

# Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand



Mt. Scopus

Mt. Zion

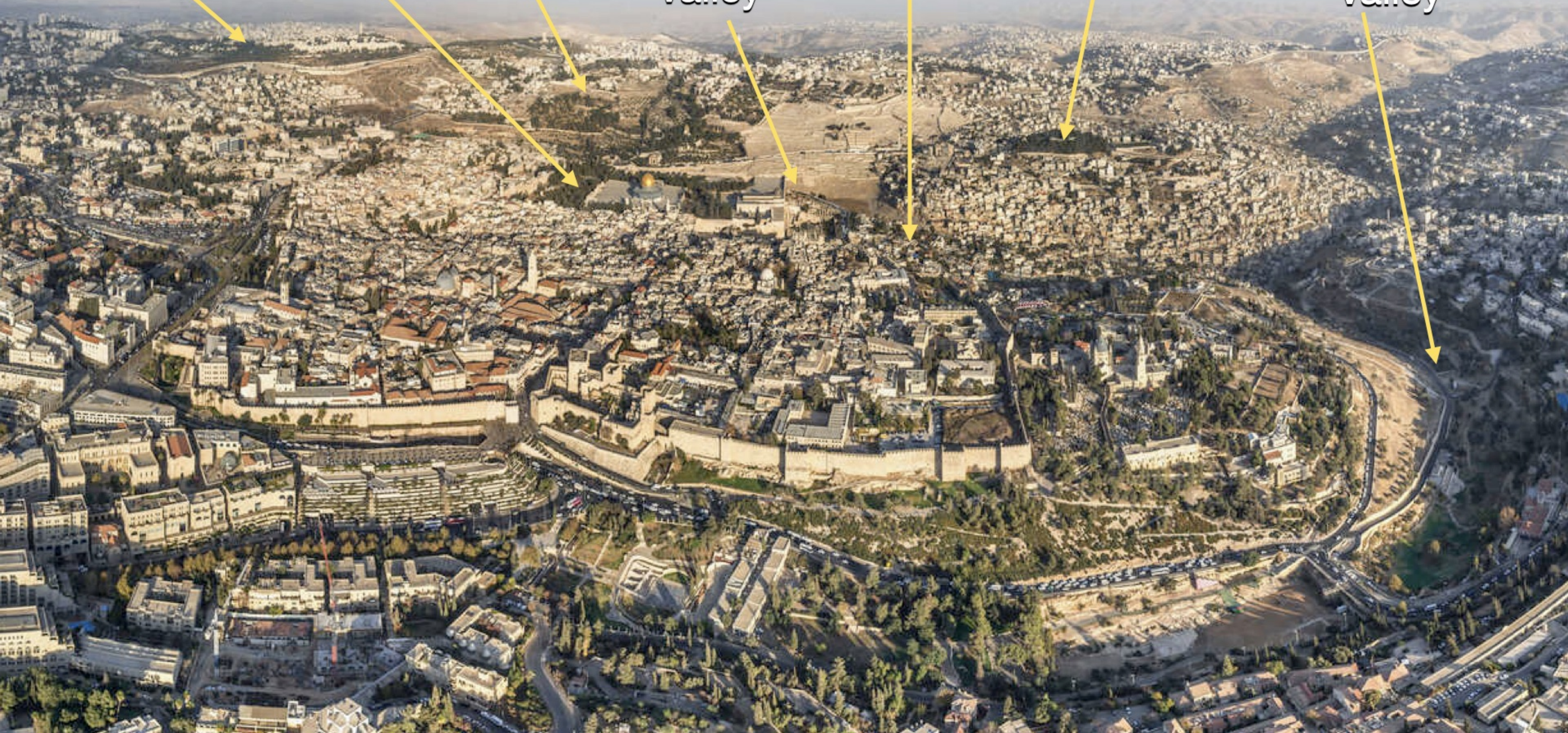
Mt. Olives

Kidron/  
Josaphat  
Valley

City of  
David

Mt.  
Corruption

Gehenna/  
Hinnom  
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**As with every book of the Bible we must be careful in the interpretation and application of the Holy scriptures.**

Many have made the mistake of making Acts purely narrative or purely theological;  
the truth is that the Book of Acts is both.

As with every book of God's Word we apply the principle of *Non-Contradiction* in our interpretation.

God's Word interprets itself and cannot contradict itself.

There are parts of Acts that are descriptive or historical narrative and some parts that are prescriptive or theological normative.

Acts 1:23 So they proposed two candidates: Joseph called Barsabbas (also called Justus) and Matthias.  
1:24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know the hearts of all. Show us which one of these two you have chosen  
1:25 to assume the task of this service and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."  
1:26 Then they cast lots for them, and the one chosen was Matthias; so he was counted with the eleven apostles.

Example:

Is *casting lots* historical narrative or a normal practice for the Church?

Should we casting lots to choose church leaders or was that the practice before the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

Until the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at Pentacost, casting lots was a widely accepted practice in the absence of a prophet to know the will of God in making a decision.

Joshua 14-21 concerning the division of lands in Canaan is just one of several examples.

The Book of Acts records the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church, beginning with the Apostles.

The primary theme or context is the indwelling, manifestation, and power of the Holy Spirit in believers.

The secondary theme is the manner in which it happened or the how.

Good News  
of Jesus

Acts is the historical and  
theological bridge

The  
Church Age

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Acts 1:4 While he was with them, he declared, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait there for what my Father promised, which you heard about from me. 1:5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

# The Miracle of the Holy Spirit

Before we go any further into the the history of the beginnings of the Church Age there are a few things we need to know about the Book of Acts.

A church without the Holy Spirit is a religious organization but not...

# The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and each of you is a member of it. 12:28 And God has placed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, gifts of healing, helps, gifts of leadership, different kinds of tongues.

## The Royal Priesthood -

2 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 2:10 You once were not a people, but now you are God's people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## The Bride of Christ

Revelation 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues came and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb!”

There are at least 40 other references to the church in God's Word and all of them speak of the Lord's leadership of these elect.

As we will learn the *Church* is not an organization to be manhandled.

In scripture we have seen God manifest Himself in many ways in different seasons of history:

Burning Bush

Pillar of Clouds and Fire by night.

The Nation of Israel

The Messiah Jesus of Nazareth

The *Church* is the spiritual manifestation of God during the *Church Age*.

It is so important that we are able to clarify the true role and authority of the Holy Spirit within the Body of Christ that we might remain a lampstand in the presence of Jesus.

What we saw last week when the mighty wind rushed into the place where the 120 believers were was the beginning of the miracle of the indwelling of the Spirit of God in man beginning with Jewish believers.

As the Book of Acts continues we will see the Holy Spirit move from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth through His people, just as Jesus said it would.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth.

**We live in exciting days witnessing the return of the Lord and the fulfillment of His kingdom.**



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