

NT 11 2.04

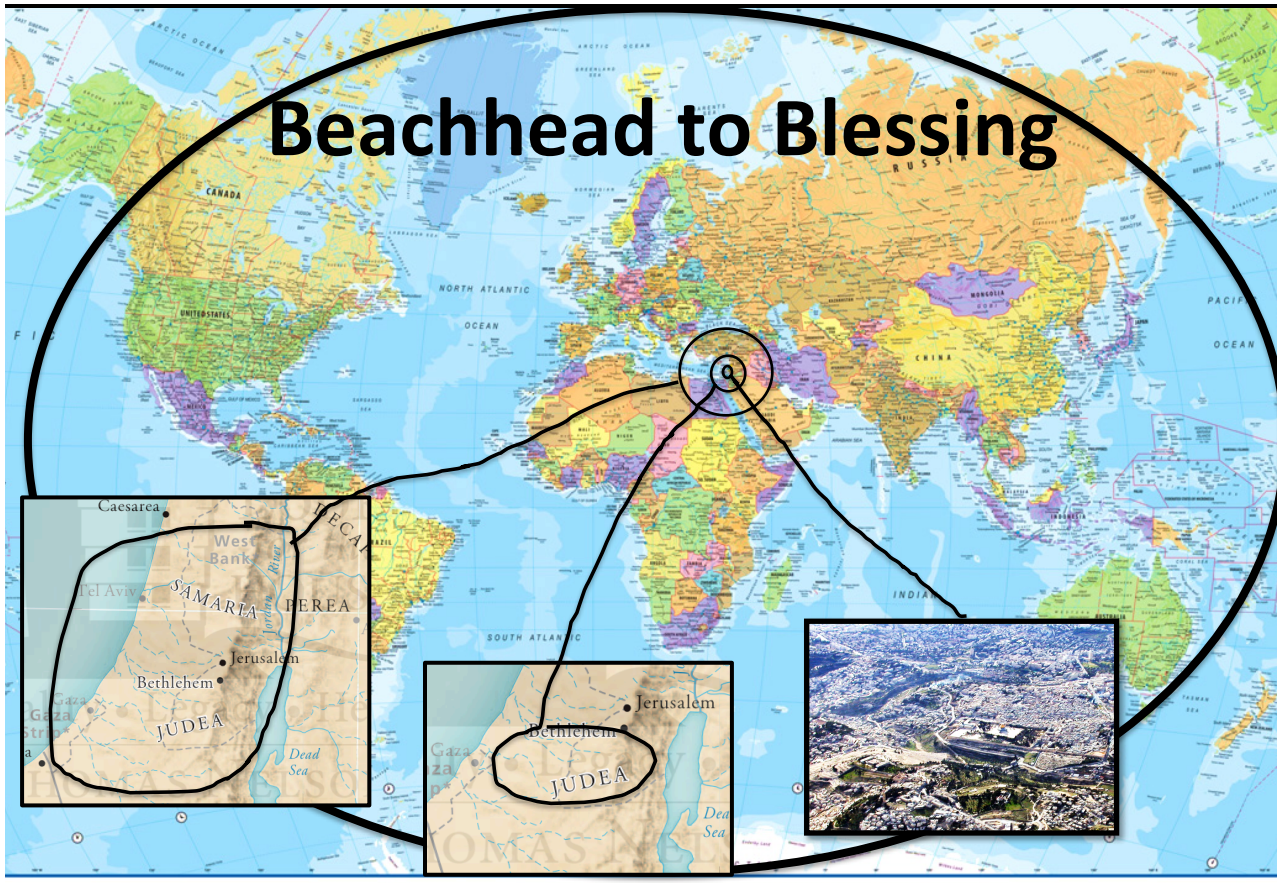
The BIBLE PROJECT

BEACHHEAD TO BLESSING—ACTS

LUKE 2:10-11: Good news for ALL people: Unto you is born a Savior—Christ the LORD.

John 20: 28: Thomas: My LORD and my God

Acts 2:36: Peter—God made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Christ!



BIG IDEA 1: NT BEACHHEAD IS JERUSALEM



And the Conquest is the WHOLE WORLD.*

The OT Beachhead was Jericho and the Conquest was Canaan.

That's the significance of the Titles given to Jesus: CHRIST/MESSIAH and LORD

- Christ is the same as Messiah—the expected king of Israel

- But LORD includes the concept of Master of the Universe—certainly Lord of ALL (the world)
- Dominus was the title given and demanded of Caesar in Rome – in the words of Thomas, *Dominus et Deus*—my Lord and my God.
- In the words of Angel in Greek: **Χριστος Κυριος Christ the Lord.**

For God so loved the **world** that he gave his only begotten Son that **whoever** believes in him might not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

*NOTE: Dr. Kenneth Bailey points out that while Psalms has many images for God, like Shield, High Tower, Fortress, High place, Refuge, Rock, Stronghold, Horn of Salvation, but those images do NOT APPEAR in the New Testament. *Why do you think they do not appear in the New Testament?*

BIG IDEA 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ACTOR OF ACTS: JERUSALEM WITNESS



Jesus commands his disciples to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem and not to act without the Holy Spirit. Acts 1.4

Acts Read and Note—The following are given as examples of the notes to take in class.

1.4 WAIT IN JERUSALEM FOR POWER

1.3 Jesus appears for 40 days to disciples

1.6 Disciples want to know whether he now going to become the political King of Israel—REALLY????

1.7 Not for you to know...

1.8 Outline verse and commission: Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of earth.

1.13-15 Returned to the Upper Room with 120 in prayer including women and in “one accord.”

Then they proved they were indeed Presbyterians by having a “congregational meeting.”

They elected a “replacement Apostle” for Judas. Write his name here: _____

Chapter 2 JERUSALEM WITNESS

Day of Pentecost—50 days after Passover. Feast of first fruits. Later Holy Spirit will be called the down payment or first fruit. Rom 8.23; 2 Cor 1.22 & 5.5—guarantee/deposit

Tongues of fire, rushing mighty wind, “glossolalia” “other tongues”. 12 people groups mentioned. Heard in their own language. ***Was this a miracle of speaking or of hearing?***



Nelsons Bible Maps

Did the Apostles initiate witness? Or did they react to defend themselves from an accusation?
The HOLY SPIRIT FORCED THE ISSUE.

A NEW FELLOWSHIP IS FORMED—incipient church—believers 3000

Peter and John are called before the Sanhedrin—witness to the POWERS of *Judaism*
Persecution of believers by JEWISH POWERS.

ACTS 5 CHURCH DISCIPLINE—remember Achan in the Old Testament—Joshua 7

Persecution again leads to witness. Did the Apostles have a “Mission Plan for Witness?”



BIG IDEA 3: JUDEAN WITNESS

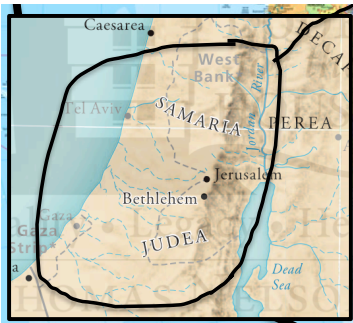
Acts 6—first church fight (well, complaints against the Apostles.)

“Deacons” elected—never called Deacons. ONLY THE VERB was used in Acts 6. What actual duties did they perform? They were said to be full of the Holy Spirit and of Wisdom.

What ethnic background did the SEVEN come from, judging by their names?

And what was the first result of their ministry?

The Jewish concept of “EXCEPTIONALISM” is under attack, but not by the Apostles. Who is leading the charge?



BIG IDEA 4—SAMARITAN WITNESS

Another blow against the idea of Jewish EXCEPTIONALISM.

What led to the believers going to Samaria? And who went? And who did NOT GO? Acts 8.1

And who fomented the action against believers?

What was the role of the Apostles themselves?

And the Holy Spirit accomplished what?

Notice the order of steps along the path to spiritual life and maturity in believers’ lives. At what point does the “filling” of the Holy Spirit come? In fact, take notes on the order as we find it recorded in Acts? Is it always the same?



BIG IDEA 5: UNIVERSAL WITNESS TO A UNIVERSAL LORD

Notice the “interlude in the progress of the story for the Conversion of Saul. Note the reluctance of Ananias.

Peter’s attempt to maintain the Jewish concept of exceptionalism.

What persuades Peter that this is authentically sanctioned by God?

What's the crucial role of "tongues" in the process?

Peter gets called on the carpet by the Jerusalem church.

Who takes the Gospel to Antioch? Apostles? What does the Jerusalem church do when they learn that the Gospel has been shared with Greeks?

Where are Jesus' followers first called "Christians?"

What helped in the acceptance of Antioch believers by those in Judea and Jerusalem? Who is the bridge between Saul and the believers? How does he get introduced in Jerusalem?

What is an important lesson we can learn from Peter's escape from prison?

What happens to Peter? Acts 12.17.

Good riddance to Herod Agrippa—Josephus in *Antiquities* describes the same scene as Luke with more details.

First missionaries are sent out by whom? From Where? Where did they go?



What great change occurs at Pisidian Antioch? And on to Iconium, Lystra & Derbe.

The conclusive proof that the early church is "Presbyterian." The first "General Assembly." ☺

What's the issue? Exceptionalism.

Then what?

BIG IDEA 6: JESUS IS LORD OF ALL



The Gospel goes to Rome.

Life Application Bible

OR He is not Lord at all.
He is Teacher
He is Renewer of the Original Covenant
He is Savior
He is example
He is Messiah

But more, JESUS IS LORD!
BIG IDEA RECAP

BIG IDEA 1: NT BEACHHEAD IS JERUSALEM

BIG IDEA 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ACTOR OF ACTS JERUSALEM WITNESS

BIG IDEA 3: JUDEAN WITNESS

BIG IDEA 4—SAMARITAN WITNESS

BIG IDEA 5: UNIVERSAL WITNESS TO A UNIVERSAL LORD

BIG IDEA 6: JESUS IS LORD OF ALL

Acts Facts

Acts was written by Luke as the second part of his two part book of what Jesus ***began*** to do and teach...

Luke is an historian whom FF Bruce calls one of the most accurate if not the most accurate of ancient historians.

Luke tells us he conducts research.

But he also indicates sometimes that he is an eyewitness as in the famous “We passages” in Acts.

- Acts 16.10-17—Luke joins Paul in Philippi, the first church in Europe.
- Acts 20.5—21.18
- Acts 27.1—28.16

Acts is the history of what? Certainly not an account of 11/12 Apostles.

- As Harriet Polleschultz points out in a lecture she wrote, we only get a few mentions of anyone other than Peter and Paul.
- John Zebedee is mentioned but says nothing.
- James Zebedee gets a sentence that tells he was martyred first (12.2).
- Some important mention is made of James, Jesus’ brother, notably Acts 15.

NOTE: Ancient Authors did not write the Book Titles. What would have been a good book title for Acts?

The Bible Project 2.04

Consider the following if you choose to prepare for the next class:

Read Galatians, Romans and Hebrews.

Concentrate on these passages: What’s the problem?

- Gal 1.6-9, 3.1-5
- Hebrews 2.1, 10. 32-39, 13.9
- Romans 3-4; 16.17-18

Jesus prepares for these issues: Mark 2.21-22

MARKERS FOR ACTS

Acts 2	Pentecost
Acts 9	Paul’s conversion
Acts 10	Peter “gets it”
Acts 15	First “General Assembly” on definition of “Exceptionalism”
Acts 16	Philippian Conversion—Believe
Acts 26	Resurrection Stumbling Block