

Acts Chapter 1

Love Others and Please Jesus

Introduction:

- **Date:** 60-65 AD covers period of over 30 years
- **Acts:** Acts of the Holy Spirit
- Holy Spirit referred to over 50X in Book of Acts in 3 different ways:
 1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 2. Filled with the Holy Spirit
 3. Led by the Holy Spirit
- **Author:** Luke; only Gentile writer in Bible, a doctor
- 5th Gospel continues narrative from Book of Luke; physician/companion of Paul
- Luke joins Paul in Acts 16:19 as pronoun "they" changed to "we"

Acts 16:10 ... **we sought** to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- **Acts:** Bridge between the Gospels and Epistles

"Acts gives the history of the founding of the churches to which the Epistles are directed"
[Romans- Jude]

- Last Recorded fact about Jesus in each Gospel is found in **First Chapter of Acts**
 1. **Matthew:** Resurrection
 2. **Mark:** Ascension
 3. **Luke:** Promise of Holy Spirit
 4. **John:** Second Coming

All of these last facts in the Gospels are recorded in the First Chapter of Acts!

"It is as if the four gospels had been poured into a funnel, and they come down into this jug of the first chapter of the Book of Acts." [JVM]

- Great commission confirmed in Book of Acts: Go into all earth and preach the Gospel
- Focus on Two men of God: Peter and Paul..
 1. Peter to Jews
 2. Paul to Gentiles
- Records beginning of the Church; i.e. the Bride of Christ

John 19:34 ...one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

- Not complete history of Church at this time [e.g. Strong church Egypt established]
- Theme of the Book of Acts:

Acts 1:8 [I am leaving]...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." [Which gives a...]

- **Natural Division of Book of Acts**

1. Chapters 1-7: Jesus work through the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem
2. Chapters 8-12: Jesus work through the Holy Spirit in Judea and Samaria
3. Chapters 13-28: Jesus work through the Holy Spirit...Uttermost parts of earth

I. Prologue: Opening

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

- **Luke writing to Theophilus:**
 1. "God-Lover"
 2. Roman official of High Rank [Most Excellent]
 3. Man who Luke to previously
- **"Former account" is Book of Luke:**
 1. Jesus Birth to His Ascension
 2. What Jesus BEGAN to do and teach

Luke 1:1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. [Theophilus a believer!]

- Presented alive w/ infallible proofs; e.g. seen by over 500 in 1 Cor 15:6
- For 40 Days after the resurrection Jesus was instructing what to do when He leaves...

...speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

- Same as He had taught

II. The Holy Spirit Promised

- 40th Days after resurrection Jesus would Ascend to the Father:

John 20:17 Jesus said to [Mary], "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

- Before returning to Heaven Jesus would give followers instruction:

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me..."

- **Trinity:** Jesus told them...wait for the Spirit...promised by the Father
- **Assembled together He commanded:**

Wait

1. Do not leave Jerusalem
2. Wait for the "Promise of the Father" which I told you about

I am leaving for a while...but I will not leave you alone...

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

- Ministry would not be effective without the power of the Holy Spirit!
- Jesus was in one place at one time; Spirit would be omnipresent

5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

- **Baptize:** To Immerse
1. **John Baptized with water:** Ritual Baptism

"... [Baptism of] repentance, not necessarily faith unto salvation. John's message pointed to Jesus, but did not take men there itself.

2. **Soon you will be Baptized with the Holy Spirit:** Real Baptism [Later]

Wait and Power Up

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

- **Israel still under Roman rule**
 - **Restoration Prophesied in OT**
1. 100 year old seem young
 2. Animals tame
 3. Earth completely changed from Tribulation
 4. Israel borders changed
 5. David Prince
 6. Jesus King

- 7. Apostles ruling and reigning!
- 8. Devil bound

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."

Not for another 2000 years at least kids!

- **Focus on the NOW...**

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- But...Work in the Now as we Hope for the future....get busy
- Baptized with Holy Spirit explained: **Power**

Get's Exciting...

- 1. Holy Spirit will "come upon you"
 - 2. Receive Power to...
 - 3. ...be My witnesses
 - 4. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Ends of Earth
- Last Words of Jesus earthly ministry

Wait, Power Up and be My Witnesses

Notice that this really isn't a command; it is a simple statement of fact: When the Holy Spirit has come upon you ... you shall be witnesses of Me. The words shall be are in the indicative, not the imperative. Jesus wasn't recommending that they become witnesses, He was saying they would be witnesses. [Guzic]

- You will be My witnesses: Witnesses of Jesus are witnesses of Jehovah

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," says the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

When were the Disciples Saved?

- **2 Schools of thought:**
 - 1. Baptism with the Holy Spirit occurs at Salvation
 - 2. Second experience and sometimes at Salvation
- **Notice:** The disciples Salvation preceded the awaited Baptism w/Holy Spirit

John 20:21 ...Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive

the Holy Spirit. [Believed resurrection and Jesus as Lord]

- These same believers were told to wait to be “baptized” in the Holy Spirit
- For sure: **We are “sealed” with the Spirit the moment we believe the Gospel**

Ephesians 1:13...having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

- Baptism with Spirit [Power to be witnesses] may or may not occur at Salvation
- May be a second experience [Power to be witnesses] 2 examples in Acts
- **Personal experience:** Empowered to speak [Aunt Barbara]

Less complicated when we realize purpose of Baptism with the Holy Spirit:

To be a witness of Jesus

III. Jesus Ascends to Heaven

Luke 24:50.” [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

- **Bethany:** Mount of Olives

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, **two men** stood by them in white apparel...

- Taken up in a cloud [later]

“...with the ascension, Jesus wanted His followers to know that He was gone for good, as opposed to the way He appeared and reappeared during the forty days after the resurrection. [Guzic]

John 16:7 ... 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 depart, I will send Him to you.

- Two men in White Clothing

Angels or...Moses and Elijah?

Luke 9:30 [Peter, James and John see Jesus brighter than the sun!...]...behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, 31 who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- Moses and Elijah talk to Jesus about His...Departure/Death in Jerusalem...

Matthew 25:51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves

after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Cloud Received Him? Rain Cloud?

- **Hebrews 11:** Hall of Faith; Super duper Saints: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc....

Hebrews 11:39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. [No chapter break]

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so **great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us

- Where did the resurrected Saints go for 40 days? Where did Moses and Elijah go?
- Was the cloud that received Jesus a "Great cloud of witnesses?"

11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

- Why are you staring into the sky?
- Jesus will come back in "the same manner" as He left:
 1. Jesus left and will come back **In a Cloud** [Shekinah Glory] or witnesses?
 - Before 2nd coming He will take His bride to be with Him
 - a) 7 Year wedding in heaven at the same time...
 - b) 7 Year Tribulation on earth. After Tribulation...
 - c) 2nd coming bringing us with Him! Judge of the earth

Jude 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with **ten thousands of His saints...**

1 Thessalonians 3:13 [May Jesus]... establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ **with all His saints.**

Revelation 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. [Jesus will come back in a cloud]

2. Jesus left and will come back on **Mount of Olives**

Zechariah 14:3 Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley

3. Jesus left and will come back as **Men stare into Sky crying...**

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

SUMMARY:

1. **Prologue:** Continuation of Luke written to/for Theophilus; Lover of God
2. **Holy Spirit Promised:** After resurrecting Jesus ministers for 40 days. Promises Holy Spirit; a Helper to give power and come alongside and finish His work through the Church on earth.

Wait to be Empowered by the Spirit!

3. **Jesus Ascends:** Promise of Second coming by Men in White

Where and Why did Jesus Go?

John 13:33 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- I'm going away and you cannot come...yet
- Love one another and they will know you know Me

36 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward."

- Can't follow Me now...you shall follow Me afterward!
- Where are You going!!!!!!

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

- I go to build you an Eternal home
- If I go to build you a home...I will come and get you; receive you to Myself; Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. [Doesn't touch earth Rapture/2nd Coming splits Mt Olives!]

- **You know the Way:** I am the Way, Truth and Life

Work in the NOW waiting for and motivated by our Blessed Hope of the Future

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching

us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

IV. Wait

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

- After instructions to Wait
- Jesus ascends to heaven from Bethany [Mt. of Olives]
- Large group heads for Jerusalem to...

Wait for the Promise of the Father

- **Mt of Olives to Jerusalem:** Sabbath day journey

The distance of the Sabbath day's journey is from 1,000 to 1,200 yards [2,000 cubits]. The rabbis, however, invented a way of increasing this distance without technically infringing the Law, by depositing some food at the 2,000-cubit limit, [a day] before the Sabbath, and declaring that spot a *temporary domicile*. They might then proceed 2,000 cubits from this point without transgressing the Law.

- 120 Disciples go to Jerusalem

13 And when they had entered [Jerusalem], they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- Arriving in Jerusalem go to the Upper Room...“where they had been staying”
 1. Possibly same upper room as Last Supper
- Disciples **in one accord**: Lit. one mind/one passion

As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.

- One accord Continued in **Prayer and Supplication**:

Psalm 133 David [Psalm of ascents walking to the Temple together] Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.

- **Precious Oil:** Fragrance of Jesus

Exodus 30:22 ... Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 23 "...take for yourself quality spices—five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane, 24 five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. 25 And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a **holy anointing oil**.

Penalty for copying the recipe: Death: No substitute for Jesus

- **Upper Room they Continued in:**

1. **Prayer:** Communication with God
2. **Supplication:** Seeking/Asking/Entreating God for a need

- **Worship:** Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- **Your Will be done:** Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Supplication:** Give us this day our daily bread.
- **Confession:** Forgive us our debts As we forgive our debtors.
- **God's Leading:** Do not lead us into temptation
- **God's Deliverance:** Deliver us from the evil one.
- **Focus on God:** Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUMMARY: He told them not to leave **but to wait**. Obedient to the command of Jesus. Beautiful Fellowship with Jesus and each other.

V. God's Timing

Acts 1:4 ...being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,

- **In those days: 10 Days** after Jesus ascends; waiting for the Spirit

Is God's Timing is Important to God's Plan?

- **Jesus:** Not yet My time
 1. **Crucifixion:** Jewish Feast of Passover
 2. **Resurrection:** Jewish Feast of First fruits
 3. **Instruction:** 40 more days then ascension
 4. **10 Days of waiting**
 5. Feast of Pentecost 50 days after Resurrection [Holy Spirit empowers]

God's Timing is Important to God's Plan!

- **In those days Peter stood up:**
- **Peter takes the lead:** Feed my sheep
- 120 Total Disciples:
 1. 11 Disciples
 2. Jesus mother Mary
 3. Jesus brothers James and Jude
 4. Women that followed Jesus
 5. Others disciples make up 120

16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

- **Peter: Scripture [Prophecy] must be fulfilled**
 1. Judas a guide to those who arrested Jesus
 2. Numbered with the Apostles
 3. Obtained a part of the Ministry with us
- **Numbered with us/part in this ministry? What happened?**

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for **if they had been of us, they would have continued with us;** but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

1 Timothy 1:19 ...some have [rejected] the faith [and] have **suffered shipwreck...**

2 Timothy 4:10...[End of Paul's life] Demas has forsaken me, having **loved this present world,** and has departed for Thessalonica

- **Preciously Paul of Demas:** Demas says hello/My fellow laborer [Paul dooped]
- **Well done good and faithful servant!**
- **Some will taste goodness/benefits of Christ** and slide back into filth

2 Peter 2:20 [If] after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them

not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." [Tasted that the Lord is good but fall away]

- Judas was Numbered with us/Ministry with us/Fell away from us [Christ]

18 (Now [Judas] purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. 19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. "And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called the **Field of Blood** to this day.9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

- **Field of Blood:** Did he hang self or guts burst open: Easy answer
 1. Righteous Priests refuse take back Blood money paid to betray Jesus
 2. Judas hung self on a cliff overlooking potters field
 3. Rope broke, fell onto broken pottery...entrails gushed out [Satan laughs]
- Peter continues...

20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate,And let no one live in it'; and,'Let another take his office.

- **Prophecy:** Betrayer must be replaced [Davidic Psalms 69 and 109]

Right thing...Wrong Time...altogether Wrong

- He told them to wait...just wait
- Peter continues...but should have stopped/ waited on God

21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

- **Paraphrase:** One of these "must become the 12th Apostle?"

- **Paraphrase: We need to fix this:** Most Dangerous motivations of Church
- **4 Qualifications of Apostle:**
 1. **Seen risen Christ:** To be legitimate witness to others
 2. **Called/commissioned by risen Lord directly:** John 20:21 and Acts 26:15-18
 3. **Received the Gospel from Christ Himself**
 4. **Perform Signs/Miracles to validate Apostleship**

SUMMARY: We need number 12...yes. We need him now...no. He told them to wait

VI. Moving Ahead without God

23 And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

- **Barsabas and Matthias**

24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

- Which one of these two since Judas is not around?

26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Here is a faithful saying: Matthias was probably a very nice man...

...but he was not God's chosen 12th Apostle

Revelation 21:14 ... the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

What if God wanted to wait in order to show His immense, colossal, massive, titanic, incalculable, unfathomable **Grace by doing something the whole world would recognize as His work alone?**

**...choosing someone no one would ever think of as the 12th Apostle:
A Killer of His own beloved People...a guy named Paul**

1 Corinthians 15:7 After that [Jesus] was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the **least of the apostles**, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God **I am what I am...**

- **Writer 2/3rd of NT**
- **Greatest preachers of all time**
- **The 12th Apostle Paul:**

1. **Seen risen Christ:** To be legitimate witness to others

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

2. **Called/commissioned by risen Lord directly:** John 20/Acts 26

3. **Received the Gospel from Christ Himself**

Galatians 1:11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. **Perform Signs/Miracles to validate Apostleship**

SUMMARY:

- Told to wait
- Waited
- Realized a need/backed it up with Scripture
- God said wait...

What did Jesus say...Wait...I got a guy! Paul

1. No mention of Matthias ever...
 2. Matthias later confused when Paul enters. Wife not sure what to tell friends
 3. Peter's credibility may have been questioned
- God shows His grace in early Church but it is a very, very dangerous motivation to act upon...

"We need to fix this"

Exodus 33:15 Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

Abraham:

1. **Abram:** Exalted Father

2. Lived in City of Ur [Iraq] 70 Years
3. Family move to Haran
4. **75:** God "Leave Haran and go to Canaan" [Land of Promise]
5. God promises Abram/wife Sarai will no longer be barren. Child heir
6. Wait...wait...wait...10 years after God's promise...

Sarah: We need to fix this

7. **85:** Sarah offers Egyptian servant to Abraham
8. **86:** Ismael is born...

Genesis 15:4 So [Abram] went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes. [Just the beginning of trouble]

- a. Descendant of Muslim Nations and of Mohamad Himself

Genesis 16:11 "Behold, you *are* with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction.¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand *shall be* against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

9. 99: Name changed to Abraham "Father of a Multitude"
10. 15 years after Abraham and Sarah "tried to fix" things...
11. **100/91: Isaac is born:** Laughter [God's Heart]

What if God wanted to show his immense, colossal, massive, titanic, incalculable, unfathomable Grace by doing something the whole world would recognize as His work alone? [God said wait]

Joseph:

1. 2 Dreams: God will raise me up and people will bow to me [Going good now]
2. Tells brothers/Father...not impressed
3. God's promise: I will raise you up. God's timing...unknown
4. Jealous brothers strip him. Dip coat in blood of animal. Throw into a pit.
5. Sell to Ishmaelites to be slave
6. Ends up in house of Pharaoh's official ...Potiphar's. [Things going well now]
7. Seduced by Potiphar's wife...flees leaving robe in her hand
8. False accusation. Thrown in Jail
9. Meets two guy Pharaoh put in prison [Butler and Baker]
10. Interprets dreams [Butlers head lifted up/Bakers head lifted off]
11. "When you get out remember me to pharaoh" [Things going well now]
12. Butler forgets about Joseph until pharaoh has a dream and then remembers
13. Oh yah...Joseph interprets dreams. Get Joseph. Interprets Pharaoh's dreams
14. 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine
15. Joseph put over all Egypt 2nd only to Pharaoh. In charge of food; i.e. life/death
16. Father Jacob and family move to Egypt and Joseph is blessed beyond measure

- Waited patiently on the Lord he trusted. Trusted God's word and timing
- Did not get discouraged waited through trial/ unmoved
- Did not get bitter at God/man though prison/false accusations
- No regret as he was faithful in the Valley...did not rebel as he waited on God
- Joseph knew God was intimately involved in his life, both in the valley and on the mountain tops...

Isaiah 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God"?²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.²⁹ He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,³¹ But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

What if God wanted to show his immense, colossal, massive, titanic, incalculable, unfathomable Grace by doing something the whole world could only recognize as His work alone?