

ACTS OF THE EXALTED JESUS IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
THROUGH HIS APOSTOLIC CHURCH

GAME PLAN OF BOOK OF ACTS - MISSION OF CHURCH

Acts 1:8 you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

AS THE EXALTED LORD - JESUS WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH

BEGIN IN JERUSALEM???

"like reviving the Davidians in Waco, Texas one month after David Koresh and his followers went up in flames"

ONLY CHRIST WILL DO IT

WITHIN A FEW WEEKS - APOSTLES REBUKED BY JEWISH HIGH PRIEST

Acts 5:28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

Acts 6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

JUDEA AND SAMARIA

Acts 8:1 a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria

IT TOOK PAIN & TROUBLE TO CAUSE THEM TO OBEY THE MARCHING ORDERS

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

NOT AN ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN - GOSSIPED THE GOSPEL

GENTILE WORLD

CHAPTER 9 - CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSUS - APOSTLE TO GENTILES

CHAPTER 10 - FIRST GENTILE CONVERT - ROMAN CENTURION CORNELIUS

MESSENGER - PROUD APOSTLE TO THE JEWS - HARD LESSON

LESSON LEARNED BY WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA - NOW BLACK PRESIDENT!!

FOR 2 THOUSAND YEARS - SINCE ABRAHAM - JEWS WERE KEEPERS OF FAITH

Acts 10:15 The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

Acts 10:44-48 While Peter (PREACHED THE GOSPEL)...the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. {45} The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. {46} For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, {47} "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." {48} So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

11:18 "God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

1st CHURCH W/ JEW & GENTILE TOGETHER -COSMOPOLITAN CITY- ANTIOCH

EVERETT HARRISON "The Antioch church was a missionary church par excellence...they stepped forward and sponsored a great missionary outreach, becoming thereby the catalyst for the tremendous growth of the Gentile congregations in Asia Minor...Antioch was a missionary church in the twofold sense that it was founded by missionaries and in turn became a missionary base for sending out the gospel to regions beyond. So far as it is known, it was the first church to undertake fulfilling the last portion of Christ's commission to be witnesses to the ends of the earth...It is to the credit of the believers of Antioch that when the Spirit called for its leading men to go forth as its representatives, there was no hesitation but rather complete obedience. The whole incident was marked by deep earnestness, attested by fasting and prayer." (Acts 13.1-3)

FROM ANTIOCH PAUL AND BARNABAS WENT ON FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

CAME TO CITY IN ROMAN PROVINCE OF GALATIA - 18 M. SW. ICONIUM
THREE VISITS TO THIS CITY - 2nd VISIT - RECRUITED TIMOTHY

INTRO - v. 8 HEALING OF CRIPPLE "had never walked" - MIRACLE

// PETER AND MAN AT BEAUTIFUL GATE - chapter 3

HEALING POWER OF THE RISEN JESUS
AS PAUL SPOKE - MAN OVERHEARD - WORD PRODUCED FAITH

Romans 10:17 faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

HEALING TODAY

1) GOD IS ABLE -

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

2) WHEN GOSPEL PENETRATES NEW FRONTIERS

Giving of Word of God

MOSES IN EGYPT - PROPHETS - JESUS AND APOSTLES
VALIDATES AUTHENTIC OF GOD'S MESSAGE

MISSION FIELD - POWER ENCOUNTERS - KAPIOLANI VS. PELE

WHAT ABOUT A SOCIETY THAT HAS THE SCRIPTURE

RICH MAN IN HELL - LAZARUS IN BOSOM OF ABRAHAM

Luke 16:27-30 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father (ABRAHAM), send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "No, father Abraham,' he said, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

AMERICA - DO WE NEED A MIRACLE TO BELIEVE - OVER 50 BIBLE VERSION

Matthew 12:38,39 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you." He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!

3) GOD'S HEALING WAS ALWAYS SPONTANEOUS - NOT SCHEDULED

NOT "next Wednesday night Apostle Paul will have Healing Service"

4) GOD'S HEALING ALWAYS WORKED

If examined by reporters from 60 Minutes they would pass test

POWER ENCOUNTER - HEALING LAME MAN- BROUGHT ATTENTION TO APOSTLES

BARRIERS TO THE APOSTOLIC GOSPEL

LANGUAGE

14:11 crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"

MOST LIKELY PAUL DID NOT SPEAK THIS LANGUAGE

THOUGHT THEY WERE EXCITED ABOUT POWER OF TRUE GOD

6,500 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES IN WORLD - LESS THAN 1,000 HAVE BIBLE

"why not just teach world to speak English"

DIFFICULTY OF LANGUAGE LEARNING - "fu the chickens"

WORKED ON LANGUAGE 25 YEARS - TRANSLATED THE BIBLE - LUGBARA

One tone "take care of" / other tone "kill"

CAME HOME TO FIND CHICKENS IN THE FREEZER

LANGUAGE BARRIER IN NON-CHRISTIAN AMERICA

SIN - REDEMPTION - BORN AGAIN - JESUS "spirit bro. of Satan??"

WORLD-VIEW - way a person perceives reality / looks at life

Acts 14:12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

GREEK RELIGION - ZEUS, chief god / HERMES - messenger god

GOD HOLY, TRANSCENDENT vs. gods who come down and fool people

JOHN STOTT "The crowd's superstitious even fanatical behavior is hard to comprehend, but some local background throws light on it. About fifty years previously the Latin poet Ovid had narrated in his *Metamorphoses* an ancient local legend. The supreme god Jupiter (Zeus to the Greeks) and his son Mercury (Hermes) once visited the hill country of Phrygia, disguised as mortal men. In their incognito they sought hospitality but were rebuffed, a thousand times. At last, however, they were offered lodging in a tiny cottage, thatched with straw and reeds from the marsh. Here lived an elderly peasant couple called Philemon and Baucis, who entertained them out of their poverty. Later the gods rewarded them, but destroyed by flood the homes which would not take them in. It is reasonable to suppose both that the Lystran people knew this story about their neighborhood and that, if the gods were to revisit their district, they were anxious not to suffer the same fate as the inhospitable Phrygians."

RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

Acts 14:13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY - "priest of Zeus"

FORMAL - ELECTED OFFICIALS

INFORMAL - ONE WHO KNOWS THE MOST GOSSIP - MOST FEARED

HARVIE IN KOREAN VILLAGE - MANY EVANGELISTIC VISITS - NO SUCCESS
MET ELECTED OFFICIALS - RELIGIOUS LEADERS - GOT NO WHERE
LEARNED THAT VILLAGE OPINION LEADER WAS OLD CRIPPLED WOMAN
HER CONVERSION - OPENED UP ENTIRE VILLAGE TO CHRIST

CHURCH SHOULD BE PLACE TO REACH THE WORLD - many times a barrier
WHO IS THAT PERSON / THIS IS OUR CHURCH / SITTING IN MY PEW

PEOPLE WHO VISIT - DO WE SEEK THEM OUT - THEY ARE LOOKING

CULTURAL BARRIER

14:14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting:

JEWISH SIGN OF GRIEF AND ANGUISH - ruined a good garment!!

SYMBOLS OF THE CHURCH - GOOD BUT NEED EXPLANATION

GOSPEL MESSAGE

BRIEF ABSTRACT- PAUL'S ONLY RECORDED MESSAGE TO ILLITERATE PAGANS
NOT BASED ON OT BACKGROUND - AS TO JEWISH AUDIENCE

BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING - CREATION, PROVIDENCE, KNOWN TO UNKNOWN
JOY AS GOD'S GREAT GIFT - NOT FROM SOME SUBSTANCE

JOHN STOTT "We need to learn from Paul's flexibility. We have no liberty to edit the heart of the good news of Jesus Christ. Nor is there ever any need to do so. But we have to begin where people are, to find a point of contact with them. With secularized people today this might be what constitutes authentic humanness, the universal quest for transcendence, the hunger for love and community, the search for freedom, or the longing for personal significance. Wherever we begin, however, we shall end with Jesus Christ, who is Himself the good news, and who alone can fulfill all human aspirations."

What is Our Message?

1. The Gospel is a message about GOD - who He is, what His character is, what His standards are, what He requires of us

Acts 17.24-28, 1 Timothy 1.17, John 4.24, 1 John 1.5, 4.8

2. The Gospel is a message about sin, an offense against God and his holiness

Evidences of conviction of sin

a) Wrong relationship with God - Psalm 51.4

b) Conviction of specific sins - Isaiah 6.5, Luke 19.8

c) Realization of general sinfulness - Ezekiel 36.26-27

3. The Gospel is a message about Christ-from Eternity to Eternity

Son of God - Incarnation - Sinless Life - Cross - Resurrection - Ascended Lord - Sovereign King - Coming Judge

4. The Gospel is a call to faith and repentance - CLOSE THE DEAL!

a) It is an ANNOUNCEMENT which includes and INVITATION

b) He ACCEPTS us in Christ when we RECEIVE Him

John 1.12,13 - 1 John 3.23 - Luke 9.23 - Revelation 22.17

GREATEST BARRIER TO THE GOSPEL - not language, religion, culture

Acts 14:18 Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

Acts 14:19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

THE HUMAN HEART "heart of the problem is problem of heart"

ONE MINUTE A GOD TO BE WORSHIPPED - NEXT A CRIMINAL TO BE SLAIN

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 8:21 every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood

PEOPLE ARE AMAZINGLY FICKLE - OPINIONS CHANGE LIKE WIND

FAITHFULNESS TO JESUS WILL NOT WIN YOU ANY POPULARITY CONTESTS

GOD WORKED IN LYSTRA - perhaps Timothy was among that crowd

Jeremiah 23:29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

EZEKIELS PROMISE OF THE NEW COVENANT

Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. {26} I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. .

Matthew 16:18 I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

SUCCESS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE RISEN JESUS THROUGHOUT ACTS

Acts 28:30,31 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

SAD ENDING - IMPENDING DEATH OF A MARTYR??

KINGDOM WHICH HELD HIM PRISONER MARTYR??

KINGDOM WHICH HELD HIM PRISONER - ROME

LORD WHO WOULD TAKE OFF HIS HEAD - CAESAR

PAUL'S GOD IS SOVEREIGN - KINGDOM OF KINGDOMS - CAESAR OF CAESARS

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.