

INTRODUCTION

1. [Lk 24:44-47](#) a definitive foundational text to interpret Scripture. Summit text from wh/ to view panorama of Scripture & distill essence of gospel.

1st: A Review and Reorientation

1. Luke embeds Vol I in Jerusalem where Vol II begins but ends in Rome.
2. God is being faithful to AbCov: *all the families of the earth will be blessed in you* - in Ab's seed: Jesus. Church = *Israel of God*, eschatological Israel.
3. Acts 1-7 in Jerusalem - Peter preaching & Sanhedrin opposing -> martyrdom of Stephen. Introduced to Saul of Tarsus whose persecution chases Xns into Judea & Samaria - schema of A 1:8.
4. Acts 8 - Philip & Ethiopian [Isa 53]. Samaritan Pentecost - Apostles witness Jesus' death & res & gift of HS - preached to Samaritans [A 8:25]
5. Change of scene & character in A 9. Res'd Jesus confronts Saul - sends Ananias to him in Damascus - [A 9:15-16](#). Saul tries to join church in Jerusalem but departs for Tarsus [circa 35-36AD]. [A 9:31](#) church expands

2nd: Peter Takes the Gospel to Cornelius the Gentile

1. Peter - [A 9:32](#) - *down to Lydda* [west of Jerusalem] - Joppa: coast city
2. [A 10:1-2](#) Cornelius - Italian centurion, in Caesarea [port city north in Samaria]. Lord deals w/ Ptr as well as Cornelius. Ptr's *trance*:
 - i. [A 10:9-15](#) Lord tells Ptr to violate dietary laws! Goes to Ceasarea to Cornelius' house - *brethren* & Samaritans & Italians - [A 10:33b](#)
 - ii. [A 10:34-48](#) Ptr recounts Jesus' death & res & promises forgiveness.
 - a. [v44](#) - *speaking* - *words* - *message* - *listening* - posture of v33
 - b. another echo of Pentecost - gift of HS [tongues] for benefit of *the circumcised believers* - bapt'd in Jesus' name
 - iii. 2 "conversions": Cornelius to Jesus & Ptr & circumcised believers to NCov inclusion of Gentiles w/ fulfillment of OCov.
3. [A 11:1-4](#) Who is in focus? Circum'd believers in Jerusalem
4. Ptr retells chpt 10. Luke tells same story twice - pivotal: gospel to Gentiles
 - i. Ptr's interp? [A 11:15-17](#) sees in terms of Pentecost - "baptism of HS"
 - ii. [v18](#) - God fulfilling promises to enlarge Israel by including Gentiles - in into OCov theocracy, but as true sons of Ab.

3rd: Jewish Disciples Take the Gospel to the Gentiles

1. [A 11:19-24](#) Church in Antioch
 - i. v19 - who was speaking to whom? A 8:1 - Jewish Xns to Jews.
 - ii. In Jeru: *the Synagogue of the Freedmen* [composed of *Cyrenians & Alexandrians & Cilicia & Asia* - A 6:9-10] South to northern Africa; North & west to southern Turkey. Diaspora Jews in settlements
 - iii. Pray & internalize v23.
2. [A 11:25-26](#) Saul & Barnabas: 45-46AD: disciples = Xns.

4th: Gentile Christians Give Benevolence to the Church in Jerusalem

1. [A 11:27](#) Prophets from Jeru -> Antioch - foretold of famine. v28-29 Gentile disciples gave *for the relief of the brethren* in Judea.

5th: Apostate Israel's Opposition Intensifies Against the Church in Jerusalem

1. A 12 - Herod [Jewish Kg] has Jms beheaded & Ptr in prison - Ptr released & Herod struck dead. Barn & Saul return to Antioch w/ Mrk.

6th: The Church in Antioch Sends Missionaries to the Gentiles

1. [A 13:1-5](#) - plurality of *prophets & teachers*: Barnabas & Saul sent
 - i. *sailed to Cyprus* - [A 4:36-37](#). A 11:19-20 Xns there
 - ii. *Salimis* west coast: to synagogue of Jews *to proclaim the Word of God*
2. Observations - Barnabas' family connections. No church plant in Salimis. A 13:6ff back to Paphos [east coast]: *Elymas & Sergius Paulus* - v6-12.

Applic #1: Jesus Builds His Church Through Providence and Preaching

1. Jesus' *other sheep* [Jn 10:16]; build His church [Mat 16:18] - Jesus providentially forces Xns to go to Gentiles; recounted in 1st 1/2 of Acts.
2. Believers went preaching the Lord Jesus. Providence & preaching.

Applic #2: Jesus Has Providentially Placed You Next to People to Whom You Are to Witness

1. Where has Jesus providentially placed you? What kind of witness are you?
2. Lk 24:48 *You are witnesses of these things* - AMEN