



Acts through Revelation

BIBLE  FLASHCARDS



Whitsunday: The Upper Room

Bustard

Pentecost

Acts 2

Pentecost

Acts 2

c. A.D. 30

Jesus promised His followers that he would send the Holy Spirit to them. As the disciples prayed in Jerusalem seven Sundays after Easter, the sound of a great rushing wind shook the building, tongues of fire settled on their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. Many of the people that had gathered in Jerusalem also heard the commotion and rushed to the place. They were shocked to hear God being praised in their own native tongue. Peter used this opportunity to preach the gospel to the crowd and 3,000 were added to the church.

This passage of Scripture is very controversial. Many errors must be avoided. First, one should not imagine that Old Testament believers did not have the Holy Spirit. Pentecost represents a special work of the Holy Spirit which empowers the church to overcome the world with the gospel. The Holy Spirit, however, still filled people in the Old Testament. We also must not think that someone does not have the Holy Spirit unless they speak in tongues, or hear the sound of rushing wind. Anyone who truly believes in Christ has the Holy Spirit. Speaking in other languages showed that God was going to work not only among the Jews in this age, but He was going to call His people from every language and ethnicity.

RESOURCES:

Bible

Child's Story Bible, pgs. 333, 334

Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 282–285

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 344, 345

Survey of the Bible, pgs. 175–177





The Sad Death of Ananias

The Early Church

Acts 3–6

The Early Church

Acts 3–6

c. A.D. 31

After Pentecost the gospel spread rapidly throughout Judea. Many were coming to faith in Christ. There were many things that God used to convince the people of the truthfulness of the apostles' message. Many healings were taking place in the name of Jesus. These healings, such as the healing of the lame man (Acts 3:10), were usually followed by the proclamation of the gospel and the conversion and baptism of many.

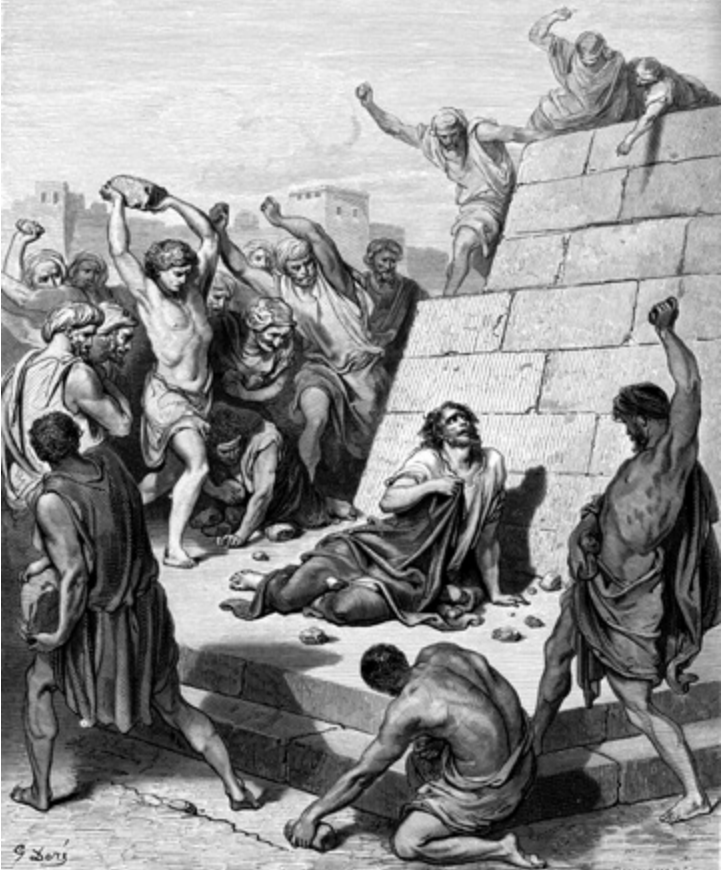
The success of the Church, however, did stir up opposition and persecution. The Jewish leaders thought they had rid themselves of this troublesome Jesus when they had Him crucified. They were stunned that His followers kept on proclaiming His name even when threatened.

One must not think, however, that the Early Church had no problems. The believers were in great agreement and were sharing generously with each other, but there were still difficulties. The Lord killed two members, Ananias and Sapphira, for lying about some property that they sold. Disputes arose between the Greek and Hebrew widows concerning the daily allotment of food, and for this reason the Diaconate was formed.

All in all, however, this was a great time of growth and fellowship among the people of God.

RESOURCES: Bible
Child's Story Bible, pgs. 335–339
Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 286, 287
Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 346–351
Survey of the Bible, pgs. 175–178





Martyrdom of St. Stephen

Gustave Doré

Stephen, the First Martyr

Acts 6–7

Stephen, the First Martyr

Acts 6–7

c. A.D. 32

Millions of Christians have been killed for their faith. The Church calls these people *martyrs*. The first martyr of the New Testament Church was named Stephen.

Stephen was a man who was full of the Holy Spirit. When a dispute arose between the Greek and Hebrew women about the amount of food that they were receiving, the apostles asked the congregation to choose some men to oversee food distribution so that they would be free to preach, teach, and pray. Stephen was so well thought of that he was chosen.

Stephen also performed miracles and won disputes with many Jews who did not believe in Jesus. This angered some Jews and they falsely accused Stephen of slandering Moses. They brought him before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish supreme court.

As Stephen gave his defense, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. His defense consisted in a recounting of Jewish history, showing that the people had often rejected God and been stiff-necked and that God had been with His people outside the Holy Land. He finished by accusing the people of that day of being so stiff-necked that they rejected and killed the Messiah. Hearing this the courtroom erupted in anger and they took Stephen out and stoned him to death, leaving their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

RESOURCES:

- Bible
- Child's Story Bible*, pgs. 339, 340
- Children's Illustrated Bible*, pgs. 288, 289
- Journey Through the Bible*, p. 352
- Survey of the Bible*, pgs. 178, 179





Conversion of St. Paul

Caravaggio

The Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1–19

The Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1–19

c. A.D. 33

As persecution among the Christians grew, one man stood out above all others in his work to destroy the Church, Saul of Tarsus. He would go from city to city with letters from the High Priest giving him the power to jail anyone who was following Christ. He did this with such great zeal that he even made a trip to Damascus to find and destroy the Church there.

As Saul traveled to Damascus, he was confronted by Christ. A bright light shone all around him, and he fell to the ground and cried out, “Who are you, Lord?” A voice answered from the blazing light saying, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” When the light left, Saul’s companions lifted him up, but he was blind.

He went to Damascus and fasted for three days. One of the believers in Damascus, a man named Ananias, was told in a dream to go and pray for Saul because Christ had chosen Saul to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Although Ananias was hesitant, he went. When he prayed for Saul, his eyes were opened, and he received baptism. Suddenly the great opponent of the gospel had become its greatest advocate.

RESOURCES:

Bible

Child’s Story Bible, pgs. 342–346

Children’s Illustrated Bible, pgs. 290, 291

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 354–356

Survey of the Bible, pgs. 181–184





Peter's Vision of Unclean Food

First Gentile Converts

Acts 10

First Gentile Converts

Acts 10

c. A.D. 34

In the Old Testament God worked almost exclusively among the Jews. Although there were a few Gentiles that converted and became part of His people (such as Rahab and Ruth), most of God's people were born Jews. In the New Testament, however, God revealed a mystery that was spoken by the prophets: the Gentiles were going to be included in His people. Today most of the Church is made up of Gentiles; in A.D. 34 the Church was entirely Jewish. Cornelius and his family were the first Gentiles officially brought into God's people without having to become Jewish.

God brought Cornelius and Peter together. Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman army, but was a God-fearing man. One day the Lord caused him to see a vision that told him to send his servants to the city of Joppa where they would meet a man named Peter. At the same time, Peter was having a vision showing him that the foods the Gentiles ate were no longer to be considered unclean. When the men came for Peter, he went with them and preached the gospel to Cornelius and his family. The Holy Spirit fell on the household of Cornelius. Peter then reasoned that God accepted the uncircumcised Gentiles (like Cornelius) as well as circumcised Jews.

RESOURCES:

Bible

Child's Story Bible, pgs. 347, 348

Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 292, 293

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 358, 359

Survey of the Bible, pgs. 179, 180





Albrecht Dürer

Letter by James

Letter By James

c. A.D. 44

James was the half-brother of Jesus, and the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. He stood up at the end of the Jerusalem Council and recounted the solution that the apostles and elders had reached. James was a man who was zealous for the law and prayer. Tradition tells us that he prayed so often in the Temple that his knees became as hard as the knees of a camel. It is not surprising then that James's letter had a Jewish flavor to it.

He writes the letter to the Twelve Tribes dispersed abroad. This might tell us that the letter was written only to Jewish Christians, and maybe it was even written before there were any Gentile Christians. James even calls meetings of the church "synagogue meetings" (2:2).

James's epistle has a very different emphasis from those of Paul. Paul tells those who are seeking to be justified by their good works that this pursuit is impossible. James, on the other hand, warns those who think that their works do not matter that faith without works is dead. This is not a contradiction of Paul, but the flip side of the same coin. James points to the fact that real faith inevitably produces good works, as it did in Abraham. If good works are not evident, then the faith is not real.

RESOURCES: Bible
Survey of the Bible, pgs. 315–320





Paul and Barnabas Chased by the Jews

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13–14

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13–14

c. A.D. 45–47

Churches were founded in many of the Gentile cities near Jerusalem as the gospel spread. The most important of the Gentile churches was the church at Antioch. The Holy Spirit spoke to the elders of the church and told them to set aside Paul and Barnabas for preaching the gospel among the Gentiles.

On this first missionary journey Paul went many places. In Cyprus, the Lord converted Sergius Paulus, the deputy of the country. In Antioch of Pisidia, they preached and many were converted from among the Gentiles and the Jews. In Iconium they met with success but were chased away by the Jews who did not believe. In Lystra they healed a lame man, and the people were so impressed that they thought that Barnabas was the god Jupiter and Paul was Mercury. They even tried to make sacrifices to them. Later, Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and turned the people against them, so they had to flee for their lives.

In almost all of his stops, Paul followed the same basic plan. He entered the city and began by preaching the gospel in the synagogues of the Jews. Some of the Jews and many of the Gentile God-fearers were converted and the synagogue was split. This infuriated the Jews and usually led to persecution.

RESOURCES: Bible
Child's Story Bible, pgs. 351, 353
Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 296–301
Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 364–369
Survey of the Bible, pgs. 185–187





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