

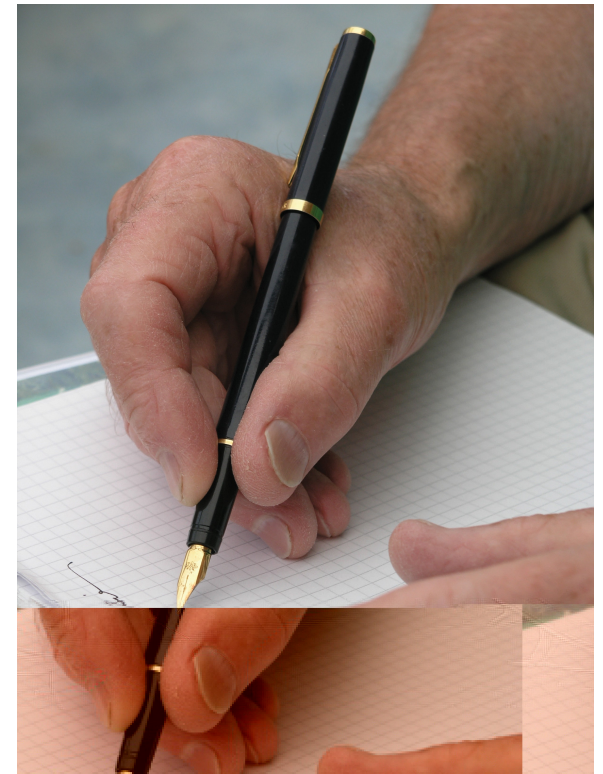
Acts Chapters 5-12



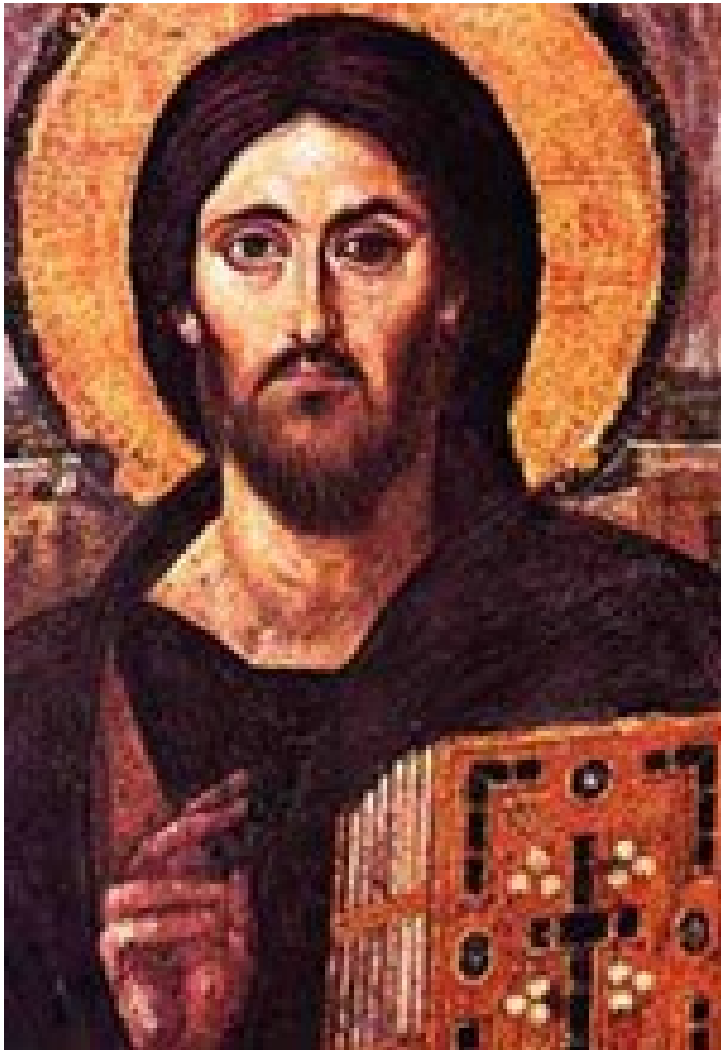
Judea, Samaria, The First Gentiles

Exercise 1

- Group 1 – read Acts 5-8
- Group 2 – read Acts 9-12
- What is happening here?
- Why is it happening?
- How is it different?
- What can we learn from it?
- Report your conclusions back to the class



The Irresistible Work Of God



- Discipline – Ananias & Sapphira (5:1-11)
- Miracles for multitudes (5:12-16)
- Escape from prison (5:17-26)
- The Irresistible God (5:27-42)

The First Deacons



- The Hebrews “in” group and the Hellenist “out” group (6:1)
- The apostolic priority (6:2,4)
- The solution (6:3,5,6)
- The church increases (6:7)
- Stephen's power (6:8)
- Stephen's Greek-speaking enemies (6:9,10)
- The false charges (6:11-15)

Stephen's Trial & Martyrdom



- Abraham, Joseph, Moses etc all called outside of the land of Israel
- A long list of how the Jews always resisted God's work
- God does not dwell in temples 'houses made with human hands'
- Resist the Holy Spirit
- Kill the prophets
- Jesus at the right hand of God
- Stephen is stoned by the enraged mob, forgives them...

The Revival In Samaria



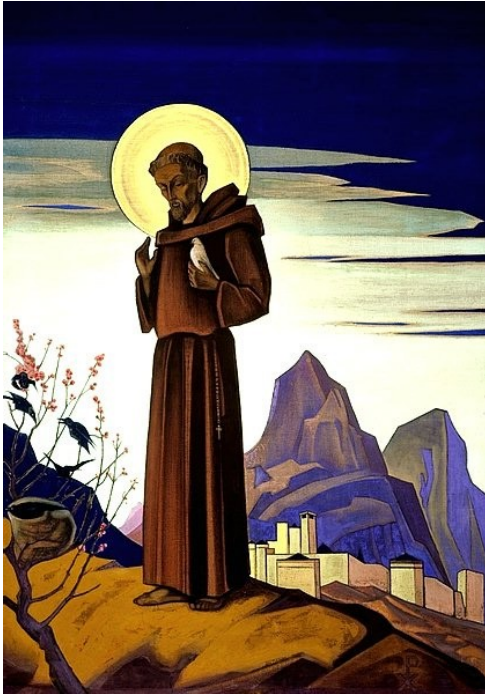
- Persecution scatters the church (8:1-3)
- Philip preaches in Samaria and revival breaks out: (8:4-8) - compare with Acts 1:8
- Simon the magician is converted (8:9-13)
- Baptized in the Spirit (8:14-17)
- Simon wants to purchase God's power for money and is rebuked by Peter (8:18-24)
- The revival continues (8:25)
- Angelic instructions (8:27-29)
- The Ethiopian eunuch is converted and baptized during his journey south (8:30-39)
- Philip is moved by the Spirit (8:39,40)

Saul Is Converted



- The Damascus Road (9:1-9)
- Ananias visits Saul, heals him and fills him with the Holy Spirit (9:10-19)
- Saul witnesses in Damascus (9:20-25)
- Saul in Jerusalem (9:26-31)

Peter's Does Two Major Miracles



- Aeneas the lame man healed (9:32-35)
- Aeneas famous mythological hero (Aeneid by Virgil) ancestor of founders of Rome – by implication is lame, therefore Christ greater than Rome!
- Leads to local revival
- Tabitha / Dorcas raised from the dead by Peter
- Both miracles direct apostolic commands of authority
- Peter stays with Simon the tanner - very humble
- God positions Peter for next move - Cornelius

Peter & Cornelius



- Cornelius has a vision and obeys it (10:1-8)
- Peter's rooftop vision (10:9-16) – all things are clean: both food and people
- The Holy Spirit directly instructs Peter (10:17-20)
- The trip to Caesarea (10:21-26), Peter is 'just a man' ; the receptive Gentiles
- Peter realizes that no man is unclean (10:28,29)
- Cornelius recounts his vision (10:30-33)
- Peter's sermon – God shows no partiality (10:34-43)
- The Holy Spirit is poured out on the Gentiles and they are baptized (10:44-48)
- These events are defended in Jerusalem (11:1-18)

Antioch



- The gospel is shared with Greeks in Antioch and the first major fully Gentile church is formed.
- This is verified by the Jerusalem church and checked by Barnabas who was culturally similar to the Antioch church (Acts 11:19-24)
- Barnabas goes and gets Saul, Antioch Christianity becomes distinctly non-Jewish, disciples first called Christians at Antioch. (11:25,26)
- Agabus prophesies a famine, Antioch church expressed solidarity with Jewish Church by sending a large donation for famine relief. (11:27-30)

Peter, Herod & The Power Of God



- Herod kills James, and arrests Peter because it pleased the Jewish establishment (12:1-4)
- Fervent prayer is made (esp. at the house of John-Mark) (12:5,12)
- Peter is rescued by an angel (12:6-11)
- Peter shows up at Mary's place (12:12-17) and then vanishes to a secure undisclosed location
- Herod's last acts of cruelty and boastfulness, then he is struck dead by God. (12:18-23)
- The Church grows anyway(12:24)