unaware that God would soon raise up the apostle Paul and usher in the dispensation of grace.

**The Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him:** God did not give power to be used for selfish reasons, or to a person who was not involved in doing God’s will reaching people with the gospel of the kingdom.

 You can’t do what Peter did on this day because God is not doing that today. You are baptized “by” the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, and you are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30.

 The kingdom saints were all baptized “with” the Holy Ghost, not by him, and they had to be filled again and again.

**34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;**

**A doctor of the law:**Someone with advanced education in the Bible, and in the teachings of the elders (the traditions).

**35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. 36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. 37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. 38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.**

**Daily in the temple:** The apostles were teaching there, and in every house, because God’s kingdom program had not ceased yet, but things were about to change when Stephen comes on the scene.

**Chapter Six**

**The Widows Neglected**

**1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.**

**The Grecians:** These were Greek speaking Jews, who were believers in Jesus, who were living in Jerusalem at that time.

**The twelve:** Luke verifies that Matthias is one of the twelve apostles. Some “traditions” refute this.

 Paul was not saved yet, and he was the apostle of the Gentiles. Romans 11:13. Israel was to have 12 apostles to sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

***Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

 This kingdom church was practicing kingdom living with everyone giving to the apostles, and they then distributed to the widows as they had need.

**3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

 The apostles were told to reach Jerusalem first, and many priests in Israel were saved and became obedient to the faith. This meant that they would lose their jobs in the temple as part of the persecution that would soon follow.

**Full of the Holy Ghost:**Stephen was a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. Stephen was saved under the preaching of the kingdom. Not by hearing the gospel given unto the apostle Paul.

***Romans 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.***

***Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,***

***1st Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.***

***1st Timothy 1:11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.***

***2nd Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:***

 These seven Greek speaking men are often called Deacons by many, but that office isn’t mentioned until God does it with the body of Christ years later under Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles.

 Deacons are mentioned in Philippians 1:1 and twice in 1st Timothy 3:8 and 12. The Greek word appears 30 times and means a servant, or a minister. The requirement for these men were different than those mentioned by Paul.

**8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. 9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.**

**Them of Cilicia:** Tarsus was in Cilicia, and Saul was from Tarsus, and was probably one of those who disputed with Stephen.

**11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. 12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, 13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: 14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.**

**They suborned men:** They paid them off to witnesses in their favor. Jesus did not destroy the temple, Rome did. This happened in 70 A.D. Then it says they set up false witnesses when he appeared before the council. Matthew 24:1-2.

**15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.**

 Imagine them seeing the face of an angel and then still going about to kill Stephen. Zeal without knowledge is very dangerous.

**Chapter Seven**

**Stephen’s Prosecution**

**1 Then said the high priest, Are these things so? 2 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, 3 And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. 4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell. 5 And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child. 6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. 7 And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place. 8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs. 9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, 10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. 11 Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. 12 But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. 13 And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.**

**The second time:** Joseph’s brothers did not recognize him the first time he appeared unto them in Egypt.

 He was recognized by them the second time, just as Israel will recognize their Messiah the second time that they see him, when he returns at the end of the great tribulation period.

**14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. 15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, 16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.**

**Threescore and fifteen souls:**75 people.

**17 But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, 18 Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph. 19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live. 20 In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: 21 And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. 22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. 23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: 25 For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.**

**Exceeding fair:**A proper child. Hebrews 11:23.

**He supposed his brethren would have understood**: Stephen is setting his audience up to the possibility that they missed Christ at his first appearing. Their ancestors didn’t understand what Moses was trying to do the first time.

**26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? 27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? 28 Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? 29 Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons. 30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. 31 When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him, 32 Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. 33 Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground. 34 I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt. 35 This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush. 36 He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years. 37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.** *Deuteronomy 18:15-18.*

**The voice of the Lord:** Jesus is the word of God. John 1:1.

**38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:**

**The church in the wilderness:** A church is a called-out assembly. Israel was called out of Egypt (a type of the world) to assemble together in the wilderness so they might serve God.

**The lively oracles:** The law given to Israel at mount Sina. Romans 3:1-2.

**39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, 40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. 42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? 43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.** *Amos 5:25-27.*

**44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen. 45 Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;**

**Brought in with Jesus:** There has been some confusion here as to how Jesus’ name is in the place of what should be Joshua. There is no problem here because it is the same name.

 Jesus is how you would translate the name Joshua if it were coming from the Greek, otherwise we would just use Joshua if it were a direct translation from Hebrew into English.

**The possession of the Gentiles:** The land of Canaan.

**46 Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. 47 But Solomon built him an house. 48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, 49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? 50 Hath not my hand made all these things?** *Isaiah 66:1-2.*

**The prosecution of Israel’s leaders**

**51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.**

**Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears:**This meant that Stephen’s hearers were not in a right standing with God, and that they would all perish in hell.

Israel had rejected God the Father in the old testament and persecuted his prophets. They rejected John the Baptist whom he had sent, and then they rejected his Son, and here they had resisted the Holy Ghost in verse 51.

***Luke 12:10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.***

**The disposition of angels:**The act of transferring something to someone else.

**54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**

**They were cut to the heart:**Stabbed in the heart, figuratively speaking.Acts 2:37 and 5:23.

**He being full of the Holy Ghost:** Israel’s leaders rejected Stephen’s testimony. Once Christ ascended into heaven, he sat down at his Father’s right hand where he waits until the day in which his Father would send him back to judge Israel.

**I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God:**When God’s righthand man stands up, something is about to happen.

***Psalms 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.***

 In scripture we read about God standing up to plead for Israel. Here, however, he is standing up ready to judge.

***Isaiah 3:13 The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.***

 It was now time for Israel to go through the time of Jacob’s trouble, but God had a secret he had been keeping since before the world began according to Romans 16:25.

 This secret would interrupt Israel’s prophecy program, with the body of Christ, and the dispensation of grace that had been kept secret since the world began. A mystery program.

***Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest.***

**57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**

**And the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul:** Saul, the chief of sinners, led the rebellion against by persecuting the apostles and the little flock of kingdom saints before he got saved and became the apostle of the Gentiles. Romans 11:13.

**Lord, lay not this sin to their charge:** Under the law Saul had blasphemed the holy Spirit which was the unpardonable sin, and he could not have forgiveness under the law, but under grace he could.

**Israel’s addition year ends**

See the chart after Acts 8

 Jesus had given Israel an additional year to repent and to produce the fruits of righteousness as he foretold the parable of the fig tree before he went to the cross. Luke 13:6-9.

 This parable has confused many who take it out of its context and try to spiritualize it. It says what it means and means what it says to Israel.

***Luke 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.***

 It helps when trying to understand this parable that you keep it in the context of its preceding five verses where Jesus is telling Israel that they all need to repent, or they shall all likewise perish.

**A certain man:** God.

**A fig tree:** Israel.

**His vineyard:** Israel.

**Fruit:** The judgment and righteousness that was supposed to be produced by the fig tree Israel.

**These three years:** The three years Christ was with them; they did not produce the required fruits of righteousness.

**This year also:** That ended that additional year spoken about in the parable of the fig tree and Israel was “cut down” at that time.

 Instead of bearing fruit because of the words they heard preached for that additional year by the apostles, with signs and wonders, they killed Stephen full of the holy Ghost at the end of the 69th week of Daniel.

 The only thing left on Israel’s prophetical time clock now was the seventieth week of Daniel, but God interrupted Israel’s prophetic program to usher in the dispensation of grace, but not before saving its future leader, Saul of Tarsus.

**Chapter Eight**

**They were all scattered abroad**

**1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.**

**The church which was at Jerusalem:** Saul now becomes the leader of the persecution against the Messianic church at Jerusalem thinking that he was doing God’s work.

 This earned him the title of the chief of sinners. Paraphrased from 1st Timothy 1:15. The word chief literally means the one who leads others in a cause, or the head of.

**They were all scattered abroad..., except the apostles:** The apostles remained in Jerusalem when their flock was scattered because Jerusalem must believe in their Messiah before the kingdom could come to Israel.

 The church in Jerusalem was not scattered by God as a part of the scattering that was promised for unbelieving and disobedient Israel in Leviticus 26. This was a scattering forced on believing Israel by unbelieving Israelites.

**2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.**

**They that were scattered:**This is the last we hear of Saul, who later becomes known as Paul, until we read about his conversion on the road to Damascus in Acts 9. The apostles remained in Jerusalem waiting for God’s leading.

***Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.***

**5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.**

**Philip:**One of the seven Grecians that were chosen to help the poor widows in the church at Jerusalem that were full of the Holy Ghost. Acts 6:1-7.

**The city of Samaria:**Samaria received the good news about Christ because the little flock was scattered to that area by the persecution that had arisen.

 The Samaritans were Jews that had intermingled with Gentiles. They were descendants of those that were left behind during the Assyrian captivity.

 They were of the northern ten tribes which made Samaria their capital, and mount Gerizim their place of worship. Remember the woman at the well in John 4?

 They had intermingled with the Gentiles that were there, and they practiced an even more diluted brand of Judaism than that which was practiced in Jerusalem, using only the five books of Moses.

 While Judah and Benjamin (known as the house of Judah) did not recognize Samaritans as Jews, they were still Jews.

 The Samaritans would be submitting to Judah and Jerusalem’s authority over them in order for them to receive the holy Spirit when Peter and John went to them from the church in Jerusalem to lay hands on them.

 Remember that Jesus had once forbidden his twelve apostles from going into any city of the Samaritans in Matthew 10:5, and now something major has changed.

**9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.**

**Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God:** He did not preach about the dispensation of grace. Entrance into the kingdom of God was through repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus.

 There was a little flock that was made up completely of Jewish believers back in Jerusalem that had now been scattered abroad, but no Gentiles were a part of this kingdom church.

**13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.**

**Then Simon himself believed also:**Simon believed the gospel of the kingdom, not the gospel of the grace of God, that was delivered unto the apostle Paul. Paul was not even saved yet.

**14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

**That they might receive the Holy Ghost:** For as of yet he was fallen upon none of them:

**Only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus:** Prior to Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus disciples were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

 After his resurrection Jesus commanded his apostles to now baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

**Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost:** We don’t have people lay hands on us today in the body of Christ to receive the Holy Ghost as Israel had to.

 The baptism with the Holy Ghost was promised to Israel by Joel, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Joel 2:28-29 & Matthew 3:11. We today are baptized by the holy Spirit, placing us into the body of Christ. 1st Corinthians 12:13.

   These Samaritans had to have the apostles come from Jerusalem to lay hands on them before they could receive the Holy Ghost, thus bringing them back under the authority of what God was doing at that time.

 Remember what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman? Salvation is of the Jews. John 4:22. Nothing before Acts chapter nine is our pattern today, because they were all still operating under the message of the kingdom.

**18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.**

**The Holy Ghost was given:** Philip could cast out evil spirits and heal people in Samaria, but he was not an apostle, so Peter and John had to travel to Samaria to lay hands on them to receive the Holy Ghost.

**Thy money perish with thee:** Remember that Simon believed under the kingdom message, not under the gospel of the grace of God that we are saved by today.

**25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.**

**The gospel:** Philip preached the same gospel that the twelve had been preaching up to that time. The gospel of the circumcision, which was the same thing basically as the gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 4:17-23.

***Galatians 2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; 8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)***

**26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.**

**The angel of the Lord spake unto Philip:**He does not speak to you, your pastor, or anyone else today in the dispensation of grace.

 He spoke to certain in Israel, and every time it had to do with the Israel’s kingdom promises. Here we have a circumcised convert to Judaism coming from Jerusalem where he had been worshipping.

 He cannot be classified as a Gentile because of his circumcision, and his conversion to Judaism (he would be called a proselyte). It is not until chapter ten that we see the first true Gentile convert saved, which is Cornelius.

**29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.** *Isaiah 53:7-8.*

**34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.**

 Isaiah fifty-three is a prophetic indictment against Israel for rejecting their Messiah in the future.

 Philip tells this convert to Judaism all Jesus did during his earthly ministry, and he tells him of the gospel that Jesus and his disciples preached to Israel with its baptism of repentance for the remission of sin, and he believed it.

**36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God:** Verse thirty-seven is wrongly left out of most versions of the bible.

 The Eunuch had to believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God in order to be baptized. We today have to believe the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus in order to be saved. 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

**38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.**

 Why did Philip baptize the Eunuch? So that he could receive the remission of sins. Acts 2:38.

**The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more:** God is not doing any of the stuff, he was doing concerning Israel because the focus is not Israel today, it is on the Church, which is Christ’s body.

 While Satan was focusing his attention on the persecution of believers in Jerusalem, multitudes of Samaritans where being saved.

 That persecution was being headed up by the Pharisee of Pharisees, who was persecuting this Messianic church into many strange cities. God would now take Satan in his own craftiness and save the leader of the rebellion against God.

 Israel became Loammi (Not God's people Hosea 1:9) when Israel's leaders rejected the final offers of the kingdom in Acts chapters 3-7, which was one year after Jesus gave the parable of the fig tree in Luke 13:6-9.

 Stephen was killed 483 years (at the end of the 69th week of Daniel) after the commandment to rebuild and restore Jerusalem given in 450 BC. Daniel 9.

 The next thing on Israel's prophetic time clock was the time of Jacob's trouble, but that terrible time of God's wrath would not happen as it would be preceded by the un-prophesied dispensation of grace.

**The End**

**Daniel’s 70 Weeks**

 The seventieth week of Daniel would now be put on hold as Israel had stumbled and fell, and they will remain Loammi (not my people) until the rapture happens and the body of Christ is taken to be with the Lord. Daniel 9:24-27.

 Then the 70th week of Daniel will begin, and Israel will be suffering the worse week (seven-year period) that she will ever experience in all of her existence.

***Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.***

 Daniel’s 70 weeks are not 70 literal weeks. They are seventy sevens. one week equals seven years. Genesis 29:27-28.

 Jacob served Laban for one week of seven years to get Rachel as his bride. Israel was to be punished by God for 490 years, or 70 weeks of years each.

70 weeks = 490 years

7x7=49 years + 62x7=434 years + 7x1=7 years

From the commandment until Messiah:

69 weeks 70th week

483 years 7 years

***Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.***

**Acts Tests GBI**

**Chapter One Test**

1. Who wrote the book of Acts?

2. What gospel is Acts a continuation of?

3. Who are the two main characters that make up the books two main divisions?

4. When was Acts written?

5. Who wrote most of the “New Testament”? \* This is a trick question.

6. What is the former Treatise that Luke wrote to Theophilus?

7. Jesus spent his last forty days on Earth teaching his disciples things pertaining to what? Acts 1:3

8. Did Jesus have to die before an official offer of the Kingdom could be made to Israel?

9. What commandment was specifically mentioned by Christ that the Apostles were obeying in Jerusalem?

10. What did the eleven ask Jesus if he was about to restore?

11. Why didn’t Jesus respond with either a yes or a no to their question?

12. How did the two men in white robes say that Jesus would return one day?

13. Was the return that they spoke of the Rapture of the body of Christ, or the Revelation of Christ?

14. Was the choice of Matthias as Judas’ replacement the correct choice?

15. Why did the disciples immediately choose Judas’ replacement?

16. Was Paul qualified to be the twelfth Apostle to Israel?

17. Does Paul state in any way that he is not one of the twelve Apostles? If so, where?

**Chapter Two Test**

1. In what two books and chapters is the feast of Pentecost (First Fruits) first mentioned?

2. What book is always read in Jewish homes at Pentecost?

3. The Jewish name for Pentecost is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

4. What Feast Day is 50 days earlier than Pentecost? Give the Hebrew name and the English equivalent. Clue: It is not the Day of Atonement.

5. Were the cloven tongues made of actual fire?

 6. In Acts 1:5 it says they were to wait in Jerusalem to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Ghost, and in chapter two verse four it says they were all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Ghost. Are these two things the same?

 7. On the day of Pentecost, could the people understand the tongues spoken by the Apostles according to verses 6-8?

 8. Who were gathered there on the day of Pentecost?

     A. Jews and Gentiles B. Jews and Proselytes

 9. The filling of the Holy Ghost enabled the Apostles to do what according to verse four?

10. Was the gift of interpretation of tongues needed on the day of Pentecost? Why or why not?

11. A Gentile who turned to Judaism was called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

12. What did those Jews from sixteen different nations hear spoken unto them according to verse eleven?

13. Did everything that Joel prophesied come to pass on the day of Pentecost?

14. When will the rest of what Peter mentioned come to pass?

15. In verses twenty-two and twenty-three was the good news of the cross being preached (the gospel of the grace of God) or was Peter convicting Israel of their sin?

16. Who did Peter site as a source of proof of Christ's resurrection in the Old Testament scriptures?

17. Did David ascend into the heavens according to verse thirty-four?

18. How long will Jesus have to sit at the right hand of the Father before returning according to verse thirty-five?

19. In verse thirty-six who is Peter directly speaking to?

20. According to verse thirty-eight, "was" water baptism required for salvation? Is baptism required today under the gospel of the grace of God?

21. Whose doctrine were the disciples obedient to in verse forty-two?

22. Did these Pentecostal Saints sell their possessions and have all things common?

Why?

23. Did the Church which is Christ's body begin on Pentecost? Did any Church begin on Pentecost?

24. What kind of Church was "added" unto on the day of Pentecost?

**Chapter Three Test**

1. Why was Peter and John still going up to the Temple at the hour of Prayer in verse 1 when they had already trusted in the Messiah for their salvation?

2. Why are we not able to heal someone who was born lame today?

3. Whose faith healed this man?

4. Who did Peter preach to on this day?

A. Ye Gentiles   B. Ye men of Israel

5. Is Peter speaking of the rapture of the Church in verses 20 and 21?

6. Did the prophets see the Church Age coming?

7. Was an offer of the kingdom made to the nation of Israel in verses 19-21?

8. Will the Jews ever bless all the nations in the future, and if so, when and how?

**Chapter Four Test**

1. Who was Peter preaching the resurrection of the dead through?

2. How many men believed the preaching on that day?

3. Type out Psalm 118:22 from memory:

4. Was Peter telling Israel to trust in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ here, or was he convicting Israel of their sin?

5. Did the disciples pray for protection from persecution, or for boldness to witness?

6. What practice were the disciples **practicing at the end of chapter four, and should it still be practiced today?**

**Chapter Five Test**

1. When Ananias lied to the Holy Ghost, he was also lying to whom?

2. Why did God slay these two people for lying, and why does he not do that today?

3. By whose hands was it that God healed many people in Jerusalem during those days in verse 12?

4. Did the Apostle's miraculous jailbreak produce faith in the priests or something else?

5. Why did Peter say that Jesus came to bring repentance to Israel, but he made no mention of the Gentile world to them?

6. Why did the Apostles continue on teaching and preaching at the Temple?

**Chapter Six Test**

1. Are the Grecians mentioned in verse one Gentiles, or Jews?

2. In verse two what proof is there that Paul is not one of the Apostles to the Jews?

3. Were the names of the seven men chosen to help the widows Jewish names, or Greek names?

4. Were these men the first Deacons in this early Church?

5. Was Stephen able to perform wonders and miracles?

6. What was Paul most likely doing at this time as he was a disciple of Gamaliel?

7. Who was Stephen brought before to give an account of his words?

8. What two accusations were leveled against Stephen?

9. What does the scripture say the council saw when they saw Stephen's face?

**Chapter Seven Test**

1. Who lead the council that day?

2. Was Stephen speaking to the Gentiles on this day? Give two proofs from verse two:

3. What is significant about Joseph not being recognized to his brethren the first time they saw him in Egypt.

4. According to Stephen in verse twenty-five, did the children of Israel recognize Moses as their deliverer the first time he tried to deliver them when he had slew the Egyptian?

5. Why is Jesus' name found in verse forty-five instead of Joshua's?

6. Did Stephen share the Good News of Salvation with the Council in verse forty-five, or did he indict them for murder?

7. Was this the third major rejection of God by the nation of Israel and her leaders?

8. What was so significant about Stephen seeing Jesus standing on the right hand of God?

9. Who is mentioned for the first time in scripture in this chapter, and what is he doing?

10. What did Stephen say to God at his stoning, for the Jews sake?

**Chapter Eight Test**

1. Why does Stephen receive so much attention in the book of Acts when the Apostle James is killed and is only mentioned in one verse?

2. What did Stephen's death symbolize?

3. Who led (was the Chief of) the persecution of the Jerusalem Church?

4. Why did the twelve remain in Jerusalem when the multitude of disciples fled into other regions?

5. What was the result of Saul's persecution in verse four?

6. Who were the Samaritans?

7. Was Philip preaching the Kingdom message or Grace?

8. Were any Gentiles saved by grace through faith yet?

9. Why were Peter and John sent to Samaria?

10. Why did the Apostles have to lay hands on these believers to receive the Holy Ghost?

11. Was Simon saved at the time it says he believed?

12. Was the Ethiopian Eunuch a Gentile saved by Grace, or a Proselyte to Judaism, which believed Jesus was the Son of God?

13. What verse is missing in most versions of the bible concerning baptism in this chapter?

14. Did the Eunuch trust in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ or something else?