



PAUL'S EPISTLE  
TO THE  
PHILIPPIANS

# I Thought We Were Studying Philippians?

- We are. But reading a letter between an author and recipient without knowledge of their worlds leaves a ton of room for us to inject our world into theirs.
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- An important rule for understanding and applying scripture is that it can't mean (now) what it didn't mean to the original recipients.
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- Discovering the intent of the author for the intended reader is our primary goal.
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- How To Read the Bible for All It's Worth by Fee and Stuart

# Why Acts?

- Because it provides the story of the early Church- From the resurrection of Christ to Paul's trip to Rome to face Caesar(from approx. AD 30 to AD 63.)
- It will provide the context regarding:
  - How the early Church was formed
  - What empowered those who established the church's foundation
  - Who Paul is
  - How the Gospel came to the Gentiles
  - What the first Christians experienced as they chose to follow Christ

# Establishment of the Early Church

- After the resurrection Christ appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20) to Peter (Luke 24:34) the two going to Emmaus (Luke 24), the rest of the disciples (except Thomas, Luke 24). Also, all the disciples (Acts 1). Paul gives his own accounting in I Cor 15: 1-8
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- Just prior to Christ's ascension (Luke 24:44->) Jesus "opens their minds to understand the scriptures"

# Acts 1- 2

- Luke to Theophilus - re: Gospel of Luke
- Gave the disciples commandment through the Holy Spirit
- Don't leave Jerusalem until ...

# Don't Leave Jerusalem ...

- “...but to wait for the promise of the Father... For John baptized you with water, but before these many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
- 
- “... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

# Acts 1- 2

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- Gave the disciples commandment through the Holy Spirit
- Don't leave Jerusalem until ...
- **You will be my witnesses...**
- Day of Pentecost..

# With This Power

- “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth



# Acts 1- 2

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- You will be my witnesses...
- **Day of Pentecost..**

# Day of Pentecost

- Disciples are gathered
- 
- Suddenly - a sound came from heaven like a mighty wind
- 
- Tongues as of fire rested on each of those present
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# Pentecost - Peter explains

- “And there appeared to them tongues as of fire , distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues , as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- 
- Peter explains - This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel regarding the Last Days
  - Pour out His Spirit on all flesh
  - Prophecies
  - Visions
  - Dreams
  - Wonders and Signs
  - And...

# Pentecost - Call to conversion

- “And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- 
- “Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified”
- 
- “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”  
(3000)

# Acts 3 - Lame Man Healed

- Peter used by God to heal the lame man
- 
- Sermon - This is the power of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- 
- Out of ignorance you asked that Jesus be murdered - God raised him.
- 
- It is in the name of Jesus that this lame man is healthy.
- 
- Repent that your sins may be forgiven through the Messiah whom God has sent.  
(5000)

# Acts 4 - Arrested, Speaking Boldly

- Peter and John arrested for teaching “in Jesus the resurrection from the dead”.
- 
- Questioned - By what power or in whose name do you do this?”
- 
- Then Peter “filled with the Holy Spirit” **BOLDLY**
- 
- The crippled man was healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.
-

# Acts 4- Leaders Powerless

- Leaders hands were tied - evidence was walking before them
- 
- “By what power or by what name did you do this?”
- 
- Don’t speak or teach in the name of Jesus
- 
- Obey you or God?

# Acts 4 - Prayer

- Prayer - “ And now Lord look upon their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
- 
- “And when they had prayed, the place in which they had gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.”



# Community - Acts 2 & 4

- People sold what they owned
  - Gave the money to the believing body for the common good
  - They attended temple together, shared meals with glad and generous hearts
- 
- All things in common
  - No one called their property their own
  - Not a needy person among them

# Acts 5 - Arrested Again - Gamaliel

- Ananias and Sapphira
- 
- Reminiscent of Christ walking and healing - disciples empowered by God to heal - “and more and more believers were added”.
- 
- Apostles arrested again by the Jewish leader and imprisoned.
- 
- Indictment - the disciples held the Jewish Council responsible for Jesus’ death.
- 
- Gamaliel - Leader of the Pharisees and Paul’s teacher
-

# Effective?

“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

# Acts 6 - Stephen

- Stephen among the 7 assistants chosen to deal with practical issues - distribution of food
- 
- Stephen “full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people”
- 
- Synagogue of the Freedmen - framed Stephen because -“They could not withstand the wisdom and Spirit with which he spoke.”

# Acts 7 - Defense before the council

- Stephen recounts the history of Israel in his defense
- 
- Ends his dissertation with...

# Stephen's Finale

- “You stiff-necked people uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

So filled with the Spirit was Stephen that he asked God to forgive them....

As they stoned him, he prayed ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them. And when he said this he died’.

# Acts 8 - Philip in Samaria (Saul present)

(Saul is at Stephen's stoning and consents to killing him)

Persecution of Greek-speaking Christians, forced them to leave Jerusalem. Among them was Philip who takes the Gospel to Samaria.

So successful was Philip's preaching/ healing ministry - Peter and John go to see.

They find that the Holy Spirit "had not yet fallen on any of them , but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Peter and John " lay hands on them and the Samaritan believers receive the Holy Spirit."

# Acts 8 - Philip and the Eunuch

- Angel of the Lord directs Philip to an Ethiopian Eunuch, a Jewish Convert and the Spirit of the Lord tells him to go up to the Eunuch's chariot and offer to explain the scriptures. Which he did showing Jesus as the Messiah. Eunuch is baptized. The Spirit transports Phillip to Azotus, where he continues to preach the Gospel.
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# Acts 9 - Saul the Defender of Judaism

Saul, “ breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord.”

On his way to Damascus...

# Saul the Convert

- A light from heaven flashed about him... he heard a voice saying, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Who are you Lord?.. I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise, enter the city and be told what to do”
- 
- Saul had been blinded by the light
- 
- Ananias - called by God to lay hands on Saul to receive his sight. But God, haven't you heard
- 
- Go for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my Name to the Gentiles

# Saul the Proclaimer of Jesus

- Saul regains his sight and is filled with the Holy Spirit
- 
- Saul begins to preach that “Jesus is the Son of God” in Damascus
- 
- Saul to Jerusalem - Barnabas- sanctions him to the disciples
- 
- Saul preaches - the Greek speaking Jews - plot to kill Saul -
- 
- Off to Caesarea - then to Tarsus

# Status of the Church

- “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was built up; and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it was multiplied.”

# Acts 9 - Peter

- Peter is used to heal Aeneas, a man who was bedridden and paralyzed for 8 years.
- 
- Peter is used of God to raise Tabitha from the dead
- 
- Impact: the church is growing

# Acts 10 - Vision of Gentile Inclusion

- Cornelius a Centurion - God fearing man - confronted by an Angel to send for Peter
- 
- Peter praying - into a trance - sees a vision- Great Sheet with all kinds of animals.
- 
- Voice - “Rise Peter, kill and eat”
- 
- No Lord, I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean
- 
- Voice - “What God has cleansed, you must not call common.”.

# Peter and the Gentiles

- Spirit provides insight for Peter - Go with the men who are at your door.
- 
- Peter preaches Jesus and “ the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word” The Jewish Christians were amazed - The gift of the Holy Spirit had fallen upon the Gentiles - the Gentile believers speak in tongues - the Spirit has filled the Gentiles as it had the Jews at Pentecost. .
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- That God baptizes the Gentiles with the Holy Spirit, just as the Jewish Christians had experienced, was proof enough that God’s gift of the Spirit was for all: Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles.

# Acts 11- Peter in Jerusalem

Peter returns to Jerusalem - retells what has happened among the Gentiles

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on the just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit’. If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”

Paul and Barnabas team up in Antioch - because of a prophecy of coming famine  
Saul and Barnabas take a financial gift to the church in Judea



# Acts 12

- Herod kills James, the brother of John - pleased the Jews
- 
- Imprisons Peter - with 4 squads of soldiers to guard him
- 
- Angel comes and frees Peter
- 
- Angel of the Lord kills Herod because he did not give God the Glory

# Acts 13

- Paul and Barnabas set apart for the Work of taking the Gospel to the world, by the Holy Spirit
- 
- Then sent out by the “Holy Spirit” - 1st Missionary Journey



# First Missionary Journey

- On Cyprus - Proconsul believes after seeing a Jewish false prophet from among his party stricken with blindness and heard the teaching regarding Jesus.
- 
- Through Perga to Antioch of Pisidia - Paul teaches in the synagogue - Jews reject the message - Paul focuses on Gentiles - the whole city gathers- Result: believers
- 
- Jews incited the devout women and leading men to persecute Paul and Barnabas
- 
- Paul and Barnabas leave for Iconium
- 
- “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit”

# Acts 14 - Iconium and Lystra

- Paul and Barnabas preached - signs and wonders - many believed - those who didn't plotted to stone them
- 
- Went to Lystra - preached - Paul is used to heal a cripple and the want to worship him and Barnabas, as gods.
- 
- Jews from Iconium and Antioch - They convinced the people to stone Paul
- 
- Paul lives - retraces his steps back to the coast - encouraging the believers - also saying there would be tribulation - appoints elders in the churches
- 
- Returns to Jerusalem to report

# Acts 15 - Circumcision

- “It is necessary to circumcise them (Gentiles Christians) and to charge them to keep the Law of Moses
- 
- Peter clears up the issue - reiterates how the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles, just like the Jews who believed and asks why they would want to require them to be “burdened” as the Jews had been for centuries.
- 
- “But we believe we will be saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, just as they will.”
- 
- Decision to ask them to “abstain from the pollutions of idols and from unchastity and from what is strangled and from blood”

# Acts 15 Paul and Barnabas part ways

- Issue: to take John-Mark with them - had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia
- 
- Barnabas take John-Mark with him to Cyprus
- 
- Paul takes Silas (also, Timothy) - 2 Missionary Journey
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- Paul is forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia - from Troas to Macedonia
- 
- First major stop is in Philippi - The leading city in the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

# Paul's Second Missionary Journey

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# Philippi

- Conversion of Lydia, seller of purple goods - worshipper of God
- 
- Paul and Silas cast the demon out of an “annoying” slave girl - “These men are servants of the Most High God , who proclaim to you the way of salvation” - \$
- 
- Slave owner has Paul and Silas beaten, thrown in prison and placed in stocks
- 
- Paul and Silas, while in prison, were praying and singing hymns - Earthquake
- 
- Jailer - about to commit suicide - is converted
- 
- Magistrates let them go - Paul states his Roman Citizenship - receives an apology

# Take-aways

**God is changing the game** - fulfilling the O.T.Promise - Messiah come to set them free (from sin)

**Holy Spirit is directing traffic** - empowering - comforting - signs and wonders - Growing the Church

**Believers** are living life in unity and in the power of the Spirit - Rejoicing!