

44-Acts-Pt01-Transcript

I think I have a problem well greetings once again and that clip that you just saw was quite fascinating people are trying superpowers for the first time and that's what the book of Acts is all about and that's what we're gonna be studying this evening what are these superpowers and the clip that you saw this lady she receives these superpowers that with the power in fact to become invisible to appear and disappear and she abuses it she uses it to steal and realizes that she has a problem and that is a significant problem so here with the book of Acts it's about receiving superpowers but these powers are for a very specific purpose and that's we want to cover today so we'll begin with prayer and then we'll open up and begin with the book of Acts chapter 1 our Heavenly Father we come before you and we thank you God for this wonderful book that we have in the New Testament the book of Acts and we pray father that you'll bless us this evening as we open it up at beginning in chapter 1 that will deepen our understanding and that we will be informed by the acts of your Holy Spirit and that that will guide us father as a New Testament modern day Christians as to how we should conduct ourselves in the challenges and with the responsibilities that we have we thank you Father when we pray in Jesus name so as I said the superpowers that you saw there we see this woman appearing disappearing and then using her powers to actually benefit herself that is not what the Holy Spirit does it is a super power that is given to God's people but we want to understand why and that's

what the book of Acts is really all about it's called the Acts of the Apostles that's actually a Mis no it's actually a terrible name it shouldn't be called the Acts of the Apostles we've entitled this study the Acts of the Holy Spirit I think more accurately the Acts of Jesus Christ would be the most appropriate name for it but we can say the acts of the Holy Spirit because he gave the Holy Spirit and he works through his church through the Holy Spirit and that will become clearer clearer as we move along this study the way to think of Acts is to first of all let me sort of lay out how the Old Testament is structured and then that'll give us an appreciation for how to think about the book of Acts in the Old Testament we have the foundation which is the Torah the five books of Moses and then we have chronicles which is this a protocol a chronicle chronological order of how the children of Israel basically lived out this covenant agreement that they had with the God of Israel and and in the end when we get to the book of Malachi we see that they actually failed they did not they were not successful in living out the covenant but all the prophets are addressing the children of Israel as they're going through this chronology and they're reminding them of the covenant that they have with God and you'll see here Malachi is an example he says even from the days of your fathers you were gone away from my ordinances and have not kept them returned unto me and I'll return unto you says the Lord of hosts but you said we're in shall we return and so basically that's the whole story or the fundamental story in the Old

Testament that God made a covenant agreement with Israel and then we watch as Israel tries to live out this covenant but fails and God sends prophet after prophet after prophet to speak to them and to remind them of the Covenant agreement but in the end they fail the way to think of the book of Acts in the New Testament is very similar where we see that the foundation of the New Testament is the gospel and there are four gospel messages similar to the Torah the five books of Moses in the Old Testament and then the book of Acts is basically The Chronicles of the New Testament it shows out and the word Chronicle you can see here it's taken from an ancient Greek word chronicles which actually means to lay things out in order so so here the book of Acts is now laying out in order how the modern Israel the the New Covenant Israel lives out the New Covenant that was brought to them through the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and then the Apostles like the prophets are speaking to these modern Israelites with various epistles various letters speaking into the children of Israel so that they ultimately can be successful and because of the holy spirit and we see in the book of Revelation they are so they are successful or we are successful the Saints are successful and so that's the best way to think about the the book of Acts to see it as a chronology similar to Chronicles in the Old Testament now the way to think of Acts as well is this this you know it used to be prophecy then it became news and now it's history and so we're reading the book of Acts as a historical record but past this prologue I think was Solomon who said

there's nothing new Under the Sun you know that which was is that which will be and so by studying the book of Acts and especially if we combine it with the book of Revelation we will have a great sense of how to be successful in the future

how to navigate the challenges that we as Christians will have I would actually say if you read the Book of Luke the book of Acts and the book of Revelation together you'll have the full Gospel message

that Jesus Christ came with so that's the way to think of it now Luke is the author of the book of Acts and we'll see in Colossians 4:14 that Luke is a physician or he was a physician he was a professional man very educated when you read his writings you can tell this is a very educated man

unlike let's say mark who wrote the Gospel according to mark the Greek in mark is very simplistic very well he was a fisherman he wasn't well educated but he was given his version of the gospel Luke and his writing is very sophisticated as I said he was a professional and we'll get into that why that's important in a moment but Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and he wrote the book of Acts so he wrote two volumes you could sort of think of Acts as second Luke so there's first Luke and then there's 2nd Luke he wrote these two volumes and it's important for us to understand why there's a purpose why he wrote the book of Acts and I think when we understand that purpose we'll have a better sense of how to interpret the various scriptures that will come across in Acts when we understand the intent behind the book so in Luke he begins first Luke or his first volume by saying

this for as much as many have taken and I see my my shirt is sort of flashing I hope that's not distracting for you I'll try to make sure it doesn't distract me for as much as many have taken in hand to set forth in order to do it in order that's the chronicle a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us so most surely we believe these things many have wrote about it even as they delivered them unto us which from the beginning were eyewitnesses so there were many people who wrote about this they were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word Luke says this it seemed good to me also having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first now no Luke it's interesting see he was a professional he's also the only Gentile author of the Bible every scripture given to us in the Bible is written by an Israelite except Luke and acts which was written by a Gentile and we'll get to that in a moment but he says he has perfect understanding of all things from the very beginning but he saw it fit to write to you in order again to put it in order most excellent Theophilus so there's some individual that Luke is writing to named Theophilus that he might know the certainty of those things were in he has been instructed and the best explanation that I've heard as to who is this Theophilus is that Theophilus is or was Paul's attorney Theophilus was there to defend Paul and because he was going to court to defend Paul Luke took it upon himself to write these two volumes so that he would have a perfect understanding of the justification of Paul's ministry and he would understand from the beginning how Paul's ministry was rooted in Jesus

Christ and that's why the Acts of the Apostles is a bad title it's better and entitled the Acts of Jesus Christ because what we see is Jesus Christ performing certain acts and teaching certain things in the first volume of Luke and then in the second volume of Luke the book of Acts we see Jesus Christ doing the very same things except now he's in heaven and his body is on earth and through the power of the Holy Spirit he works through his church to continue his work

now just to back that up look how Luke begins his second volume he says the former treatise referring to the Gospel of Luke the former treatise have I made all Theophilus of all that Jesus began both to do and teach so so I wrote the first volume to tell you things that Jesus began to do

to say I wrote the first volume to tell you what Jesus did no I wrote the first volume to tell you what he began to do and now I'm going to tell you in this second volume what Jesus the same Jesus continued to do and you'll see that he begins really focusing on Peter's ministry which was focused on the Jews and Jerusalem and then he switches in Chapter 12 and then his whole focus from that point forward is all about Paul and Paul's ministry to the Gentiles and really the first the set up the first twelve chapters are just to give context to show that Paul's ministry is the same ministry rooted in Christ and so he says here that the first volume of Luke was what Jesus began to do and to teach and now this second volume will be what he continues to do and to teach so Jesus began to do these things and teach these things until the day in which he was taken up after that he

through the Holy Spirit had given Commandments unto the Apostles whom he had chosen and it's funny it's very interesting how you know he's writing to Theophilus and he shows it's about what Jesus began to do and the book ends if we go to the very end of the book of Acts we see Paul under house arrest awaiting to go to court and so the whole volume of the second volume of Luke is all about taking him right up to the point where Paul is about to go to court and this is now the evidence or the background the context that he's given to Theophilus so that Theophilus can successfully defend Paul and Paul dwelt two whole years in his hole in his own hired house and received all that came in unto Him and what did he do he did the exact same thing that Jesus did in the first volume of in the Gospel according to Luke preaching the kingdom of God and teaching those things which concerned the Lord Jesus Christ and he did it with all confidence no man forbidding him and that confidence came from the Holy Spirit so the Holy Spirit enabled Paul to do the very work of Jesus Christ despite much opposition so he said here at the beginning of Acts that Christ gave the Apostles Commandments and we'll see that in his first volume in Luke 24:46 where he says he said unto them thus it is written and thus it behooves Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day and this is really significant that Christ was dead for three days and three nights and then he got off he rose from the dead and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations so Luke is making it very clear that this was an

instruction from Christ that when he was resurrected that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name the resurrected Christ among all nations but it must begin at Jerusalem this is the commandment that he's given to them and you are witnesses of these things so there I witness of these things and behold I send the promise of my father upon you but wait you in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high so this is really critical they have to take this gospel message this good news of the gospel of the kingdom and an remission of sins in Christ they have to take this good news and preach it to the whole world but they're going to receive much opposition so Christ is commanding them do not leave Jerusalem you cannot do this on your own strength so do not leave Jerusalem until you receive power from

hi and so that's how the book of Luke ends with Christ telling them to wait that's how first the first volume of Luke ends and it's how the second volume of Luke begins and so here in verse 3 he says to whom also he showed himself alive after his suffering by many infallible proofs they were there like this is this is so well-documented that Christ was crucified that he was dead for three days and three nights and that he got up he he rose from the dead and and this is there are so many proofs he says many infallible proofs and just as an example of some of these proofs in going back to Luke 24 verse 40 and when he had thus spoken he showed them his hands and feet so he was crucified he came back to life and he showed them the wounds in his hands in his feet and while they yet believed not for joy they

were just so thrilled that Jesus Christ was alive they couldn't believe it because it's just it's too good to be true and they wondered and he said unto them have you have do you have here any meat and then in verse 44 these are the words which I spoke to you while I was with you that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses and in the prophets and in the Psalms concerning me then opened he their understanding that they might understand the scriptures and so he just shows them proof from the scriptures proof from his own being as is the fact that he was resurrected more proof again here with John 20 then said he to Thomas reach here your finger Thomas didn't believe it was him and behold my hands and reach here your hand and trusted in my side and do not be faithless but believing really importantly you believe that he is the son of God and that he risen from the dead he has conquered death and Thomas answered and said unto him my Lord and my god he believed and then God blessed him but then said that you know blessed are they who do not see and still believe and that's that that's enabled by the holy spirit in verse 30 of chapter 20 and John and many other signs many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book so there were so many signs but they couldn't write all the signs but but there were many infallible proofs and then in 1st Corinthians 15 and 4 beginning in verse 3 Paul says I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received how that Christ died for our own sin for our sins according to the scriptures and he was buried and he rose again the third day

according to the scriptures it's like
line-by-line fulfilling these scriptures
Moses in Psalms and all the prophets and
that he was seen of Cephas of first
Cephas saw him then of the twelve they
all saw him after that he was seen of by
over five hundred brethren at once so
you know we need two witnesses to
establish a thing here we have over five
hundred all at the same time of whom if
you don't believe many of them at the
time of this writing many of those 500
that saw Christ the risen Christ they
were still alive so you could you could
go to them and say well tell us tell us
what you saw and so many of them of whom
the greater part remain unto this day
but some have died after that he was
seen of James then of all the apostles
and then finally

Paul himself saw him so going back to
ask one then they said here when they
therefore were come together they asked
of him saying Lord will you at this time
restore again the kingdom to Israel so
he telling commands men to stay in
Jerusalem and he had spent 40 days
educating them in the count towards
Pentecost a 50-day count to Pentecost he
had been with them 40 days before his
resurrection he expounded the scriptures
to them and then they got this intense
40 day period of him instructing them in
all the scriptures that he had to
fulfill and now there in Jerusalem and
they're expecting him to restore the
kingdom to Israel this is not a
superficial question is not a throwaway
question it is rooted in the scriptures
and so for example in Luke 19 and as
they heard these things he added and
spoke a parable because he was near
Jerusalem so he was heading to Jerusalem
and they knew the Scriptures and as he

was heading to Jerusalem they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear the kingdom of God is a real kingdom and that's what Jesus Christ came to preach the good news of the kingdom of God when all satanic evil abusive governments will be put down and the righteous government of God will be established on the earth and Jesus Christ will be the king of the earth and that's the millennial rule outlined in the book of Revelation and they know that that he's going to his throne is going to be in Jerusalem so they knew these scriptures and as he approached Jerusalem they thought the kingdom of God should immediately appear and they would come out from under Roman oppression he said therefore a certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return so that far country of heaven Jesus Christ died he rose he's gone to heaven to receive the kingdom and then he's coming back to earth to take the earthly kingdom away from the devil and establish the kingdom of God so that's what the parable means and he called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds and said unto them occupy until I come so I'm not telling you when I'm coming back your job is to occupy to use the talents that I give you until I come back and that's exactly the same answer that he gives them here in the book of Acts when they're in Jerusalem and he says you're gonna receive power and they're like oh we get it this this is the kingdom of God you're gonna be here in Jerusalem we're gonna receive power great the kingdom of God is going to be established and he's reminding them of this parable that he's gone to a far country to receive a

kingdom their job is to receive the ten pounds and to occupy until he comes that expectation that they had of the kingdom just a very quick example of a couple of scriptures that they would be thinking of in terms of the kingdom being established Jeremiah 33 is an example behold the day's come says the Lord that I will perform the good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah and anybody that tries to establish a religion or teach a doctrine that tries to exclude Israel or exclude Judah it's false doctrine it's making God a liar God is not it's impossible for God to lie and he has made this promise to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah and he will perform it in those days and at that time will I cause the branch of righteousness to grow up unto David so it has to be a descendant of David which Jesus Christ is and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land in those days shall Judah be saved and Jerusalem shall dwell safely this is phenomenal we're coming up to a period while I mean Jerusalem doesn't fall safely now it's gonna get worse it's gonna be surrounded by armies it's gonna be slaughter but God promises that the days are coming when Jerusalem shall dwell safely and they thought that okay this is it the Holy Spirit is going to come the promise of the Father Christ is going to be with us he's going to this is these are the scriptures that are going to be fulfilled and this is the name wherewith he shall be called she shall be called the Lord our righteousness so so Israel and Judah will be exonerated they will be justified and they will call a Jerusalem the Lord our righteousness for thus says

the Lord David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel another quick example of a scriptures that they would be many many prophecies and Christ would have shown them all these prophecies but another one that they would be thinking of here is Micah 4 but in the last days in the final days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains it shall be exalted and it shall be exalted above the hills and the people of the earth shall flow unto it and many nations shall come and say come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and this is after they have rebelled they've accepted the mark of the beast they've they've accepted the ways of the Antichrist but then Christ comes to establish his government and they repent and they say come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob and he shall teach of teach us of his ways and we will walk in his paths for the Lord shall go forth for the law shall go forth out of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem so this is what they're seeing this these are the prophecies they're waiting for so Lord is this the time that you're going to establish the kingdom and restore it to Israel and he shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations in these powerful nations Christ is more powerful and he's going to rebuke strong nations afar off and they shall beat their swords into plowshares so they were like who can make war with the beasts and they were taking glory in their swords but they're going to repent and they're going to beat their swords into plowshares and

their spears into pruning hooks and they're going to become agricultural nation shall not lift up a sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore so this is what the disciples were asking Christ when they're saying Lord will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel so they know the kingdom is coming to Israel and that's what they're asking is this the time you're going to restore the kingdom to Israel and he said unto them so he doesn't say enter them that's a crazy question you know you're gonna die and you're gonna come to heaven and we're gonna play harps and we're gonna float on clouds and we're just gonna be in heaven forever no it doesn't say that he's coming to earth and he's coming to earth as a great King and he's going to rule from Jerusalem and all nations of the earth are going to flow to Jerusalem to learn of his ways and and they fully understood that he taught them this for forty days he he went through the Scriptures intensely for forty days as their counting towards Pentecost and so they fully understood they just wanted to know when when is it gonna happen and he had to remind them you occupied till I come it's not for you to know so his answer is not that that's not going to happen his answer is it's not for you to know when and he said unto them it is not for you to know the times or the seasons so that's not for you to know the timing is not your business which the father has put in his own power so the father is the one who is orchestrating this he's the one that decides on timing that's not our business that's that sort of above our pay grade basically that's above your pay grade is

what he's saying to them instead you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you and this is where you know so many actually say so many church organizations get into huge trouble here when they talk about this power and just as an example he says here but you shall receive power that's why he's telling them stay in Jerusalem to make sure you didn't under no circumstances no matter what happens do not leave Jerusalem stay in Jerusalem because you're going to receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you that's why you have to stay in Jerusalem so that the Holy Spirit will come upon you and then when you receive the Holy Spirit you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea so this is this is your job occupy until I come your job is to be a witness to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and not only there into Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth and this actually becomes the table of contents for the book of Acts we will see as we go through this book how they become witnesses in Jerusalem when they spread from Jerusalem to Judea then from Judea to Samaria and then from Samaria the gospel then shifts to the Apostleship of Paul and he takes this to the Gentile world and ultimately to the whole the whole earth receives this witness this word witnesses in the Greek is martyrs and it's where we get the English word martyr and it means that they're involved in a legal process they have to be witnesses in this process and they have to be faithful witnesses no matter what they must not lie and that means even to death and he warned them that they the world hated Christ all he did was love them all he did was declare

that he is the son of God and they turned against him and they crucified him and now he's continuing this same work through the Holy Spirit and he's empowering them with the holy spirit to do this work so it's not about receiving a laughing spirit it's not about being mounted by the holy spirit and being involved in some sort of voodoo ritual nothing to do with that it's about receiving super powers from the holy spirit for two purposes one is to be a witness unto Christ ministry and the good news of the kingdom of God and the other is to edify the body to enable us to love Christ and and the church is his body so that we then love the church and we build up the church so that the church can be a witness so that the church can do this this great teaching work now look at Peter before he gets the Holy Spirit Luke 22 and after a little while another saw him and said you are also of them and Peter said man I am NOT he was terrified once they had identified him oh you you were in the company of Christ no I'm not and about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed saying of a truth for sure this fellow also was with him for he is a Galilean and Peter said man I know not what you say and immediately while he yet spoke the crew and the Lord turned and looked upon Peter and Peter remembered the word of the Lord how he said unto him before the crows you shall deny me or betray me three times and Peter went out and wept bitterly and this is what happens without the Holy Spirit this is the natural man this is the natural man when when we are threatened with death when we are threatened with terror we back down and

we run for our lives but God said so
jesus said to them do not leave
Jerusalem until you receive the Holy
Spirit then I want you to go to the
whole earth I want you to go to every
nation and don't be afraid of their
terror just preach this and be it be a
faithful witness and so that's this is
why he said to them you'll receive this
power and after you receive the Holy did
the Holy Spirit then you'll be my
witnesses first in Jerusalem then in all
Judea all into Samaria and ultimately to
all nations we're going now to verse 9
of Acts chapter 1 and when he had spoken
these things while they beheld he was
taken up so so he's speaking to them he
was with them for forty days and then he
was taken up and a cloud received him
out of their sight and while they looked
steadfastly toward heaven so he's going
he's going he's going and they're just
studying this until he disappears and
while they were looking steadfastly as
he went up behold two men stood by them
in white apparel which also said you men
of Galilee why are you standing gazing
up into heaven this same Jesus which was
taken up from you into heaven shall so
come in like manner he's going to come
back to earth he's gone to heaven he's
coming back to earth in like manner as
you have seen him go into heaven so two
things that I want to highlight here in
terms of how he went into heaven first
was it says here he was a cloud received
him out of their sight in verse 9 in
Revelation
one and verse seven he says behold he
comes with clouds so he went with the
clouds and he's coming with the clouds
and every eye shall see him so somehow
the whole earth is going to witness his
return just you know a few years maybe a

few decades ahead I'm not sure exactly when but he's coming very soon and when he comes every eye will see him and they also which pierced him so they will see him as well and all Kindred's of the earth shall wail because of him even so amen so what we know from revelation is that there's going to be some sort of global superpower some sort of global government that is going to be blasphemous that is going to deny that Jesus Christ is the son of God and the whole earth practically is going to go along and worship this beast power and when Christ returns to crush this beast power all of these nations that have gone with this anti Christic power are going to be filled with regret those that agreed with this blasphemy those that put the sins to death and they're going to wail it is going to be a time of deep sorrow in fact Christ said to his disciples that you will have sorrow and the world will have joy but when he returns there's gonna be a reversal you'll have joy and no one can take your joy away from you and the world will have sorrow and that's what we see here so number one he's gonna come back with the clouds and number two he's going to come back to the Mount of Olives that's where he left he left from the Mount of Olives he's going to return to the Mount of Olives in Zechariah 14 and verse 4 says and his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east and the Mount of Olives shall split in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west and there shall be a very great valley and half of the mountain shall we move toward the north and half toward the south so this is where we see here in acts that they

returned from the Mount of Olives
so they watched him go up and where they
were watching him from was the Mount of
Olives so he went into the clouds he's
gonna return from the clouds he left
from the Mount of Olives he's going to
return to the Mount of Olives and so the
angels told them the very same manner
that he left with is the very same
manner you'll see him return so from
they return from the Mount of Olives
which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day
journey and when they were come in
they went up into an upper room where
abode both Peter and James and John and
Andrew and Philip and Thomas Bartholomew
and Matthew James the son of Alphaeus
and Simon salutis the zealot and Judas
the brother of James these all continued
with one Accord whatever it is that
Jesus taught them for forty days they
were just inspired and there was no
disagreement among them they knew
exactly what they were doing and they
were now counting towards Pentecost they
had counted out forty days now there are
ten nine eight the countdown to the day
of Pentecost and so they're continuing
in one Accord counting to Pentecost
nobody's leaving Jerusalem because
everybody's been commanded to wait in
Jerusalem these all continued with one
Accord in prayer and supplication with
the women and Mary the mother of Jesus
and with his brethren
and in those days Peter stood up in the
midst of the disciples and he said
something he said to them the number of
names together were about a hundred and
twenty so they had about a hundred and
twenty disciples there in Jerusalem and
I'm not sure I mean Paul in first
Corinthians 15 we saw that over 500
brethren saw him yet here in Jerusalem

is only 120 so I'm not sure there's a discrepancy there maybe those 500 brethren were from other nations and so they all went back to their nations and these were the the Jews that came back to Jerusalem I'm not sure but here we see a hundred and twenty disciples in Jerusalem with with the Apostles and so Peter stands up and we know that Peter was always the man of action very impulsive he's the same man that you know said to Christ you know you'll never be crucified and Christ had to say get behind me Satan he's the same man that when Christ wanted to wash his feet he said you'll never wash my feet and then Christ said if I don't wash your feet you have nothing to do with me ok well then not my feet my whole body and I said not just your feet is enough and so Peters this man of action always on the go always quick very decisive and so he stands up and he says men and brethren this scripture must needs have been fulfilled which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spoke before concerning Judas which was guide to them that took Jesus so Judas was one of the disciples one of the Apostles and Peter had a grasp of the Psalms because Christ was teaching them everything in Moses about himself everything in the Psalms everything in all the prophets how it all comes back to him and so Peter had this grasp of what was written in the Psalms concerning Judas it was predicted which was a guide to them that took Jesus for 17 for he was numbered with us and had obtained part of this ministry so he was part of the ministry now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity so you know he lied he stole whatever he did in order to be rewarded that's how he with

the money that he thought he purchased
the field with the reward the reward of
his iniquity and falling headlong he
burst the Thunder in the midst and all
his bowels gushed out Wow but you know
he betrayed Christ and so that was his
his reward ultimately and it was known
verse 19

this thing that happened to Judas was
known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem
in so much as that field is called
in their proper tongue as aceldama that
is to say the field of blood for it is
written in the book of songs let his
head this is speaking of Judas in Psalms
oh so there's a prophecy in Psalms about
Judas let his habitation be desolate and
let no man dwell therein and his
bishopric or his office let another take
this is actually coming from Psalm 109
and we'll just look at that song so this
is the song that Peter is referring to
hold not your piece o god of my praise
for the mouth of the wicked and the
mouth of the deceitful are opened
against me this is a prophecy concerning
Christ they have spoken against me with
a lying tongue they compassed me about
also with words of hatred and fought
against me without a cause so Christ
gave them no cause he was a man of he
was sinless he was a man of love and
concern for them but because he preached
that he was the son of God they hated
him and so they fought again wammy
that's the truth he's the son of God and
so they fought against him without a
cause for my love
they are my adversaries but I give
myself unto prayer and that's exactly
what we saw Christ do constantly going
to the Father in prayer to be
strengthened
and they have rewarded me evil for good

and hated or annan hatred for my love
set you a wicked man over him and let
Satan stand at his right hand when he
shall be judged

let him be condemned and let his prayer
become sin let his days be few and this
is what Peter is referring to now and
let another take his office so so Peter
understood very clearly under the
tutelage of Christ that this psalm was a
prophecy about Christ and his betrayal
by Judas so then going back to acts 1
Peter that says therefore of these men
which have company with us all the time
that the Lord Jesus went in and out
among us beginning from the baptism of
John unto that same day that he was
taken up from us must one be ordained
so Peter understand he understood the
psalm the prophecy in the song but the
office now has to be given to another he
also understands that they are to be his
witnesses so they need to pick from the
men that began with them at the Ministry
of John the Baptist and continued with
them all the way to Christ's
resurrection that it was critical that
they have that eyewitness account from
the very beginning stolen so they can
shoot they he feels that they have to
choose from those that set of men so
from that set of men must one be
ordained to be a witness with us of his
resurrection and this is the whole thing
Jesus Christ was in the grave for three
days and three nights he was dead then
at the end of the three days and three
nights he stood up
he was ray came back to life and this is
the whole point this is our whole focus
is on the resurrection of Christ as the
firstfruits and that we are striving to
be in the first resurrection and we must
be able to be witnesses of his

resurrection and so he's looking for a man from the very beginning from the baptism of John right up to the resurrection to select from one of these to replace Judas now notice this language though so Luke again he's writing this to Theophilus and he's given Theophilus a full account a detailed account as a professional Lucas a physician and so it's really important that a physician says this man was dead I'm a physician I know what that is and now this man came back to life I'm a physician I know what life is and so as a physician as a professional who is very careful with his language it's very important that he lays things out in detail but he's also writing specifically to Theophilus so that Theophilus can have absolute confidence in what is happening in what happened and can defend Paul successfully and so the book of Acts if we understand Theophilus to be this attorney for for Paul the book of Acts is an account of the justification of Paul's ministry and to show that it is rooted in Christ's ministry and so here he says he's using his language very carefully they appointed to Joseph called barsabbas who was surnamed Justus and Matthias notice this language that Paul uses assert that Luke uses they appointed to notice in acts at the beginning of the chapter he says here in verse to the latter part that he had given Commandments unto the Apostles whom he chosen and that's the key to being an apostle you know we have some people running around today saying their apostles absolutely nonsense well in in a sense maybe they are an apostle apostle simply means 1 cent so so last week we were looking at a pro pepper for

Titus in Philippians and the Philippians sent a preferred itis to Paul with a care package so in that sense a preferred itis was an apostle if you're sent on an errand somebody sends you to the store to buy something you're an apostle to that person does your 1 cent Christ was an apostle because he was sent by the father but the Apostles when you say the apostles of the New Testament they are the ones that were chosen specifically by Christ so a they were eyewitnesses of his death burial and resurrection and B they were specifically chosen by him and sent by him and the church is founded on the prophets and the apostles they are the foundation of the church so we have no apostles today in this sense the Apostles have to be chosen by Christ himself and so here they appointed to Joseph and and Matthias which is quite logical that we need to replace it the office of Judas but they appointed the two and then what did they do then they prayed and said Lord which you Lord which knows the hearts of all men so which of these two you've chosen that he may take part of this ministry and Apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell that he might go to his own place and they gave forth their Lots and so this is a bit problematic and and this is just for consideration this is not doctrine but let's just think about this they didn't cast lots to see if they should be the ones to select the replacement they just Peter just said we've got to replace this man they chose to and then they put these two before God to say we're gonna throw Lots which of these two have you chosen I would say that they should have thrown

Lots first of all to say Christ is this something that you want us to be looking after yes or no so if the lot been said yes then they go to the next step but here they're trying to in a sense bind God's hands by saying pick one of these two well I think Luke well we see here the lot fell upon Matthias and I'm sure that barsabbas was relieved I think this is this is no you know people want to be apostles they want to be prophets they don't understand every one of these men were slaughtered with the exception of John so this said this is not a hey wow I get to be in this great office this was a very serious work and so I'm sure barsabbas was very relieved when he was not chosen but it says the lot fell upon Matthias and he was a numbered with the eleven apostles so Luke doesn't say and he became an apostle he just says he was numbered with them and then Luke never mentions him again there's no fruit there's no result it's just they chose this man and he was numbered with the eleven apostles and then I've got nothing more to say about him and if that this takes nothing away from a thyestes character obviously he was a man of phenomenal character because everybody could agree that these two men barsabbas and Matthias were exceptional men it just means if this is correct it just means that it was not Christ intention for him to be one of the Twelve Apostles and then for the rest of the book of Acts a Paul leads up to Paul's us or sorry Luke leads up to Paul's ministry and then just waxes eloquent about all the fruit and the results of Paul who is specifically selected by Christ to be an apostle and and so you know with the the goats in Leviticus if you're familiar

with this with the Azazel goat and the goat one go for the Lord and one go for the Azazel it couldn't be which which is which they had to throw lots to decide but in that case God is the one that said go and find two goats and then cast lots to figure out which one is for the Azazel and which one is for the Lord in this case they decided that it will be one of these two men and they picked for themselves and then they said to God you decide which of these two of which we have chosen and so an apostle needs to be chosen by Christ and sent by Christ and here you'll see in again the 1st Corinthians 15 we were there earlier where he said over 500 brethren saw Christ and all the Apostles saw him and then in verse 8 he says and last of all he was seen by me also as one born out of due time for I am the least of the Apostles so I am an apostle and and and repeatedly as he writes letters to different the epistles to different congregations he he says he's an apostle an apostle chosen by Christ sent by Christ and into B Corinthians he says specifically I magnify my office so I'm the least of the Apostles so I am an apostle that I'm not even meant to be I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle why because I persecuted the Church of God but by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain but I instead I laboured more abundantly than they all and that might even be interpreted as I laboured more abundantly than all of them put together III just I was truthful and it's not an arrogant boast if anything he just feels so guilty because of how he persecuted the church but he realizes that God selected him as

an apostle was not in vain
he was very fruitful and he laboured
more abundantly than all of them yet not
i but the grace of God which was with me
which is the Holy Spirit specifically
that was with him
now why is it so important or you know
why why am i why am i driving this point
home I think when we look at the book of
Revelation it's very clear that the
kingdom of God is going to be
established in Jerusalem the New
Jerusalem is going to come down and that
New Jerusalem is going to have 12 gates
look at revelation 21 and verse 10 and
he carried me away in the spirit to a
great and high mountain and he showed me
that great city the holy Jerusalem
descending out of heaven from God so
this is what the disciples were looking
for is you know will you at this time
restore the kingdom of God to Israel
well this is it now having the glory of
God and her light was like unto a stone
most precious even like a Jasper stone
clear as crystal and it had a wall great
and high and the wall and it had 12
gates and at the gates twelve angels and
names written thereon which are the
names of the 12 tribes of the children
of Israel so remember Christ said to the
apostles that you will rule with me over
Israel so there are twelve apostles each
one is going to be ruling over one of
the 12 tribes and so the number 12
there's not 13 apostles there's there's
13 there's 12 apostles
over the 12 tribes of Israel and so
Matthias was numbered among the eleven
but Luke never says that he actually was
an apostle and and very clearly Paul was
the Apostle certainly that replaced a
Judas in his office on the east three
gates on the North three gates on the

South three gates and on the west three gates and the wall of the city had 12 foundations and in them the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb notice that in verse 14 they are not thirteen apostles when when Christ returns there are the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb so I would just put this out there for your consideration that Matthias was certainly a very noble man a very good man I don't think he was chosen nor look I don't think Luke thinks that he was chosen by Christ and I think that Luke by the way he writes mentioning highlighting this exercise that Peter took the Apostles through and then never mentioning Matthias again not even once and then really driving home how exceptional Paul's Apostleship was so with that now we come to the end of chapter one and we begin now chapter two which we will cover next week but let me just sort of bring all of this to a conclusion where he says when the day of Pentecost was fully come so Christ was with them for forty days then he gave him this instruction to wait and they'll receive power they had to count ten more days and then finally the day of Pentecost was fully come and they were all with one Accord in one place so so everybody it was very clear we have to stay here Christ commanded us to stay here perfect for fifty days for ten more days and so they were all in agreement and they all waited there and so they were all there and one Accord after the ten days had been fulfilled and then suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting so this is the fulfillment this is the

comforter finally coming to the promise of the Father this is the power this is the supernatural power that they are now receiving and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the holy spirit and immediately what happened is they began to speak with other languages as the spirit gave them utterance so remember that what Christ said to them is you shall be my witnesses and now the very first miraculous act of the Holy Spirit we see tongues like fire appearing over each of them because this is the witnessing work so so Christ began to teach these things in the first volume of Luke and now in the second volume of Luke we're going to see Jesus Christ continue his good news message of the kingdom of God but this time he's in heaven as the head of the church his body is on earth and he's going to activate his body with the Holy Spirit and you're going to see through the Holy Spirit these men and women are going to do the same work that he started in the first volume of Luke and so tongues is critical it's a communication it's about being witnesses it's about preaching this gospel and so that's the very first miracle these tongues of fire sat upon each of them it's it's a responsibility for each of them to be the witnesses and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately they they began to speak with other tongues what was that message so they're speaking in all the different languages all around them there's Arabs there there is so maybe Chinese are there maybe our Indians they're Africans are there all these different Greeks are there all these different languages all of these people

around them are now hearing the gospel of the good news of the kingdom of God which Jesus Christ taught in the first line of Luke which he now continues to teach in the second volume of Luke and the same way that Christ was crucified for this message in the same way that Christ was hated for it without without a cause there was no good reason to hate him the same way that his love they returned it with hatred that's what we're going to witness now and where we saw Peter as a coward running for his life betraying Christ to save his own skin

now with this power with this miraculous power with this for natural power we're going to see Peter and all the apostles proclaim the gospel of the good news boldly they're going to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ boldly and they're going to invite first of all the Jews in Jerusalem then Judea then Israel in Samaria and then all the Gentiles are going to be invited to have this remission of sins in Jesus Christ we're going to continue this wonderful just love this book of Acts and pass this prologue we need to understand all these things these things are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world have come so we're going to go through chapter two of the book of Acts next and it's just such a fascinating study so I'm looking forward to sharing this with you as we get together again next week I'm gonna hop over to the chat room now and looking forward to further discussion with you there bye for now god bless