

THE BOOK OF ACTS:

The birth, growth, and progress of the church

Original Author: Luke, Ph.D

Sunday, AD 60 - 62

Sugar Land BC Press

THE LINK BETWEEN THE GOSPELS & THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES.

CHAPTER 1: The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem

from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying: that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.' Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." So they



And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:3-4

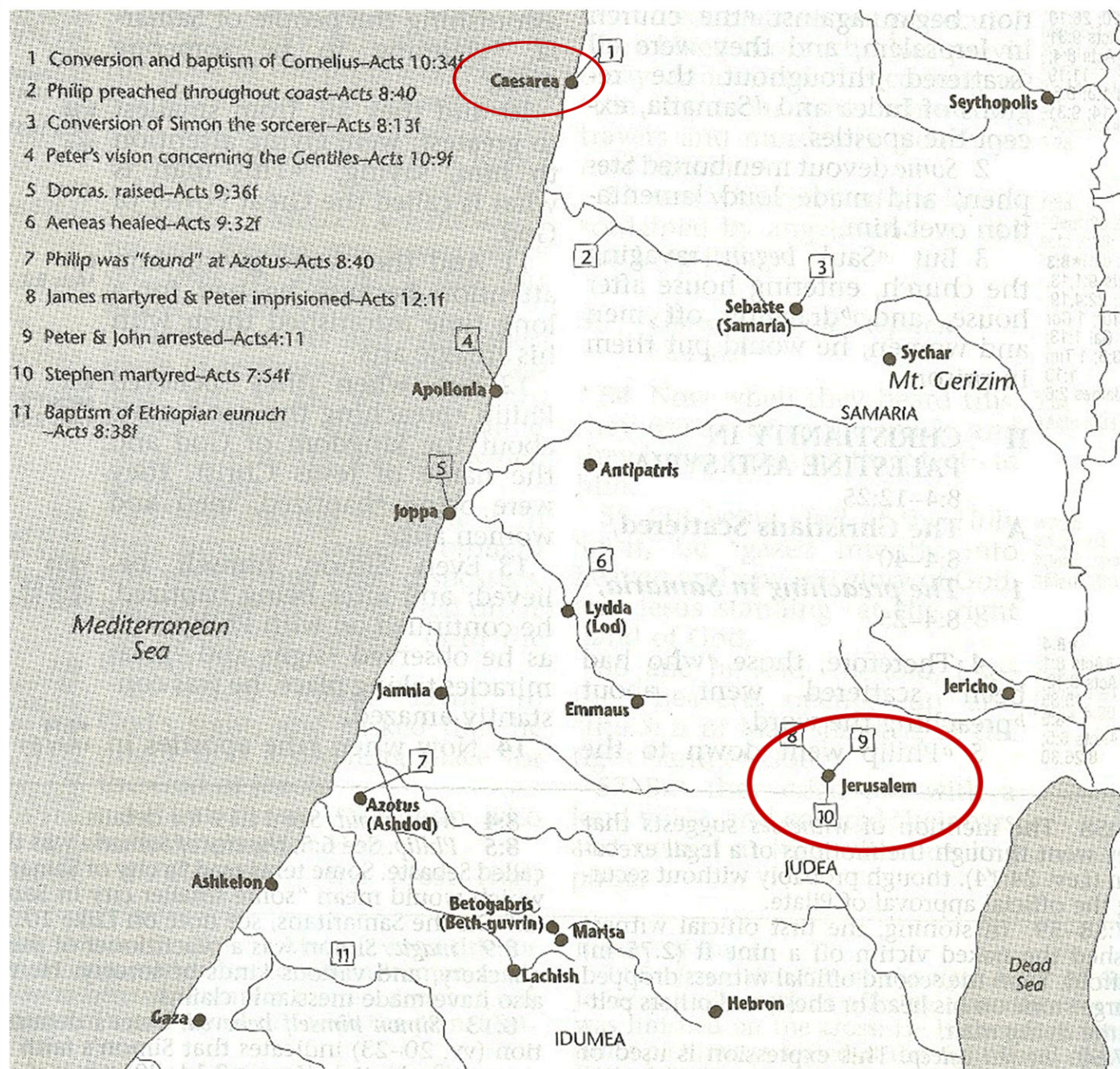


Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

- 1 Conversion and baptism of Cornelius—Acts 10:34f
- 2 Philip preached throughout coast—Acts 8:40
- 3 Conversion of Simon the sorcerer—Acts 8:13f
- 4 Peter's vision concerning the Gentiles—Acts 10:9f
- 5 Dorcas, raised—Acts 9:36f
- 6 Aeneas healed—Acts 9:32f
- 7 Philip was "found" at Azotus—Acts 8:40
- 8 James martyred & Peter imprisoned—Acts 12:1f
- 9 Peter & John arrested—Acts 4:11
- 10 Stephen martyred—Acts 7:54f
- 11 Baptism of Ethiopian eunuch—Acts 8:38f



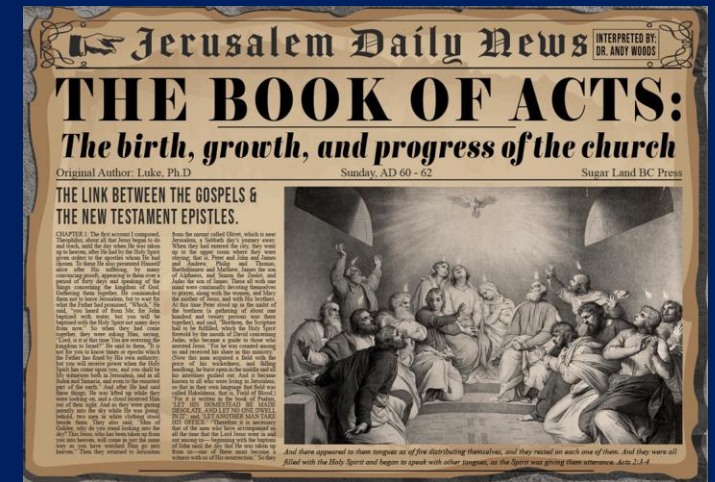
VII. Peter's Defense in Jerusalem

Acts 11:1-18

A. Charge against Peter (1-3)

B. Peter's defense (4-17)

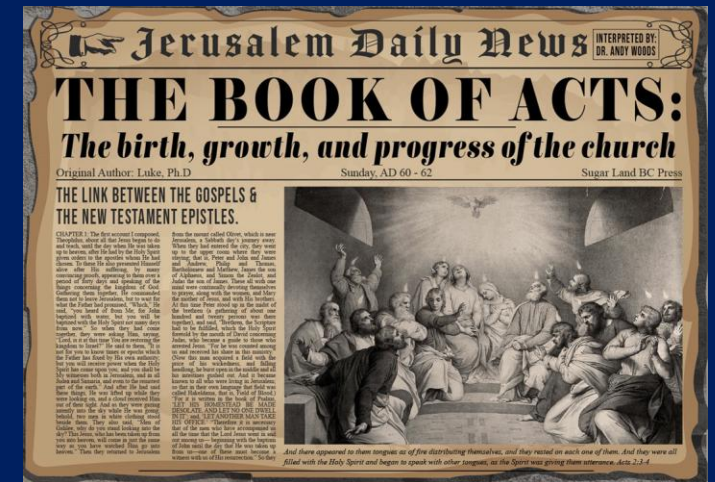
C. The verdict (18)



B. Acts 11:4-17

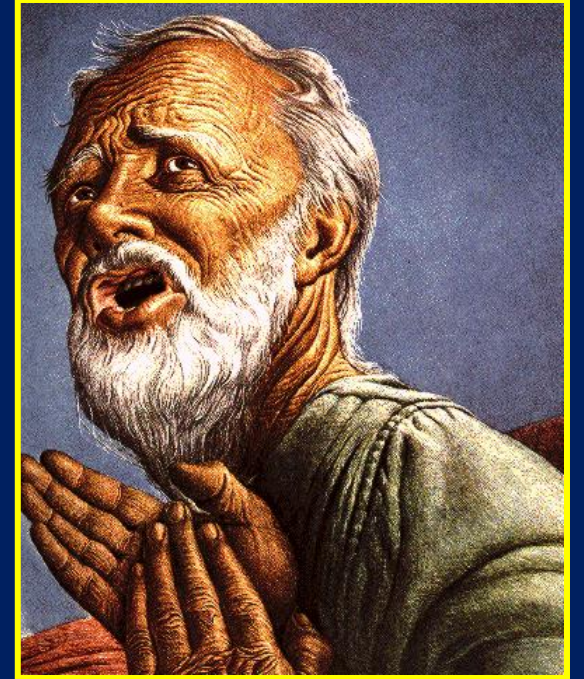
Peter's Defense

1. Peter's exposition (4)
2. Vision (5-6)
3. Command (7-10)
4. Gentiles arrive (11-12a)
5. Journey to Caesarea (12b)
6. Entrance into the house (12c)
7. Cornelius's salvation (13-14)
8. Evidence (15-16)
9. Peter's conclusion (17)



Passage Conditioning Salvation on Faith Alone (*Sola Fide*)

- Genesis 15:6
- John 3:16; 5:24; 6:28-29, 47; 16:8-9; 20:30-31
- Acts 16:30-31
- Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9
- Hebrews 11:6



Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

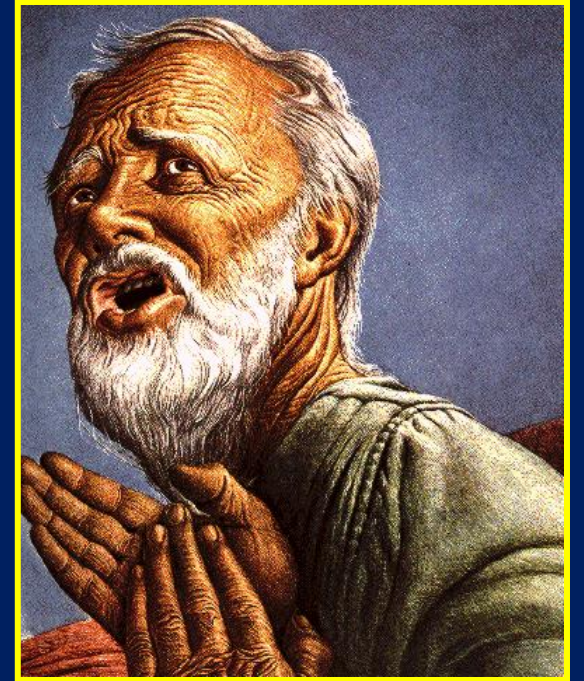
Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."



Belief – God’s One Condition for Justification



“...because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology*
(Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

Acts 2:38

“Peter said to them, “Repent [*metanoeō*], and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (eis) the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

μετανοέω

metanoeō / change one's mind; repent



Matthew 12:41

“The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it because they repented at [in the face of/because of] (eis) the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”



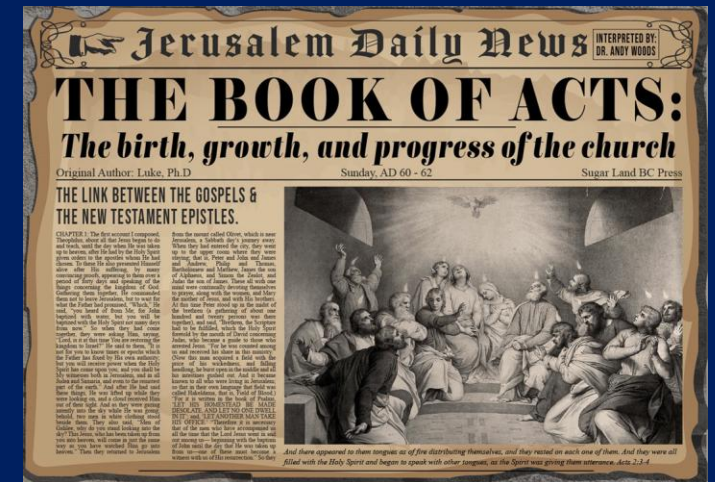
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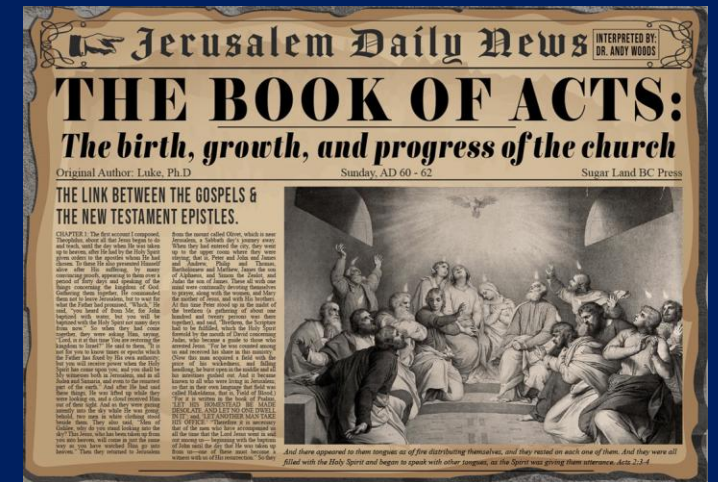
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C. Acts 11:18

The Verdict

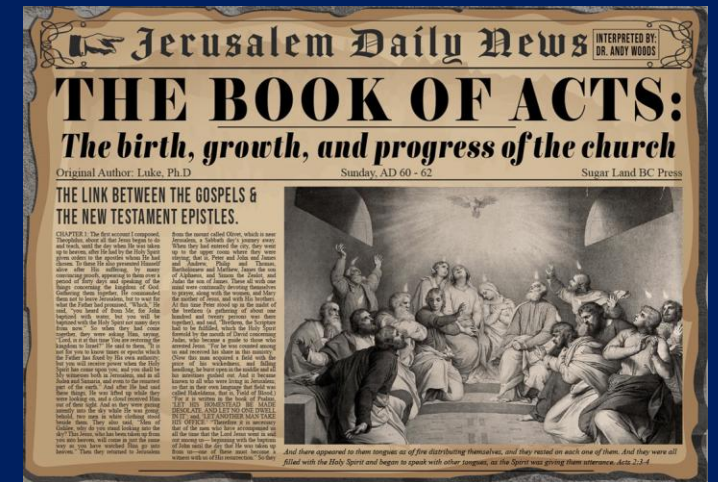
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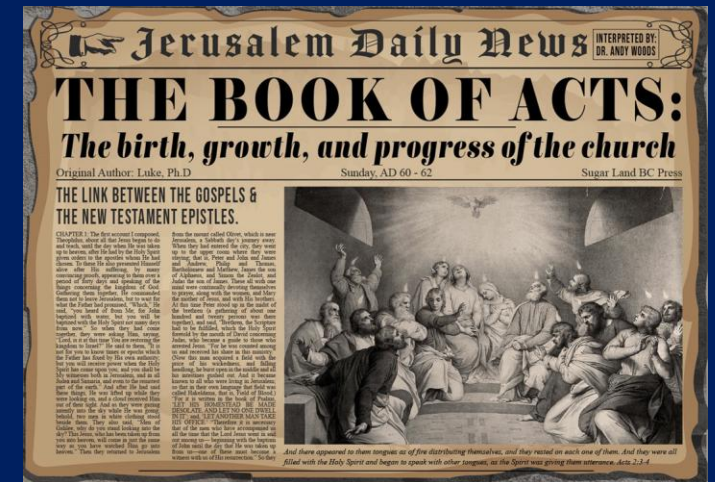
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DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS A SYSTEM OF THEOLOGY

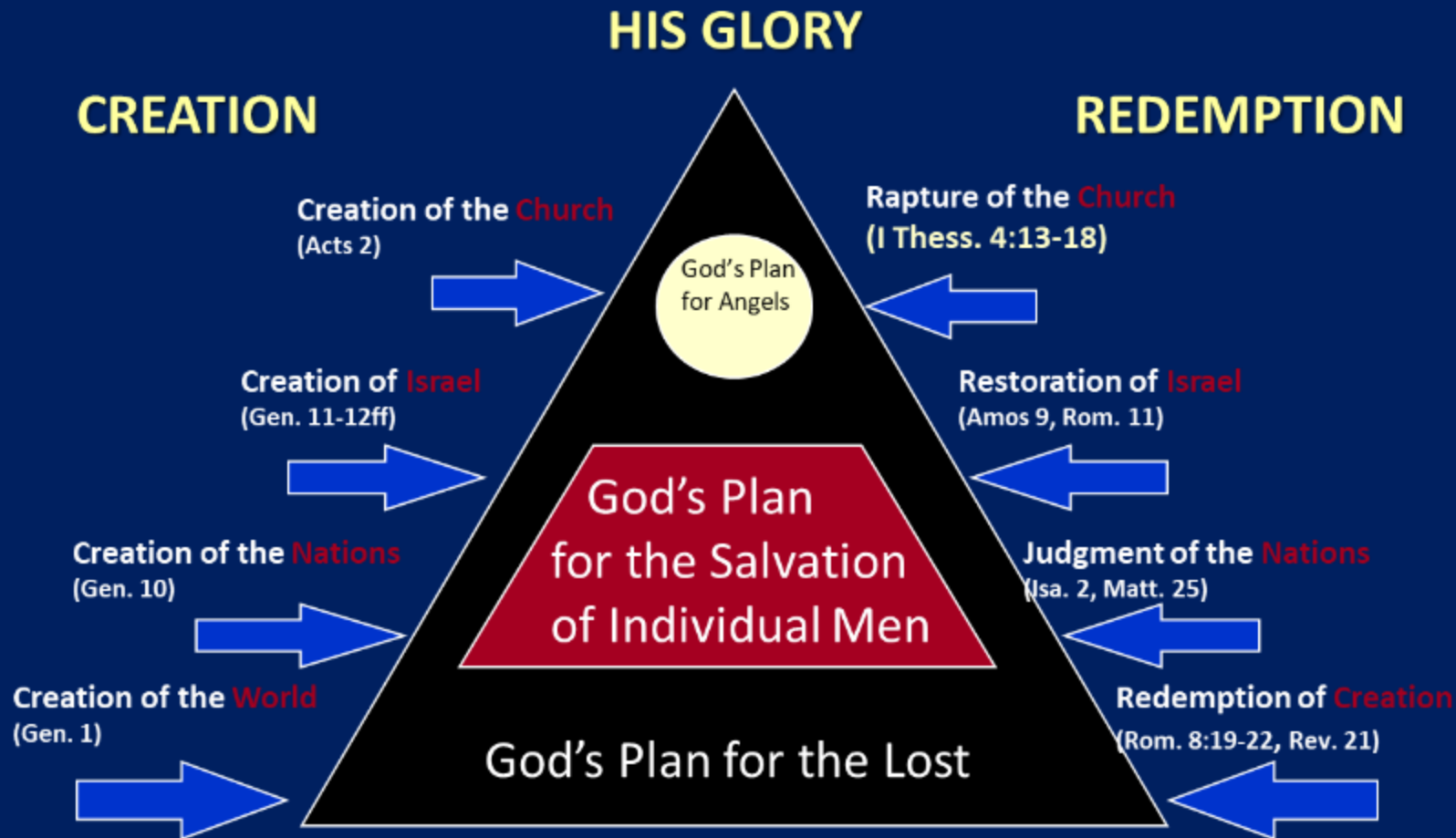
Traditional-normative dispensational theology is a system that embodies three essential, fundamental concepts called the **sine qua non** (lit. “without which is not”):

1. The **consistent** use of a plain, normal, literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation;
2. Which reveals that the **Church is distinct from Israel**;
3. God’s overall purpose is to bring **glory to Himself** (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).

DOXOLOGICAL PURPOSE

- A. God's ultimate purpose for the ages is to glorify Himself. Scripture is not human-centered, as though salvation were the principle point, but God-centered, because His glory is at the center.
- B. The glory of God is the primary principle that unifies all dispensations, the program of salvation being just one of the means by which God glorifies Himself. Each successive revelation of God's plan for the ages, as well as His dealing with the elect, non-elect, angels, and nations all manifest His glory.

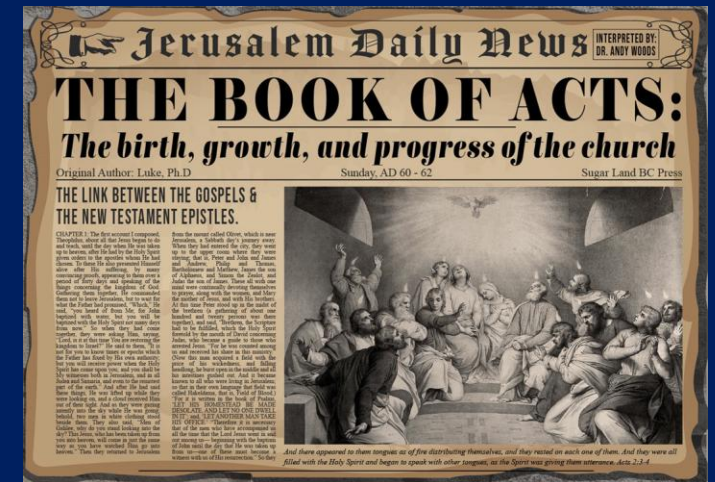
THE FOCUS ON THE GLORY OF GOD IN DISPENSATIONALISM



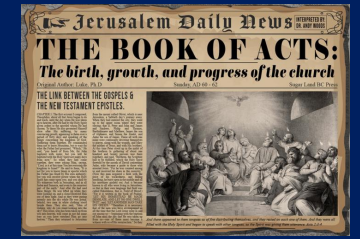
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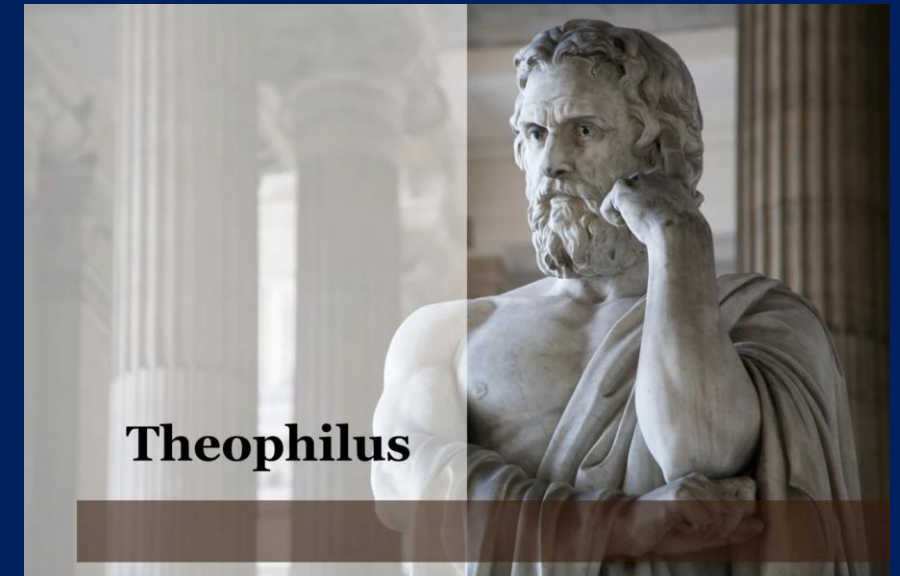
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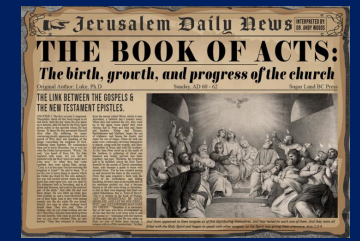
Purpose



- To present Theophilus with an orderly account of the birth and growth of the church so as to affirm him in what he has believed.



Message



- Birth and growth of the church numerically, geographically, ethnically.
- Components
 - Numerically (progress reports)
 - Geographically (From Jerusalem to Rome)
 - Ethnically (From Judaism to Gentile domination)



John 16:7-11

“⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

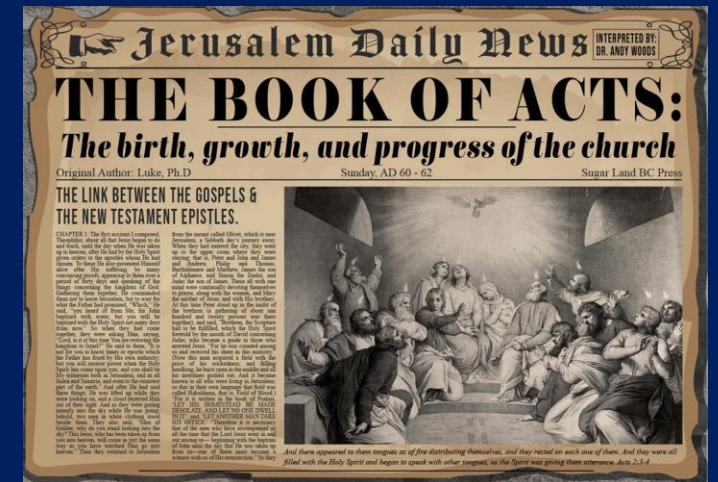


Conclusion

Acts 10:1–11:18

Cornelius' Salvation

- I. Cornelius' Vision (10:1-8)
- II. Peter's Vision (Acts 10:9-16)
- III. Vision's Application (10:17-23a)
- IV. Caesarean Ministry (10:23b-33)
- V. Peter & The Keys of the Kingdom (10:34-43)
- VI. Gentiles' Salvation (10:44-48)
- VII. Peter's Defense in Jerusalem (11:1-18)**



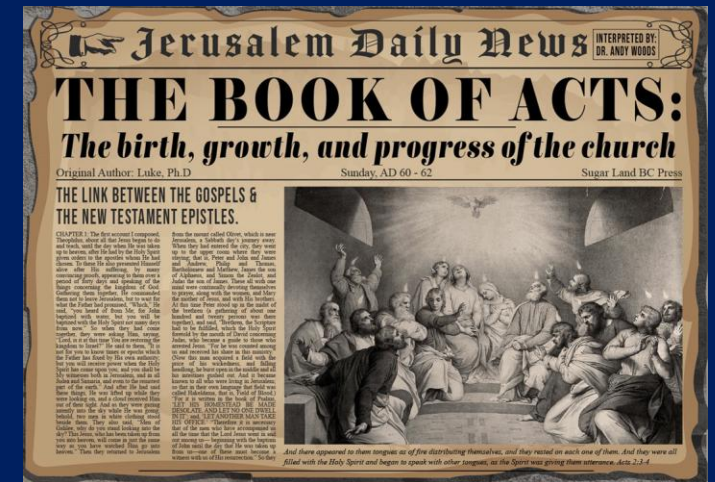
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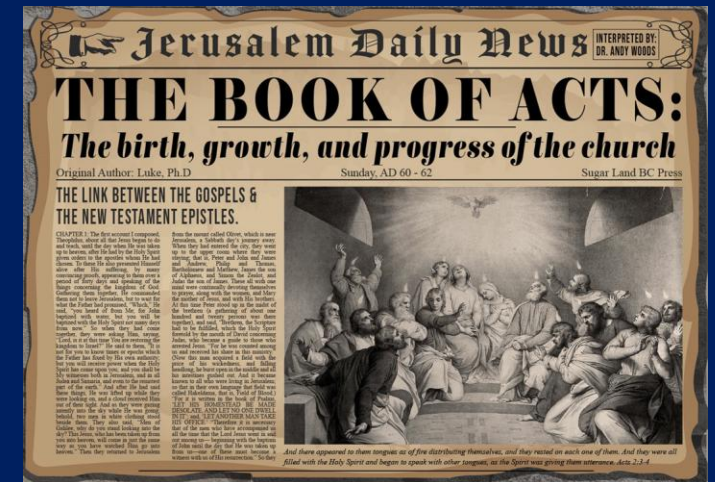
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Acts 11:19-30

The Church at Antioch

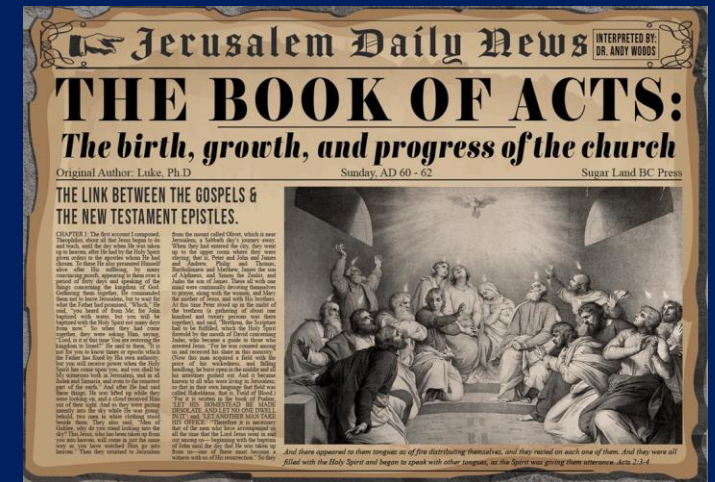
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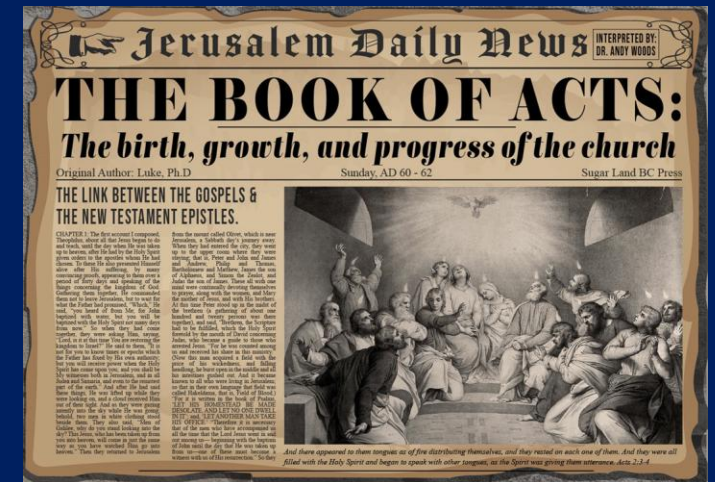
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I. Development of the Church

Acts 11:19-26

- A. Jewish evangelism in the Diaspora (19)
- B. Gentile evangelism (20)
- C. Progress report (21)
- D. Barnabas' ministry (22-24)
- E. Saul reintroduced (25-26a)
- F. Barnabas & Saul minister at Antioch (26b-d)



Acts 8:3-4; 11:19

“³ But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. ⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word...¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.”



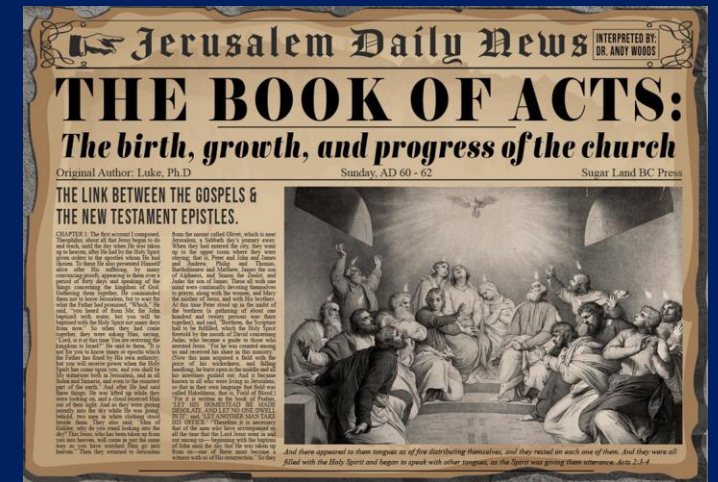
Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



Acts 10:1–11:18

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John 1:14

“And the Word [logos] became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten [monogenēs] from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

μονογενής

monogenēs / one and only; only



I. Development of the Church

Acts 11:19-26

A. Jewish evangelism in the Diaspora (19)

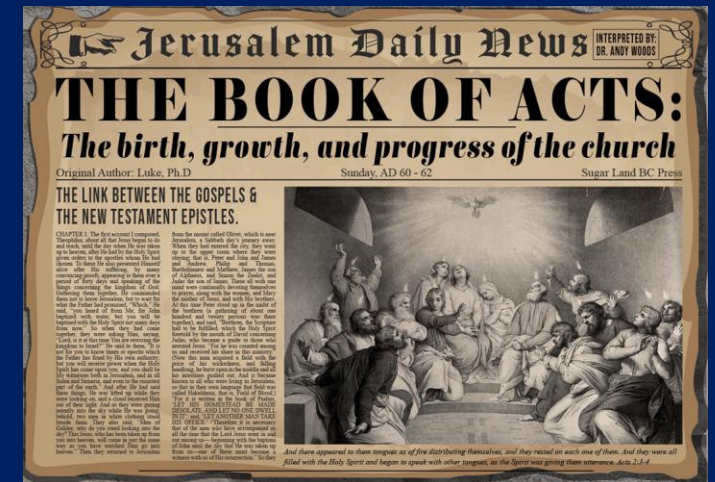
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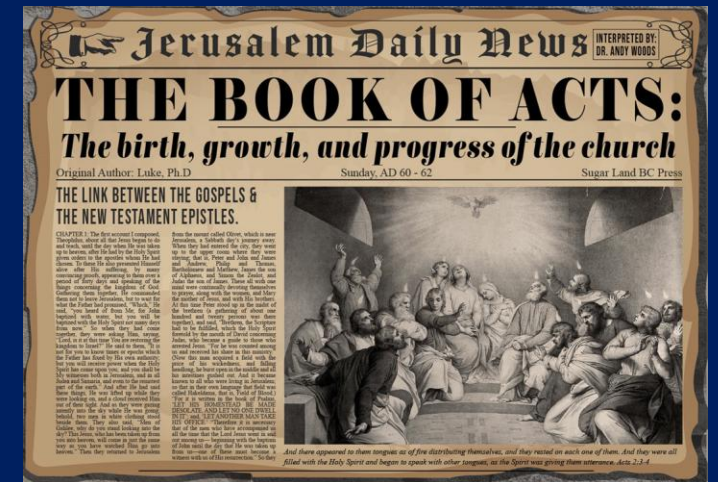
This map illustrates the Eastern Mediterranean region, including the Roman Empire and surrounding areas. Key features include:

- Provinces and Regions:** Dalmatia (Illyricum), Macedonia, Thrace, Bithynia, Cappadocia, Galatia, Cilicia, Lyconia, Pisidia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Lycia, Asia, Mysia, Achaia (Greece), Chios, Samos, Crete, Cyrenaica, Libya, Syria, Phoenicia, Israel (Canaan), Arabia, Midian, Ethiopia, Egypt, Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Samaria, Judea, Galilee, Sharon, and Italia.
- Cities:** Rome, Three Taverns, Forum of Appius (Market), Puteoli, Rhegium, Syracuse, Corinth, Cenchrea, Athens, Smyrna, Ephesus, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Colossae, Parga, Attalia, Myra, Patara, Rhodes, Salamis, Paphos, Tyre, Sidon, Damascus, Jerusalem, Caesarea, Ptolemais, Antioch, Seleucia, Jerusalem, Gaza, Joppa, Jerusalem (NT), Jerusalem (OT), Mt. Sinai, Gomorrah, Sodom, Babylon (Chaldei), Hara, Euphrates River, Nazareth, Megiddo, Caesarea, Ptolemais, Joppa, Jerusalem (NT), Jerusalem (OT), Mt. Sinai, Gomorrah, Sodom, Babylon (Chaldei), Hara, Euphrates River.
- Seas and Oceans:** Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea.
- Other Labels:** Spain, Malta, CAUDA (CLAUDA), SYRTIS?
- Highlighted Locations (Red Circles):** Antioch, Seleucia, Cyprus, and Cyrene.

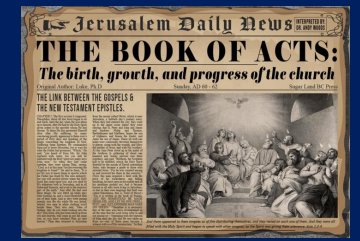
Acts 10:1–11:18

Cornelius' Salvation

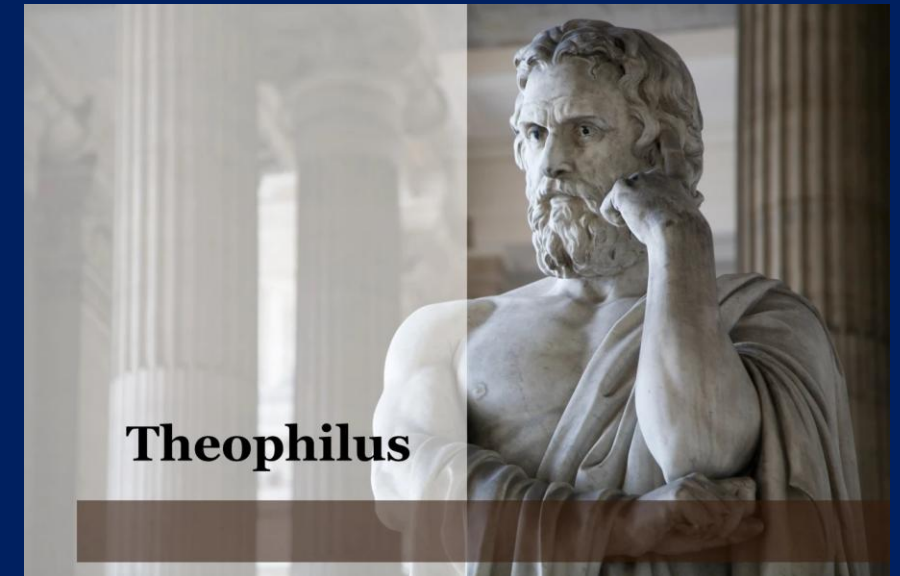
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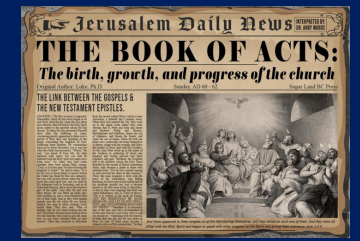
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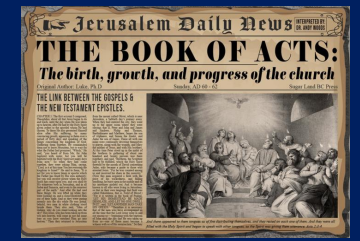
Message



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Progress Reports



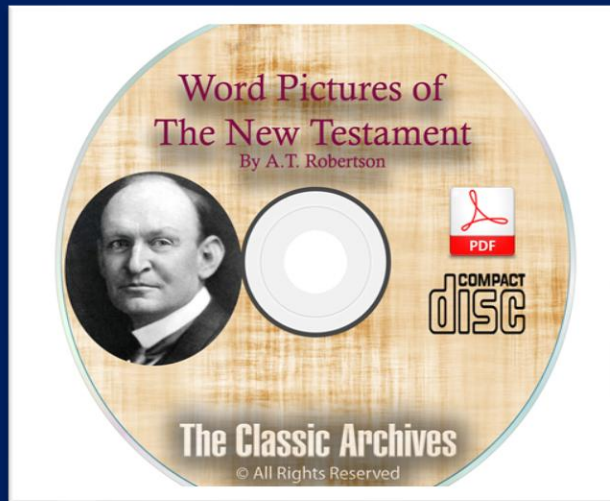
- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:13, 15; 2:41, 47; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6

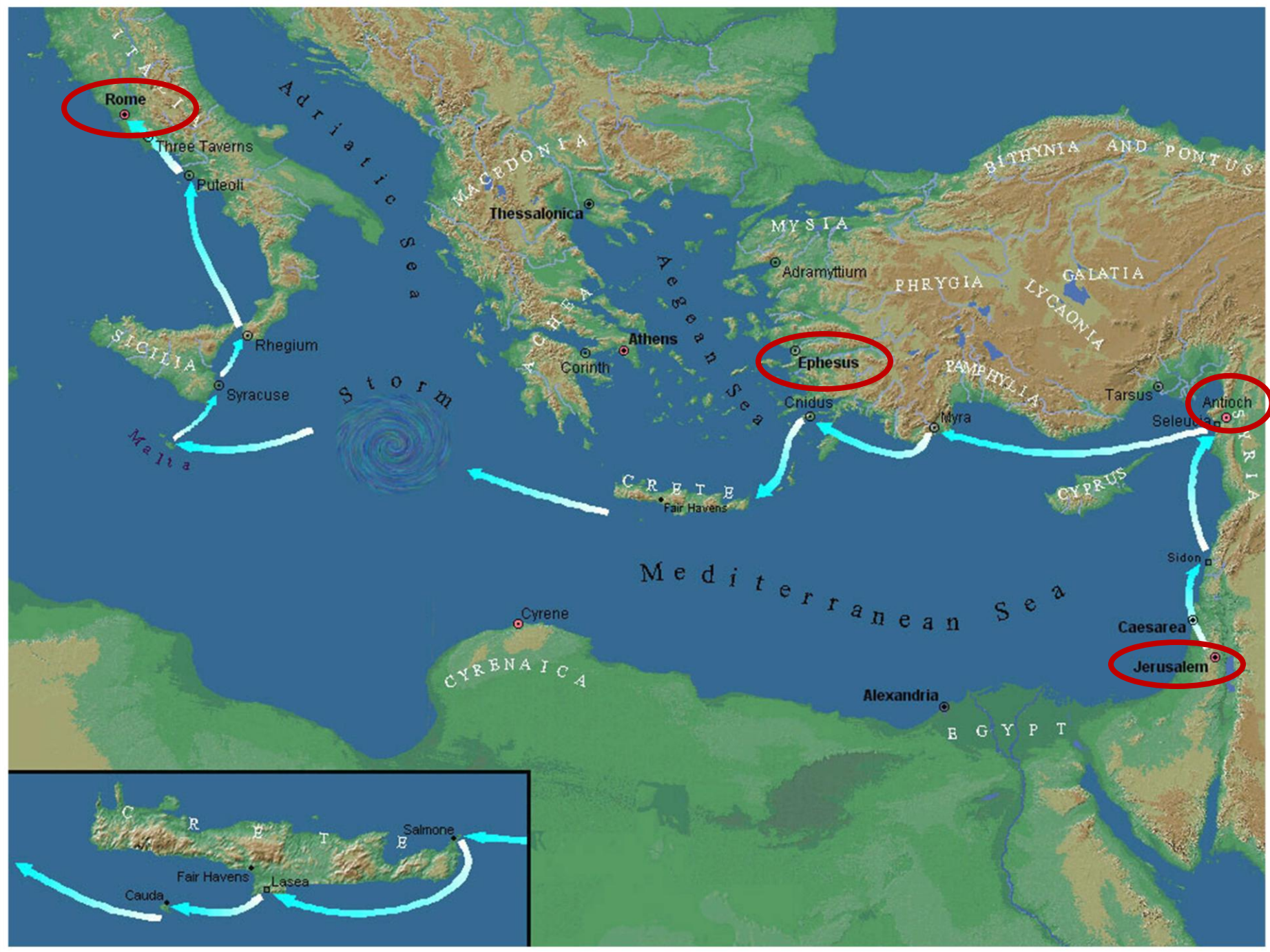


A.T. Robertson

Word Pictures (Acts 20:21)

“In verse 21, the means of the preaching was that the hand of the Lord was with them. As a result, a great number that believed turned unto the Lord. Robertson notes that the Greek word for ‘to turn,’ *epistrephó*, was ‘the usual expression for Gentiles turning to the true God (Acts 14:15; Acts 15:3, 19; Acts 26:18, 20; 1 Th. 1:9).’”







Dr. Stanley Toussaint

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, 383

Quoting the Roman poet and satirist Juvenal, The Bible Knowledge Commentary notes: “The sewage of the Syrian Orontes has for a long time been discharged into the Tiber.’ By this he meant that Antioch was so corrupt it was impacting Rome, more than 1,300 miles away.”

Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles

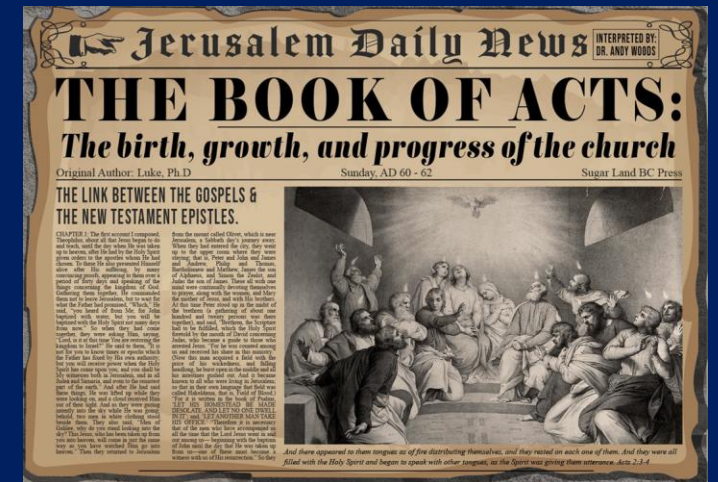




I. Development of the Church

Acts 11:19-26

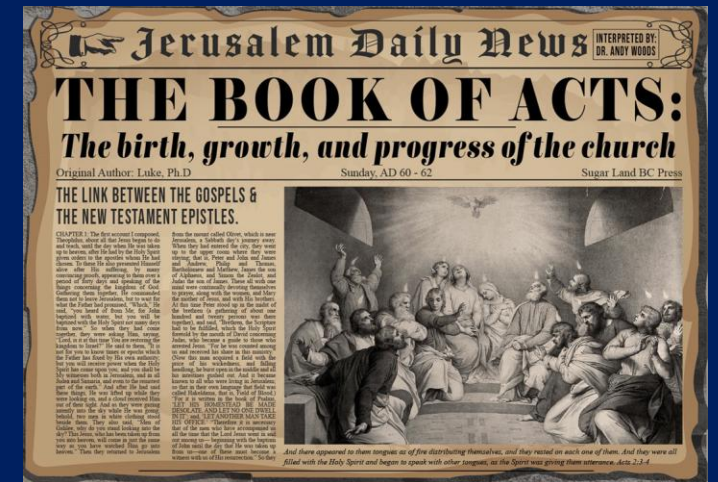
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D. Acts 11:22-24

Barnabas' Ministry

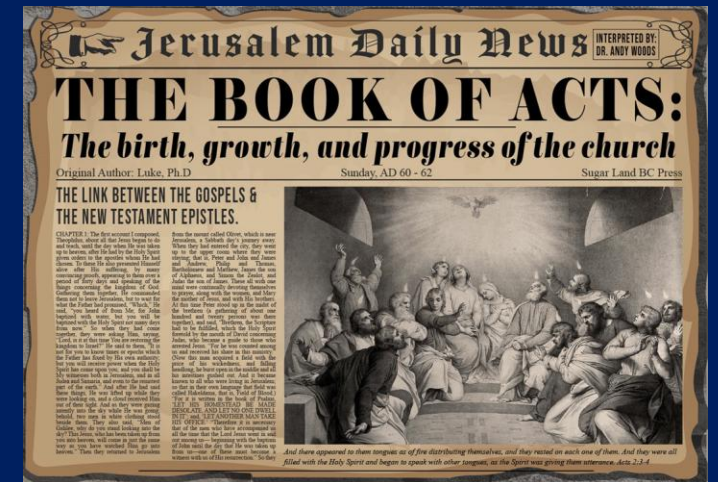
1. Commission (22)
2. Activities (23)
3. Personality (24)



D. Acts 11:22-24

Barnabas' Ministry

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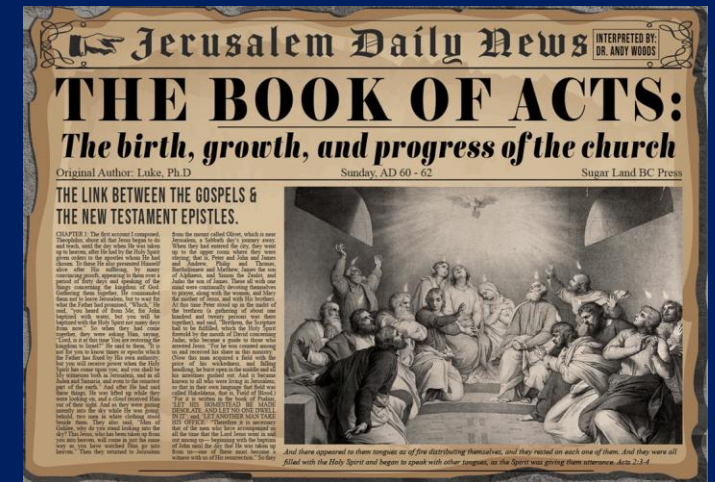
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D. Acts 11:22-24

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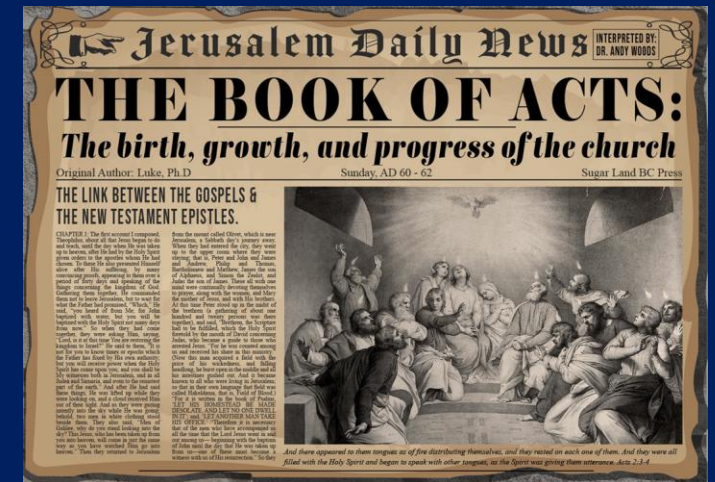
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Acts 6:3a

Deacon Qualifications

1. Believers
2. Males
3. Reputable
4. Spiritual
5. Wise



1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ **for you are still carnal**. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, **are you not carnal** and behaving like *mere men*?



4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

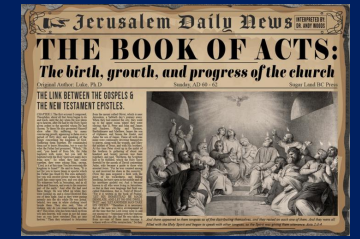


PORTRAIT OF GROWTH

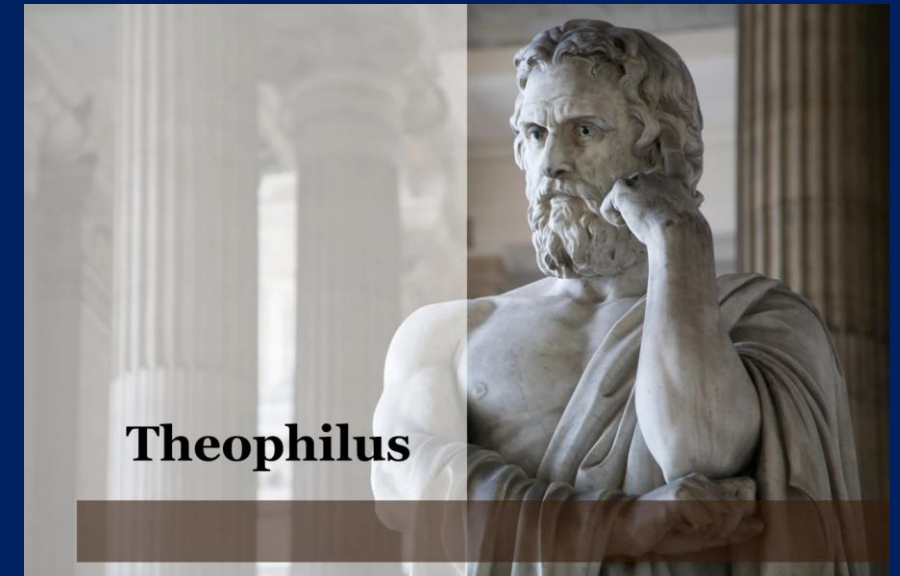
1:5-7



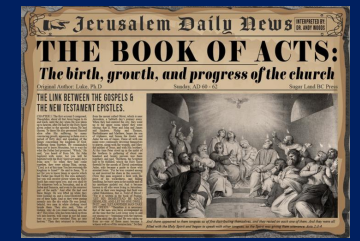
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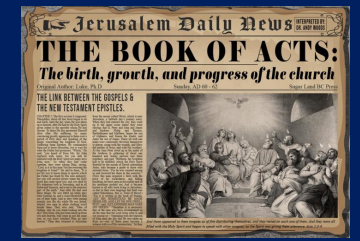
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Progress Reports



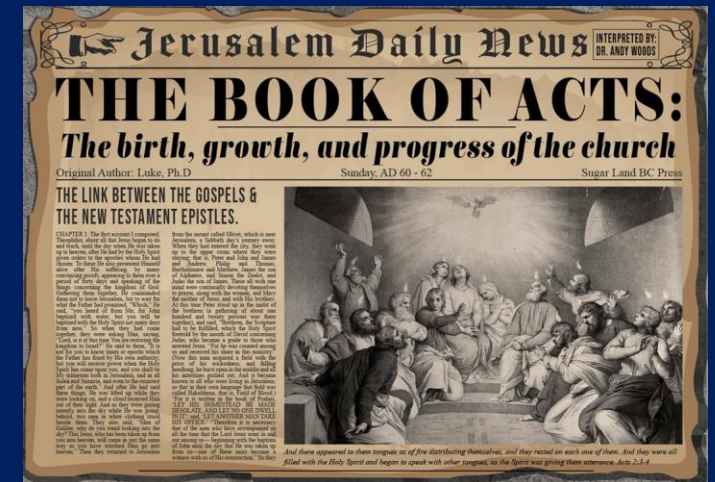
- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:13, 15; 2:41, 47; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6



I. Development of the Church

Acts 11:19-26

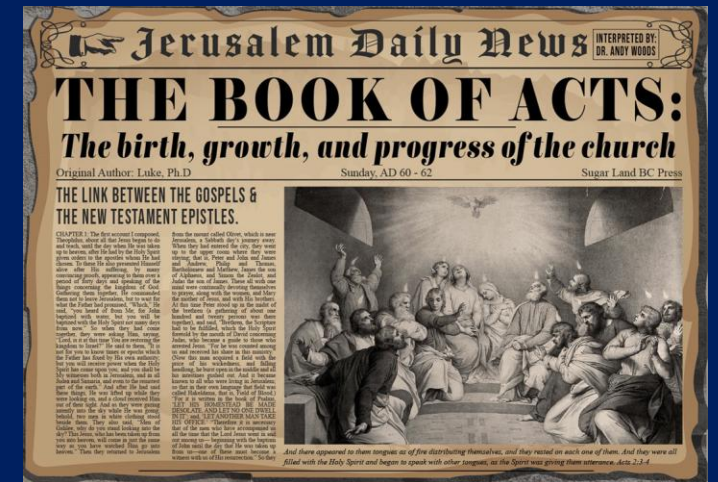
- A. Jewish evangelism in the Diaspora (19)
- B. Gentile evangelism (20)
- C. Progress report (21)
- D. Barnabas' ministry (22-24)
- E. Saul reintroduced (25-26a)
- F. Barnabas & Saul minister at Antioch (26b-d)



E. Acts 11:25-26a

Saul Reintroduced

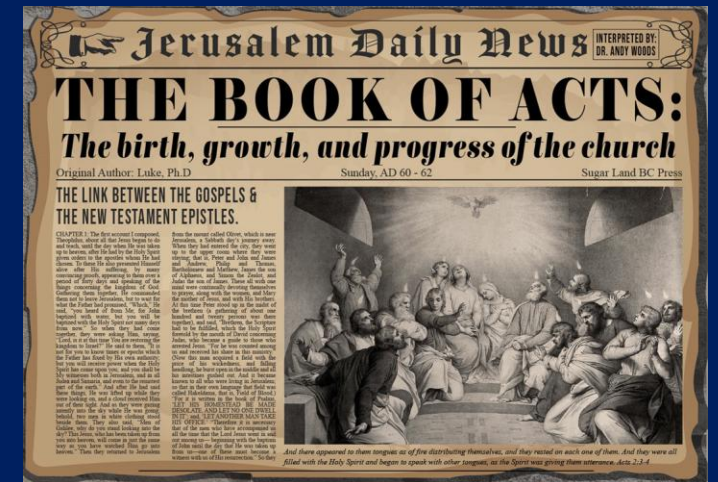
1. Barnabas searches for Saul (25)
2. Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch (26a)



E. Acts 11:25-26a

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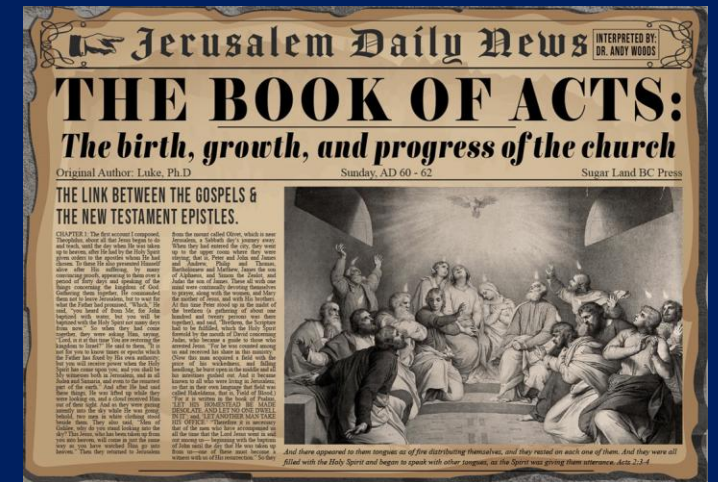
Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



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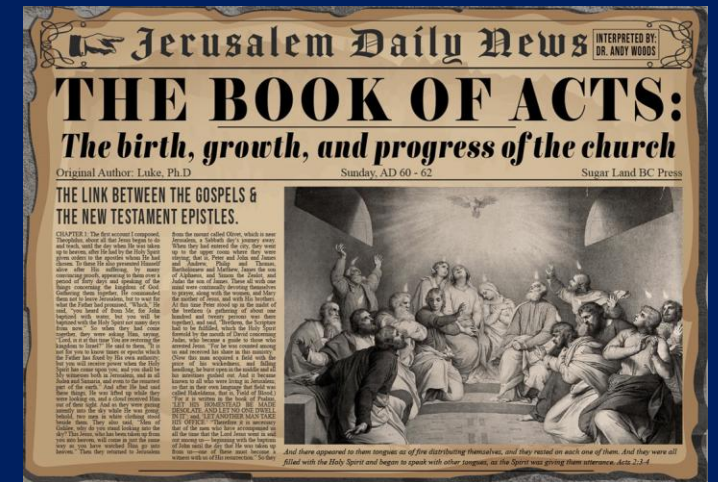
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I. Development of the Church

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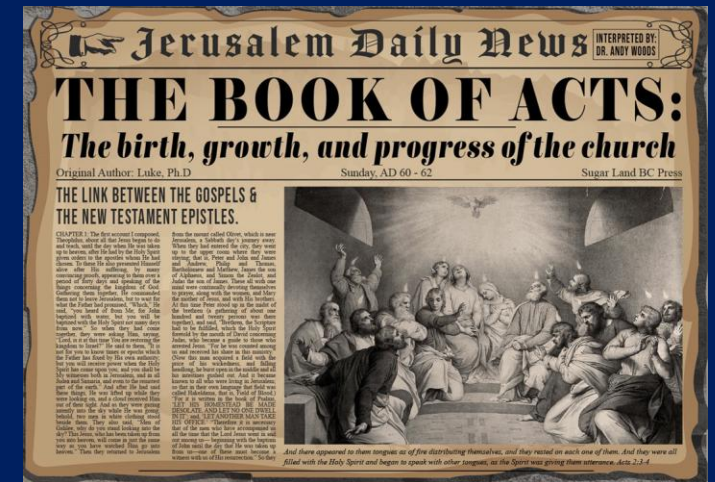
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F. Acts 11:26b-d

Barnabas & Saul Minister at Antioch

1. Duration (26b)
2. Size (26c)
3. Name (26d)



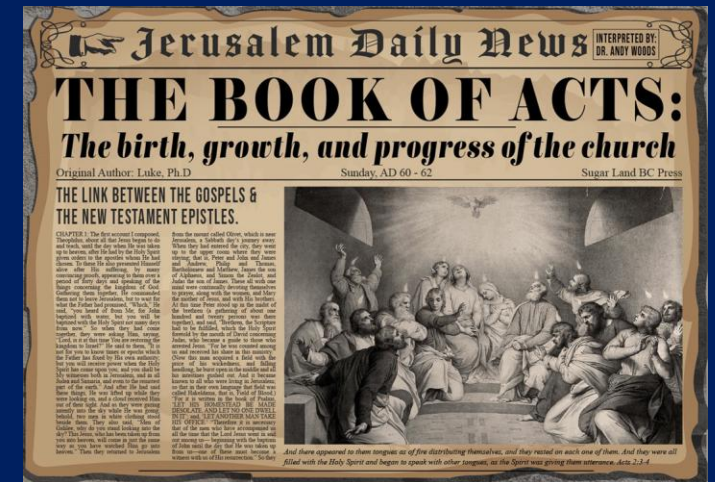
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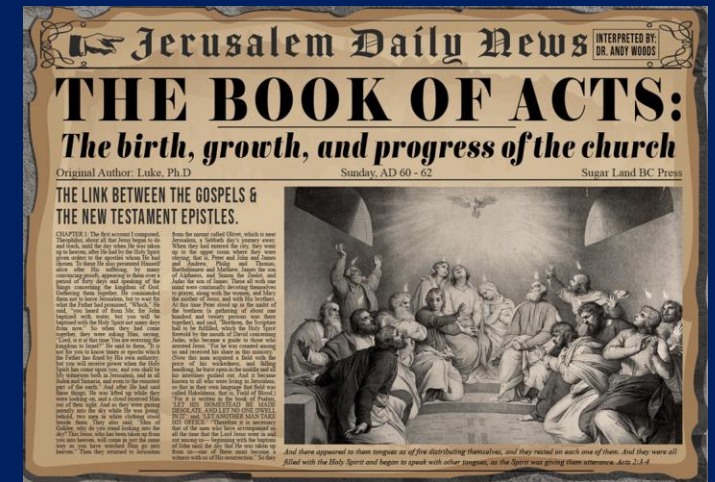
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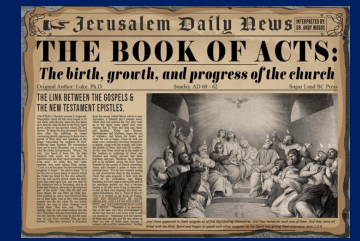
1. Duration (26b)

2. Size (26c)

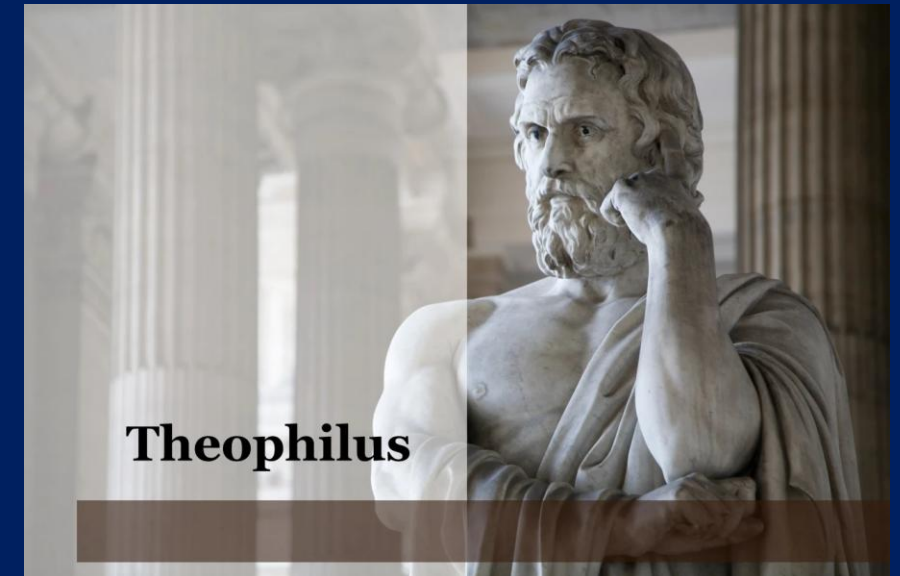
3. Name (26d)



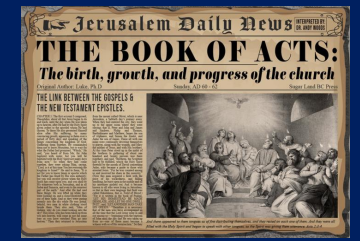
Purpose



- To present Theophilus with an orderly account of the birth and growth of the church so as to affirm him in what he has believed.



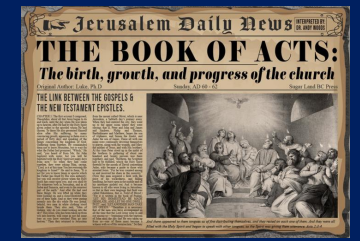
Message



- Birth and growth of the church numerically, geographically, ethnically.
- Components
 - Numerically (progress reports)
 - Geographically (From Jerusalem to Rome)
 - Ethnically (From Judaism to Gentile domination)



Progress Reports



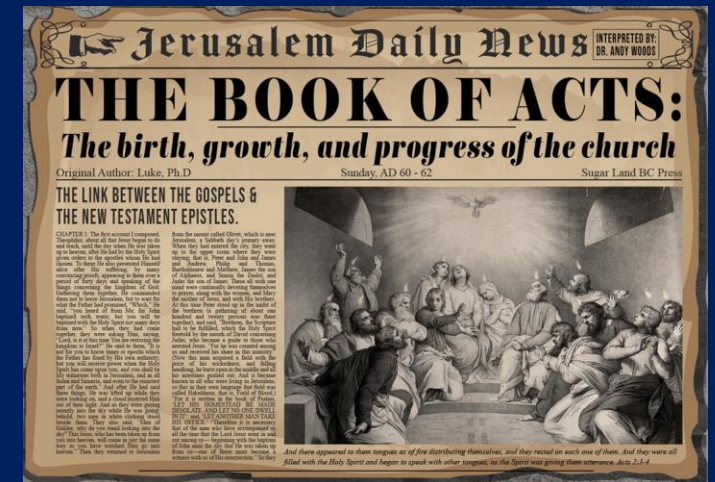
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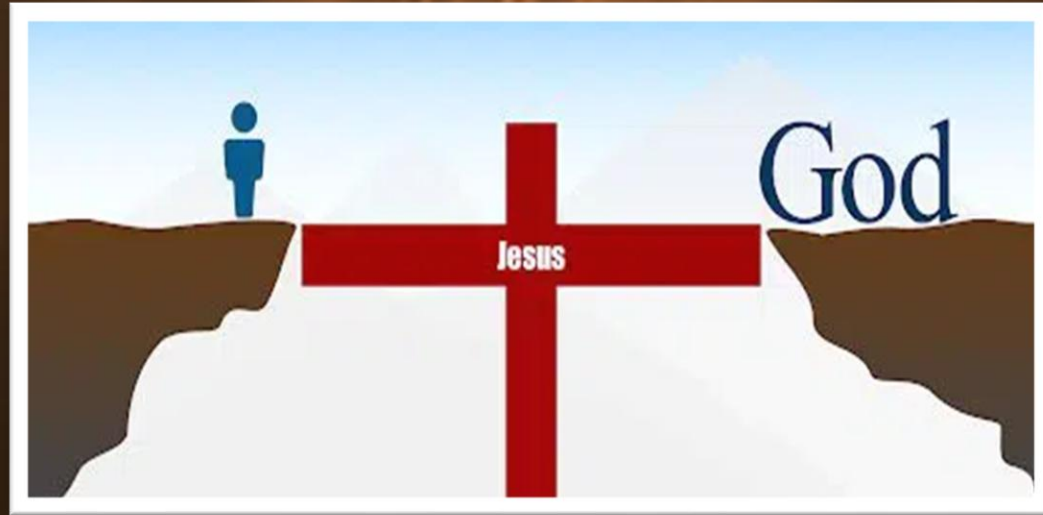
Barnabas & Saul Minister at Antioch

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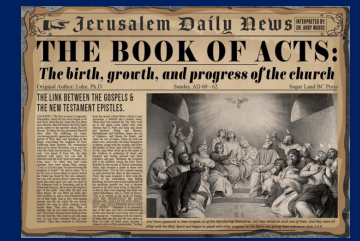


John 14:6

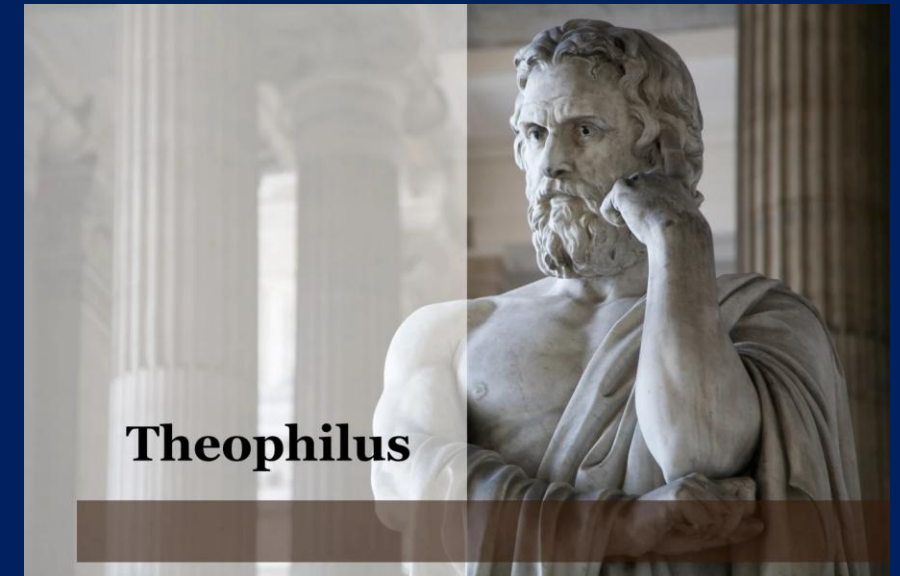
“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”



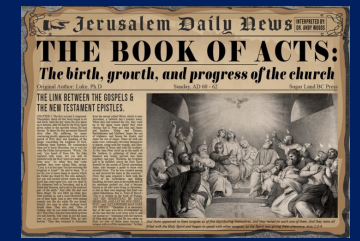
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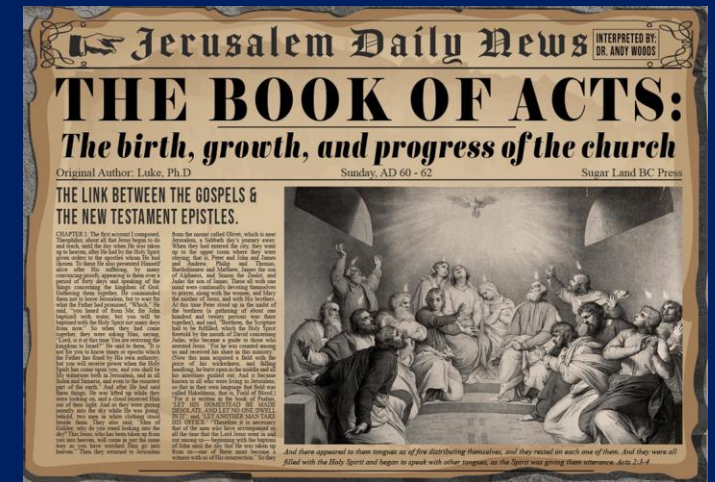
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 - Numerically (progress reports)
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Acts 11:19-30

The Church at Antioch

- I. Development of the Church (11:19-26)
- II. Benevolence of the Church (Acts 11:27-30)

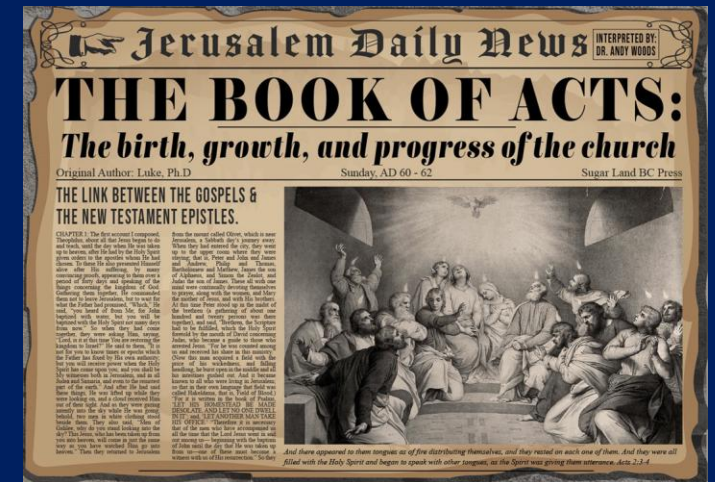


II. Benevolence of the Church

Acts 11:27-30

A. Agabus' prophecy (27-28)

B. Relief fund (29-30)

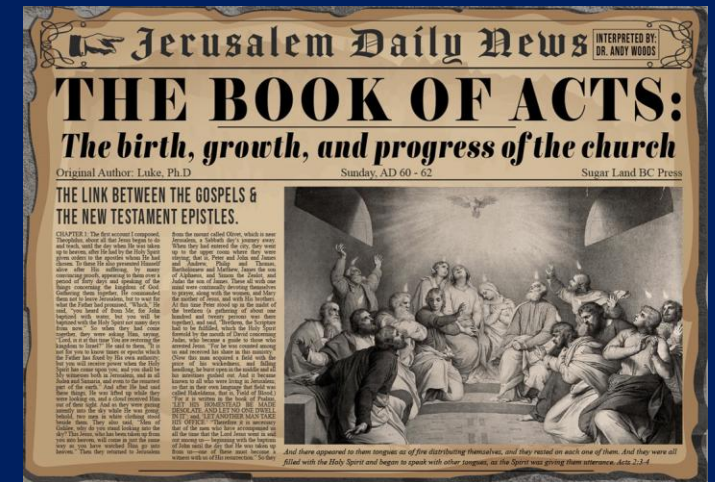


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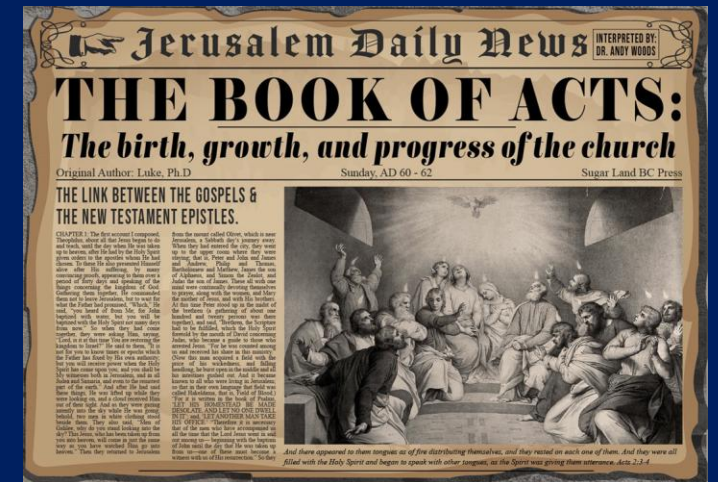
B. Relief fund (29-30)



A. Acts 11:27-28

Agabus' Prophecy

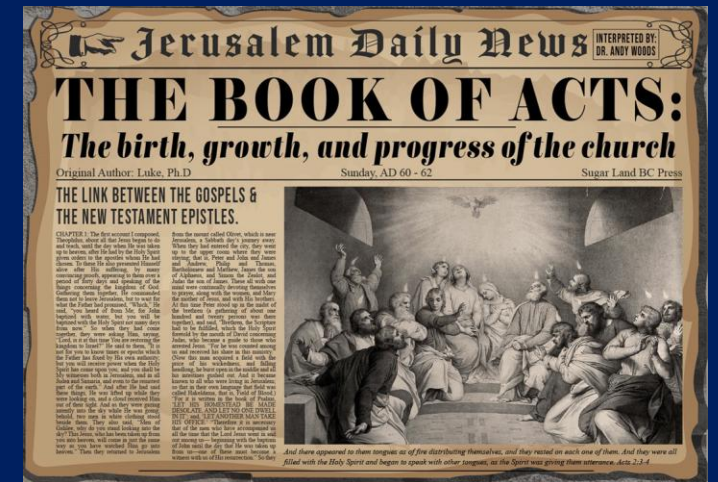
1. Occasion (27)
2. Agabus introduced (28a)
3. Agabus' prophecy (28b)
4. Fulfilment of Agabus' prophecy (28c)



A. Acts 11:27-28

Agabus' Prophecy

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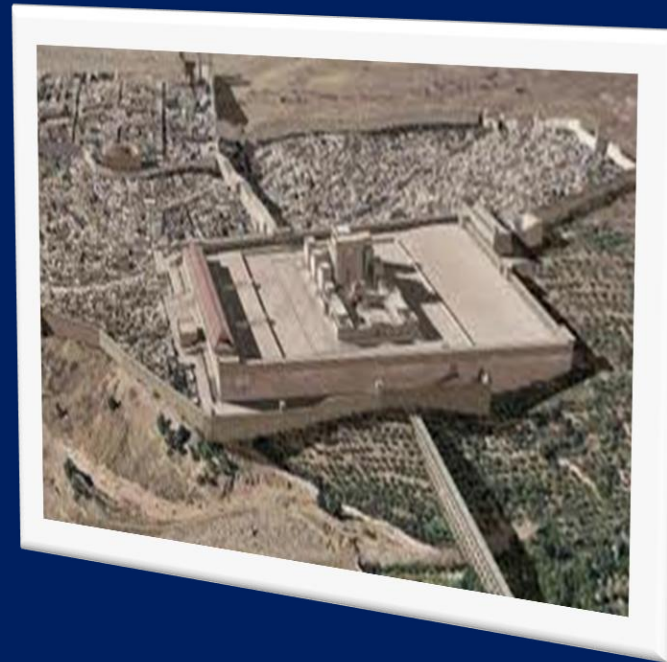


Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



Christ's Five Trips to Jerusalem

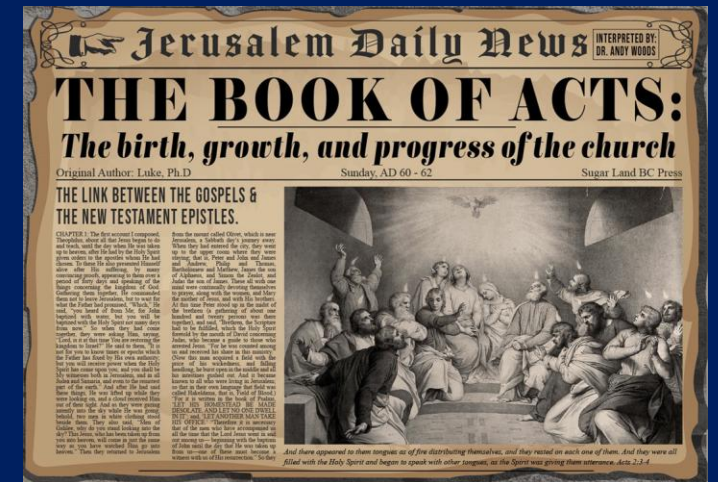
Feast	Verse
Passover	2:23
Unnamed	5:1
Tabernacles	7:2
Dedication	10:22
Passover	13:1



A. Acts 11:27-28

Agabus' Prophecy

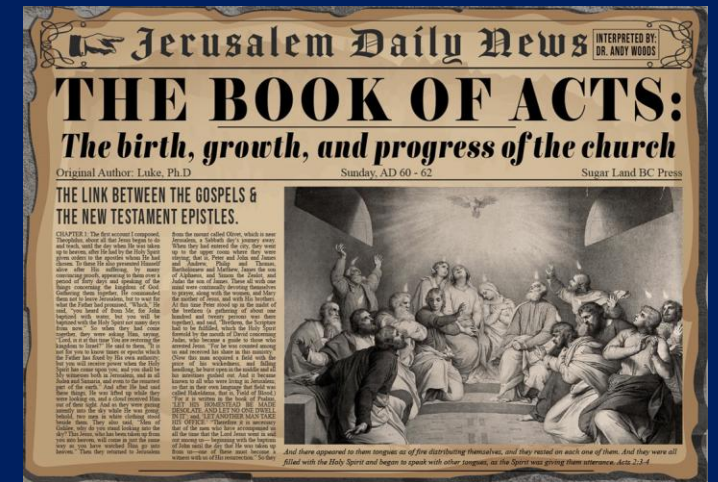
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A. Acts 11:27-28

Agabus' Prophecy

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The Whole World?

(Revelation 3:10)

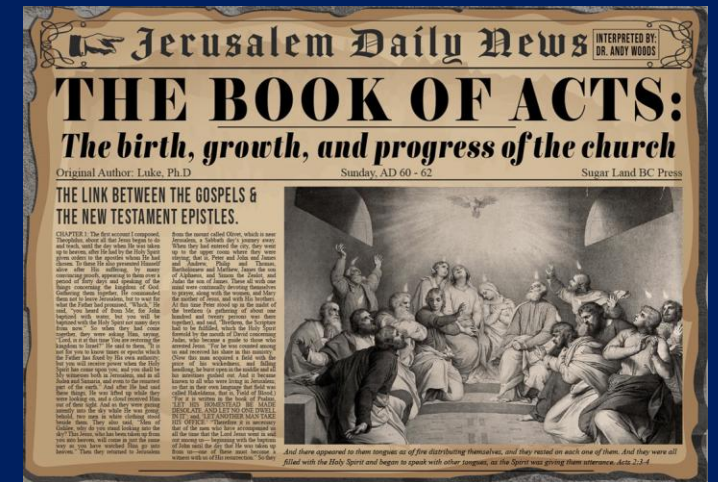
- 1) Oikouménē – known world? (Luke 2:1; Acts 11:28)
- 2) Oikouménē – entire world (Luke 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rev. 12:9)
- 3) Context favors the global definition
 - a. Adjective “whole” (*holos*)
 - b. Rev. 6–18

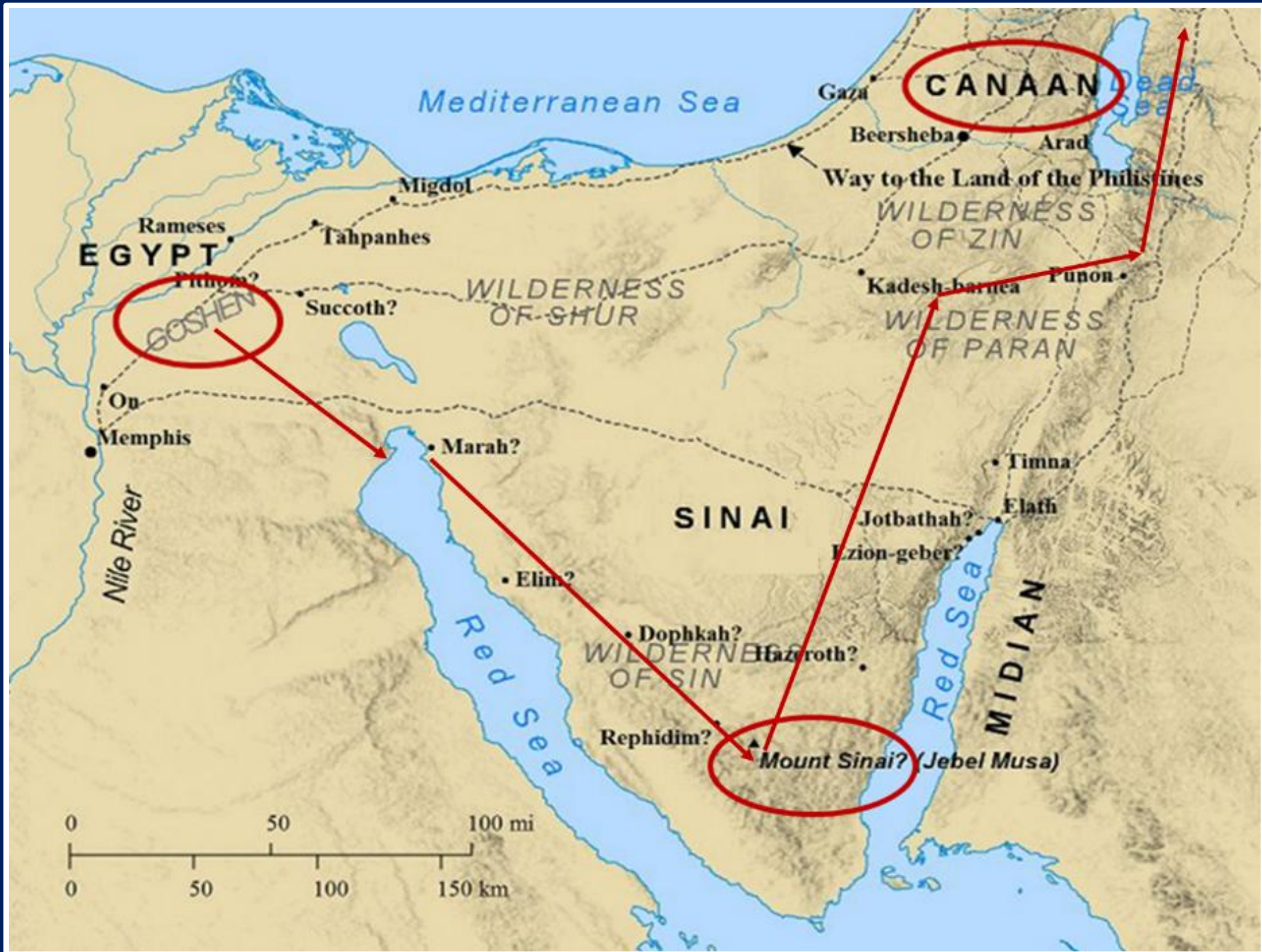
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KEPT MY COMMAND
.....
TO PERSEVERE,
I ALSO WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE HOUR
OF TRIAL WHICH **SHALL** COME UPON
THE WHOLE WORLD,
TO TEST THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH.
-REVELATION 3:10

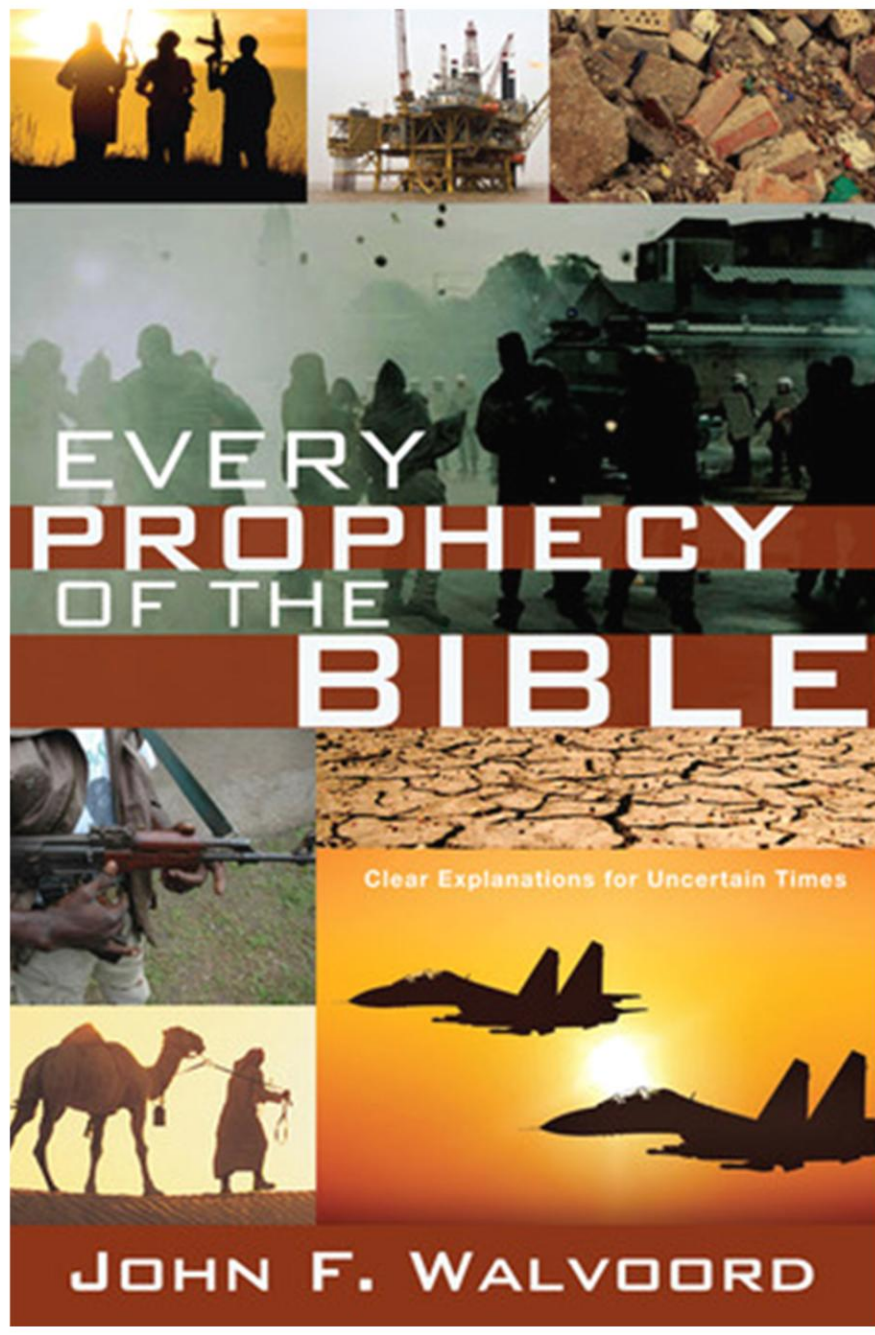
A. Acts 11:27-28

Agabus' Prophecy

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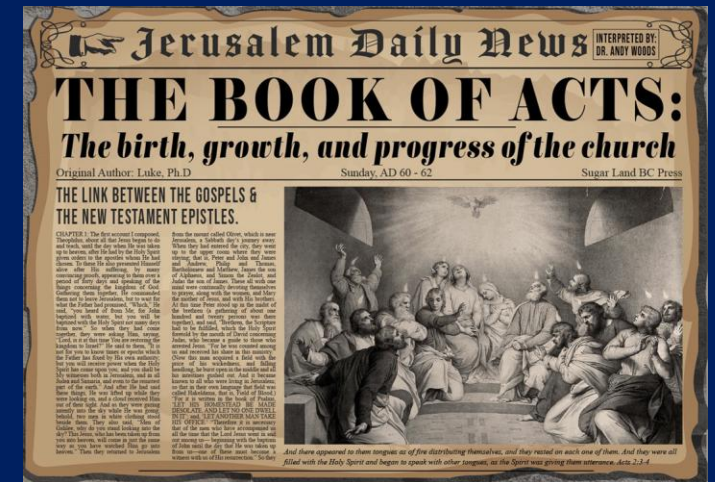


II. Benevolence of the Church

Acts 11:27-30

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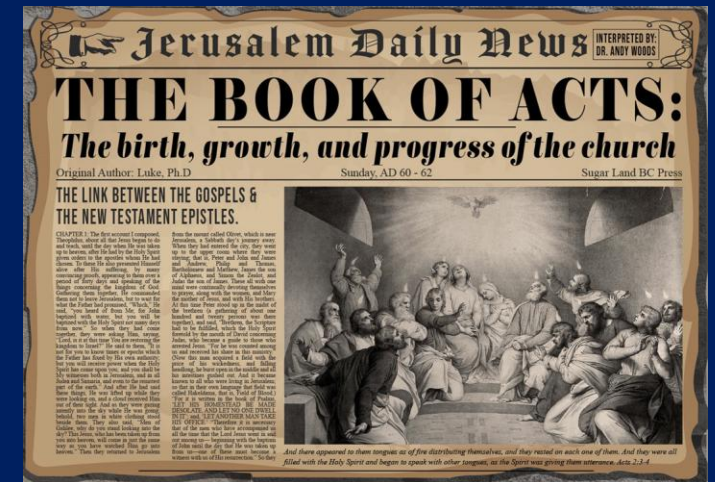
B. Relief fund (29-30)



B. Acts 11:29-30

Relief Fund

1. Money collected (29)
2. Money sent (30)

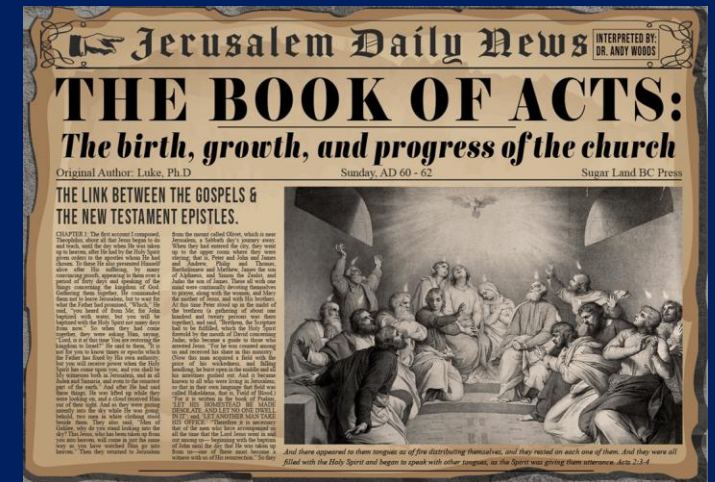


B. Acts 11:29-30

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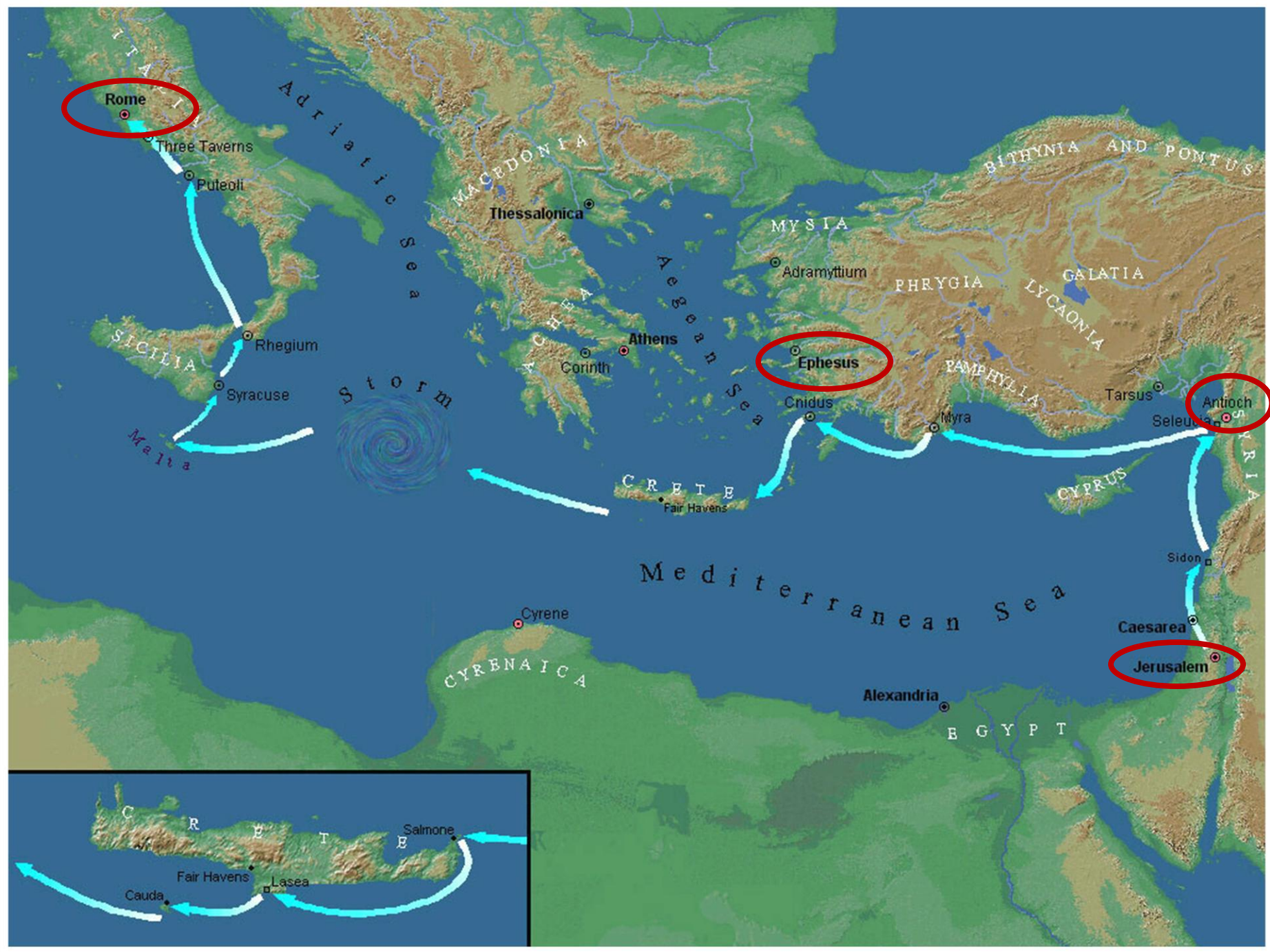
2. Money sent (30)



Activities of the Local Church

(Acts 2:41-47)

- Doctrine (Acts 2:42)
- Ordinances (Acts 2:41-42, 46)
- Prayer (Acts 2:42)
- Evangelism (Acts 2:47)
- Worship (Acts 2:47)
- Benevolence (Acts 2:44-45)
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42, 46-47)



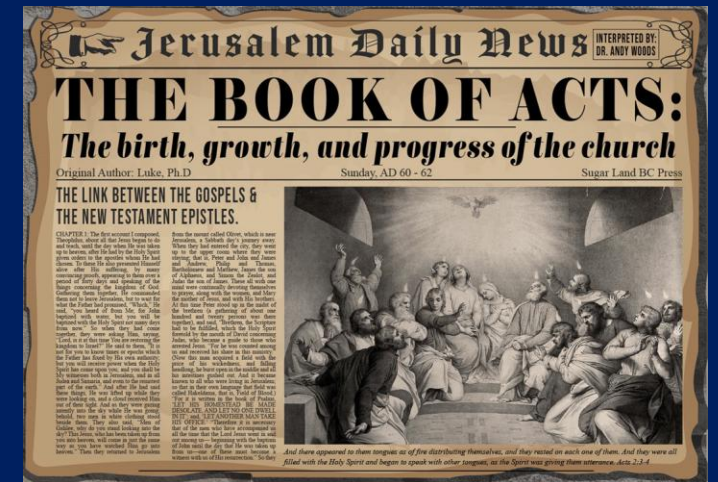


B. Acts 11:29-30

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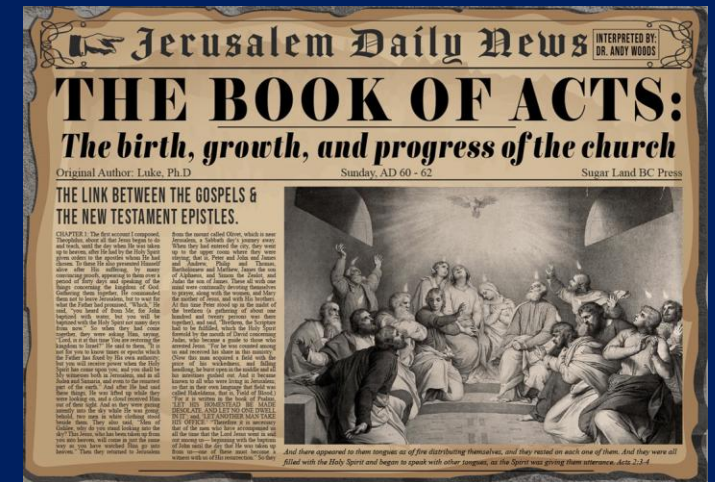
2. Acts 11:30

Money Sent

a) Saul (30a)

b) Barnabas (30b)

c) Elders (30c)



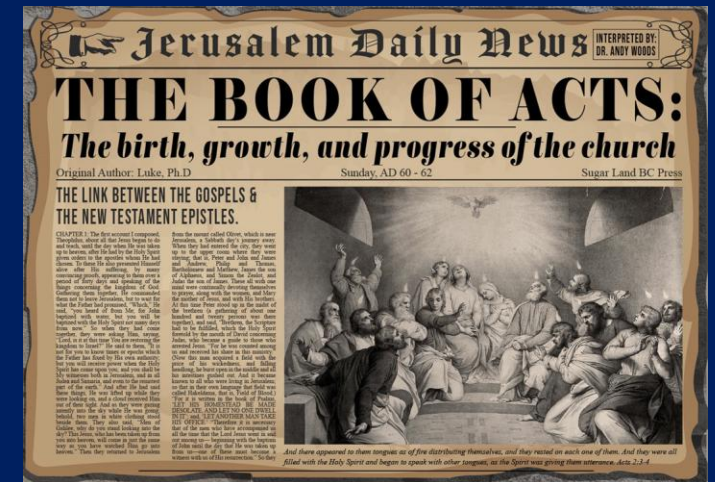
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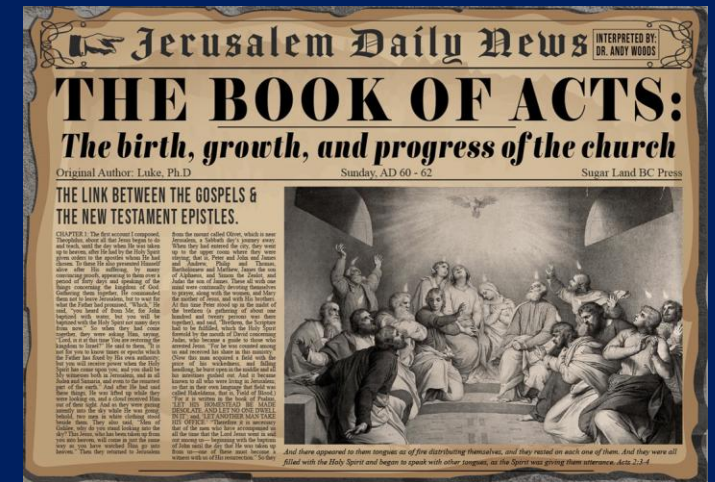
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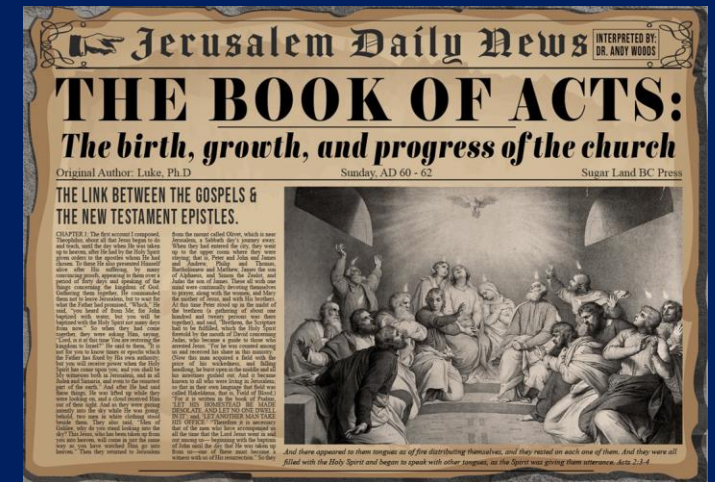
2. Acts 11:30

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Local Church Government

1. Episcopalian / bishop rule – Acts 15:2, 6
2. Congregational rule – Acts 6:1-7
3. Presbyterian / elder rule – Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 5:17; 4:14

Ephesians 2:20

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*.”



Conclusion

Acts 11:19-30

The Church at Antioch

- I. Development of the Church (11:19-26)
- II. Benevolence of the Church (Acts 11:27-30)

