

LIVING WITH PURPOSE

ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM



- ^{ESV} **MATTHEW 16:18** AND I TELL YOU, YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

OVERVIEW OF ACTS

- ACTS IS THE STORY OF GOD SOVEREIGNLY AND LOVINGLY WORKING IN AND THROUGH HIS PEOPLE TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM
- ACTS READS LIKE AN ADVENTURE STORY COMPLETE WITH TRIALS, RIOTS, PERSECUTIONS, JAILBREAKS, MARTYRDOM, VOYAGES, SHIPWRECKS, AND RESCUES

AUTHORSHIP

- WRITTEN BY LUKE
 - AUTHOR OF GOSPEL OF LUKE AND POSSIBLY HEBREWS
 - HIGHLY EDUCATED AND TRAINED IN RHETORIC
 - PROBABLY A GOD-FEARING JEWISH SYMPATHIZER
 - PROBABLY PHYSICIAN WHO TRAVELLED WITH PAUL
- LIKELY WRITTEN SOMETIME 85-115 AD

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

- 2ND – 3RD GENERATION CHURCH SO REMOVED FROM APOSTLES
 - DEMONSTRATE APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY
 - AUTHENTICATE GOSPELS AND EPISTLES OF NEW TESTAMENT
 - CLARIFY ORIGIN AND PURPOSE OF CHURCH
- GENTILE DOMINATED CHURCH
 - SHOW JEWISH ORIGIN OF CHURCH
 - DEMONSTRATE EQUALITY OF ALL CHRISTIANS

- “LUKE OFFERS A VISION OF GOD’S FAMILY THAT IS INCLUSIVE OF JEW AND GENTILE, MALE AND FEMALE, SLAVE AND FREE, THE PHYSICALLY WHOLE AND THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED”
- “LUKE’S USE OF RHETORIC IS AIMED AT FORMING THE MORAL CHARACTER AND THEOLOGICAL VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SO THAT THE FOLLOWERS MAY MORE FAITHFULLY IMITATE THE FOUNDER, JESUS THE CHRIST”
 - MIKEAL C. PARSONS





AUTHENTICATING THE GOSPELS

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- BY THE TIME OF WRITING OF ACTS MANY GOSPELS WERE IN CIRCULATION (LUKE 1:1-3)
 - SEPARATING TRUE FROM FALSE WAS CRITICAL
- FROM EARLY ON THE CHURCH ONLY ACCEPTED THE FOUR WE HAVE TODAY
 - MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN
- LUKE AUTHENTICATES THESE FOUR RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 1:1** IN MY FORMER BOOK, THEOPHILUS, I WROTE ABOUT ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TO TEACH
- ^{NIV} **LUKE 3:23** NOW JESUS HIMSELF WAS ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OLD WHEN HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY. HE WAS THE SON, SO IT WAS THOUGHT, OF JOSEPH, THE SON OF HELI,
- ^{NIV} **ACTS 1:2** UNTIL THE DAY HE WAS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN, AFTER GIVING INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE APOSTLES HE HAD CHOSEN.
- ^{NIV} **LUKE 24:51** WHILE HE WAS BLESSING THEM, HE LEFT THEM AND WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN.

THEOPHILUS

- THEOPHILUS = LOVER OF GOD
- THEOPHILUS WAS PROBABLY NOT A SPECIFIC PERSON BUT A TERM OF ENDEARMENT FOR HIS FELLOW CHRISTIANS
 - YOU AND I ARE THEOPHILUS

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:5** FOR JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW.“
- ^{NAS} **MARK 1:8** "I BAPTIZED YOU WITH WATER; BUT HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT."

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:7** HE SAID TO THEM, "IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW TIMES OR EPOCHS WHICH THE FATHER HAS FIXED BY HIS OWN AUTHORITY;
- ^{NAS} **MATTHEW 24:36** "BUT OF THAT DAY AND HOUR NO ONE KNOWS, NOT EVEN THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN, NOR THE SON, BUT THE FATHER ALONE.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:8** BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH.“
- ^{NAS} **JOHN 15:26** "WHEN THE HELPER COMES, WHOM I WILL SEND TO YOU FROM THE FATHER, *THAT IS* THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER, HE WILL BEAR WITNESS OF ME, ²⁷ AND YOU WILL BEAR WITNESS ALSO, BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING.



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

BEGINNING OF THE MISSION

- THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH BEGAN WITH THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS
- ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:1** THE FIRST ACCOUNT I COMPOSED, THEOPHILUS, ABOUT ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TEACH, ² UNTIL THE DAY WHEN HE WAS TAKEN UP, AFTER HE HAD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN ORDERS TO THE APOSTLES WHOM HE HAD CHOSEN.

CONCLUSION OF THE MISSION

- THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH WILL CONCLUDE WITH THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS
- ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:11** AND THEY ALSO SAID, "MEN OF GALILEE, WHY DO YOU STAND LOOKING INTO THE SKY? THIS JESUS, WHO HAS BEEN TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN, WILL COME IN JUST THE SAME WAY AS YOU HAVE WATCHED HIM GO INTO HEAVEN."

LOCATION

- THE LOCATION WHERE JESUS COMMISSIONS THE APOSTLES IS VERY SIGNIFICANT
 - MOUNT OF OLIVES (ACTS 1:12)



- JEHOVAH GOD PROMISED TO COME TO EARTH AND STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
- ^{NAS} **ZECHARIAH 14:4** AND IN THAT DAY HIS FEET WILL STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH IS IN FRONT OF JERUSALEM ON THE EAST; AND THE MOUNT OF OLIVES WILL BE SPLIT IN ITS MIDDLE FROM EAST TO WEST BY A VERY LARGE VALLEY, SO THAT HALF OF THE MOUNTAIN WILL MOVE TOWARD THE NORTH AND THE OTHER HALF TOWARD THE SOUTH. ⁵ ...THEN THE LORD, MY GOD, WILL COME, AND ALL THE HOLY ONES WITH HIM!

- AT THIS TIME HE WOULD ESTABLISH HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM
- ^{NAS} **ZECHARIAH 14:9** AND THE LORD WILL BE KING OVER ALL THE EARTH; IN THAT DAY THE LORD WILL BE *THE ONLY ONE*, AND HIS NAME *THE ONLY ONE*.

- IN HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO DAY OR NIGHT
- ^{NAS} **ZECHARIAH 14:7** FOR IT WILL BE A UNIQUE DAY WHICH IS KNOWN TO THE LORD, NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT, BUT IT WILL COME ABOUT THAT AT EVENING TIME THERE WILL BE LIGHT.
- ^{NAS} **REVELATION 22:5** AND THERE SHALL NO LONGER BE ANY NIGHT; AND THEY SHALL NOT HAVE NEED OF THE LIGHT OF A LAMP NOR THE LIGHT OF THE SUN, BECAUSE THE LORD GOD SHALL ILLUMINE THEM; AND THEY SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.

- ^{NAS} **ZECHARIAH 14:8** AND IT WILL COME ABOUT IN THAT DAY THAT LIVING WATERS WILL FLOW OUT OF JERUSALEM
- ^{NAS} **REVELATION 22:1** AND HE SHOWED ME A RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE, CLEAR AS CRYSTAL, COMING FROM THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB,
- ^{NAS} **JOHN 4:14** BUT WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST; BUT THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL BECOME IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE."
- ^{NAS} **JOHN 7:38** "HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE SAID, 'FROM HIS INNERMOST BEING SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.'"

LOCATION

- LUKE SPECIFYING JESUS COMMISSIONED THE APOSTLES AT THE MOUNT OF OLIVES TO BUILD THE CHURCH COMBINED WITH PLACING HIS ACCOUNT OF THIS BETWEEN REFERENCES TO THE FIRST AND SECOND COMING GIVES A CLEAR MESSAGE;
 - THE CHURCH IS THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD
- EVENTS AT MOUNT OF OLIVES RECORDED IN GOSPELS CONFIRM THIS



JESUS AT MOUNT OF OLIVES

- BEGINNING OF TRIUMPHAL ENTRY ON PALM SUNDAY
- LOCATION OF OLIVET DISCOURSE
- LOCATION OF GETHSEMANE
 - REGULAR PLACE OF PRAYER FOR JESUS AND THE 12
 - SITE OF BETRAYAL AND ARREST
- LOCATION OF COMMISSIONING OF APOSTLES TO BUILD CHURCH
- LOCATION OF ASCENSION
- LOCATION OF RETURN

- THE CHURCH IS THE RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM
- ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:6** AND SO WHEN THEY HAD COME TOGETHER, THEY WERE ASKING HIM, SAYING, "LORD, IS IT AT THIS TIME YOU ARE RESTORING THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL?"
- NOTE LUKE'S PLACEMENT OF THIS QUESTION;
 - V1 FIRST COMING
 - V6 RESTORATION OF KINGDOM
 - V11 SECOND COMING

PROMISED RESTORATION

- ^{NIV} **AMOS 9:11** "IN THAT DAY I WILL RESTORE DAVID'S FALLEN TENT. I WILL REPAIR ITS BROKEN PLACES, RESTORE ITS RUINS, AND BUILD IT AS IT USED TO BE,
- ^{NAS} **ISAIAH 9:6** FOR A CHILD WILL BE BORN TO US, A SON WILL BE GIVEN TO US; AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL REST ON HIS SHOULDERS; AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE. ⁷ THERE WILL BE NO END TO THE INCREASE OF *HIS* GOVERNMENT OR OF PEACE, ON THE THRONE OF DAVID AND OVER HIS KINGDOM, TO ESTABLISH IT AND TO UPHOLD IT WITH JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THEN ON AND FOREVERMORE. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ENABLE THE APOSTLES TO CARRY OUT THE COMMISSION TO BUILD THE CHURCH
- BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:5** FOR JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW.“
- EMPOWERMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:8** BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU ...

- THIS EMPOWERMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT BEGAN WITH THE APOSTLES BUT SPREADS TO ALL BELIEVERS
- THIS WAS PROMISED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
 - ^{NAS} **JOEL 2:28** "AND IT WILL COME ABOUT AFTER THIS THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY, YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS, YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS. ²⁹ "AND EVEN ON THE MALE AND FEMALE SERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS.

EMPHATIC STRUCTURE

- V1 FIRST COMING
 - V5 BAPTIZED WITH SPIRIT
 - V6 RESTORATION OF KINGDOM
 - V8 EMPOWERMENT BY SPIRIT
- V11 SECOND COMING

EMPOWERMENT

- THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL
 - ^{NAS} **ACTS 1:8** BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH.“
 - ^{NAS} **ROMANS 1:16** FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GREEK.

CONCLUSION

- THE CHURCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD
 - THE CHURCH IS BUILT UP WHEN CHRISTIANS LED AND EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT ENGAGE IN SPREADING THE GOSPEL
- OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO WORSHIP GOD AND BUILD THE CHURCH
 - WORD OF GOD IS CENTRAL
 - MUST SEEK THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT