

ACTS CHAPTER 1

A Few Bullet Points:

Understanding the book of Acts is Paramount, if we are going to understand the Gospel message of our Messiah. The concepts that we will be introduced to in the book of Acts are numerous.

We will be introduced to act of **Baptism**, The Holy Spirit, The **Obedience of Faith**, , we'll be **introduced to Paul** and the many **different audiences that he had**, The **Circumcision Group**, the **Gnostic's**, and **witchcraft**, **astrology**, and so on. We'll be **introduced to James** and the **Jerusalem council**, And the **fulfillment of so many of the prophecies** that were written about long ago in the Torah, and the Tanakh and so much more.

If we misunderstand one... of these concepts... we will be far off the mark when it comes to properly understanding the rest of the New Testament writings, and the very foundation of the Gospel message that our Messiah fought and died... to deliver to us.

- **Paul's teachings are bar none... the greatest influence in today's modern day version of Christianity.**

The following is a breakdown of the letters Paul wrote and the possible time frames in which he wrote them:

- **SHOW SLIDE HERE**

Galatians (AD 47)

1 and 2 Thessalonians (AD 59—51)

1 and 2 Corinthians and Romans (AD 52—56)

Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians (AD 60—62, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment)

1 Timothy and Titus (AD 62)

2 Timothy (AD 63—64, during Paul's second Roman imprisonment)

Thats 13 books, out of the 27 books of the New Testament!

And even though Paul did not write the book of Luke, or the book of Acts, both books include important historical facts concerning his historical background, and unique qualifications, and they explain how it was that he became an Apostle, and why.

So in the end we find that **almost two thirds of the New Testament** was either

written directly by Paul or were about Paul, and his teachings.

- We will see through the book of the Acts of the Apostles that **Paul did not have the final word on matters concerning the Gospel...** and we'll see this as we move through the 15th Chapter, and we hear James, the brother of Yahshua, who was the head of the Jerusalem Council making a judgment and putting forth a decree concerning the debate of circumcision.
- It's important to remember... that **PETER learned a the feet of Yahshua...** and it was indeed Paul who was the new comer.
- We also know from the writings of Peter in 2nd Peter 3:16... that **not everything that Paul said agreed exactly with what Peter heard Yahshua say.**

E2

2Pe 3:16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters.

There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which **the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction,** as they do the other Scriptures.

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

Most of today's modern day denominational charters of Christianity... do not understand the writings of the Apostle Paul because they... like Marcion of Synope... (who we've already discussed in the introduction)... do not take into consideration the Jewishness of Paul, and the fact that he was a Benjinite, by birth and a Pharisee himself.

And when we see Paul quoting scriptures we see him **quoting from the ancient Hebrew Mezoretic Texts,** and not so much **from the newer Septuagint.** And so once again this points to the deep rooted Jewishness of Paul and who he was as a person. And this is extremely important when trying to understand what Paul was saying to each of his many different audiences.

- People who had **never heard the Gospel message** and who have never understood the Torah, or the customs, laws, precepts, and commandments handed down by Yahweh our Elohim... they were completely new..
- There were people like the Pharisees and Scribes who on the other side of the coin were **well entrenched in the Torah...** (also known as the law by the way), and they knew full well what it said. The problem is that they had over written the commandments, of Yahweh to suit themselves, and made up their own laws and traditions above and beyond the commandments of our Father, and this is why Yeahusa had the most contention for them, because through their laws they were actually leading people away from the simplicity, of what our Elohim has

commanded.

- There were people who were by blood... part of the “Lost Sheep Of Israel” who were part of the Northern Kingdom of Israel that was divorced from Yahweh and were in the process of being dispersed into the four corners of the Earth who had forgotten the Laws, commandments, precepts, and appointments, of their Elohim.
- And there were people who were previously into all kinds of wicked things, like Gnosticism, and Epicureanism, and Platonism, and worshiping Divisions, and Zeus, and the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars, and Astrology and all kinds of Hellenistic gods and goddesses.

Talk about the contention Yahshua had in Matthew 23, for the Pharisees and the Scribes and the commandment to do the Torah in Matthew 23:1-3

E3

Mat 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Much of today's modern day version of Christianity is in line with the way Marcion of Synope thought... that the Jewishness of Christianity should be all but forgotten and removed from the teachings of the Gospel of our Jewish Messiah.

So it's important for me as I teach this book not to allow us to be ignorant, or unstable, so that we twist the writings of Paul to our own destruction, as today's modern day churches have done.

And that we be careful not to led astray by “lawless people” and loose our own stability.

Now... around 400 AD John Chrysostom wrote a rather complete commentary on the book of Acts, and listen to what he says, again this is an early Christian Scholar around 400 AD:

SHOW SLIDE HERE:

“To many people this book (The Book of Acts), both its content and its author, is so little known that they are not even aware it exists. I have therefore taken this narrative for my subject, both to initiate those who are ignorant and so that such a treasure shall not remain hidden out of sight”.

So with this in mind... let us realize that even though the book of Acts was clearly written before Marcion of Synope in 140 AD.. it had almost become a lost book as

far as Christianity was concerned in Chrysostom's time in 400 AD.

And remember... the book of "Luke" and the "The Acts Of The Apostles" were originally one book called "History Of Christian Origins" before it was separated into two books.

Much of Christianity knew of the book of "Luke" but had almost forgotten the book of "Acts" and were already beginning to lose sight of the Jewish Paul, and were happy to convert him into the "Apostle To The Gentiles", leaving the true history of Paul's Jewishness behind to be forgotten.

QUESTION: Why do you suppose that in Constantine's time... they decided to separate these two books from each other in the Canon that we now have in today's "New Testament"? Was this done on purpose? ... Because I believe it was.

If they can paint Paul as a reformed Jew who is now preaching against the Jews, and is establishing a new "Gentile Church" in place of the Jews, then this puts them in control over the lay people and the believer's, and it gets rid of those nasty Jews that hung our Messiah on the cross you see. It's an act right out of Satan's play book.

READ ALL OF THE 1ST CHAPTER OF ACTS HERE

Now we have a lot to look at in this first chapter but the first thing right off that bat that we see is the name "Theophilus"

"Theophilus" is a Greek word which means "Friend of God" Some Scholars believe that "Theophilus" was just a salutation, while others believe it may have been someone who paid Luke to investigate and keep record of the events, which one.. one of these beliefs is true? ... We simply do not know.

Notice in **verse 2** how Luke already begins making the connection between Yahshua and the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit). Again who is mentioned more times in the book of Acts than in any other book in the Brit Hadasha (New Testament).

But **MAKE NO MISTAKE!** When Yahshua appeared to the Apostles he did not come in the form of a Ghost or spirit:

E4

Mat 28:8 And going away from the tomb quickly, with fear and great joy, they ran to report to His disciples.

Mat 28:9 But as they were going to report to His disciples, behold, Yahshua also met them, saying, Peace unto you! And coming near, they grabbed His feet and worshiped Him.

Move down to Matthew 28:16

Mat 28:16 But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mount where Yahshua appointed them.

Mat 28:17 And seeing Him, they worshiped Him. But some of them doubted.

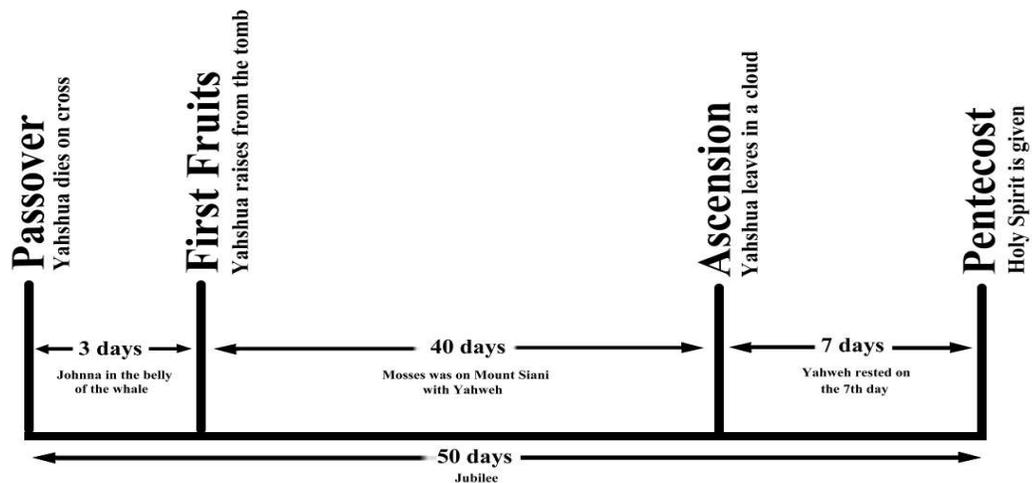
Mat 28:18 And coming up Yahshua talked with them, saying, All authority in Heaven and on earth was given to Me.

Mat 28:19 Then having gone, disciple all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son,

Mat 28:20 and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age. Amen.

Why was Yahshua with them for 40 days in verse 3? Where else do we see this 40 day period where Yahweh our Elohim spends 40 days with man? God instructed Moses on top of Mt. Sinai for 40 days, and now God (Yahshua) is instructing His disciples for 40 days.

SHOW CHART:



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E5

Mat 12:40 And even as "Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights," so shall the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. (Jon. 1:17)

Mosses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days having his mind opened by Yahweh our Elohim,

so he knew how to lead the Israelite's. And here we find our Messiah once again spending 40 days to open the minds of his Apostles so that they know how to lead his people once again.

Pentecost is not a new Christian holiday... Pentecost was always kept by the Israelites in commemoration **of the giving of the 10 commandments at Sinai**, so what we're seeing here is a type and shadow of what had happened thousands of years ago. Yahweh our Elohim gave his laws at Sinai, when he gave his laws to Moses and wrote his ten commandments in stone with his own finger.

Now... we find our Elohim returning thousands of years later to write his laws on our hearts and on our minds just as he prophesied that he would do in Jeremiah 31:31:

E6

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, says YAHWEH, that I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

Jer 31:32 not according to the covenant that I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt (which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was to be a husband to them, says YAHWEH).

*Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will cut with the house of Israel: After those days, declares YAHWEH, **I will put My Torah in their inward parts, and I will write it on their hearts;** and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.*

E7

Heb 10:15 And the Holy Spirit witnesses to us also. For after having said before,

*Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant which I will covenant to them after those days, says YAHWEH: **Giving My Torah on their hearts, and I will write them on their minds;**"*

Acts 1:5

First; the English word baptize comes from the Greek verb baptizeim, and it is a generic term that means to immerse.

The term was regularly used as it regards dying cloth; so a plain cloth is immersed into a vat of dye and it takes on the quality of that dye, which is to change the cloth to a certain color.

What does it mean to “Baptize” someone? Is “water” involved?

During the 2nd Temple period of Judaism... “baptism” was often used to purify ones

self, and this was often done at a “Mikva” which is like a small walk in hot tub with out the jets.. its just a small body of water where one would be immersed.

Jewish Mikveh



E8

Joh 3:5 Yahshua answered, Truly, truly I say to you, that if a man is not born from water and spirit, he is not able to enter into the kingdom of YAHWEH.

E9 ESV

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Act 2:40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

E0

Act 8:35 And Phillip opening his mouth, began to preach from this scripture concerning our Master Yahshua.

Act 8:36 And as they were going along the highway they came on some water. And that faithful one said, Behold, water! What prevents me to be baptized?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If you believe from all the heart, it is lawful. And answering he said, I believe Yahshua Messiah to be the Son of YAHWEH.

Act 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both went down into the water; both Philip and that faithful one and he baptized him.

Act 8:39 But *when they came up out of the water*, the Spirit of YAHWEH caught away Philip. And that faithful one did not see him any more; for he went his way rejoicing.

It was always known throughout Judaism that if one was not ritually pure, one could not be used of Yahweh our Elohim. So for one to become ritually pure a Mikveh was used to completely immerse that person, and again... we find that this in itself... was a shadow of things to come.

Being immersed into water signifies the death of the flesh, and going down into the grave just as our Messiah did, and raising up out of the water resurrected as a new being, committed to walking in the way of our Messiah.

With this spirit comes... power! To do.. what he did, to follow him, to find that narrow path and to stay on it.

1Jn 5:3 *For this is the love of YAHWEH*, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not a burden to us.

1Jn 2:3 *And by this we know that we have known Him, if we keep His commandments.*

1Jn 2:4 *The one saying, I have known Him, and not keeping His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in that one.*

1Jn 2:5 *But whoever keeps His Word, truly in this one the love of YAHWEH has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.*

ESV:

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

Joh 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Now before we move on, let me be perfectly clear... baptism IS NOT OPTIONAL... IT IS COMMANDED BY OUR MESSIAH. Even though it is symbolic in nature, it is indeed commanded.

Joh 3:5 Yahshua answered, Truly, truly I say to you, that if a man is not born from water and spirit, he is not able to enter into the kingdom of YAHWEH.

If you have not been baptized and born again in both the water and the spirit then you have not, and are not grafted into the family of Yahweh God the Father, and you can not enter into the kingdom of Heaven according to.. our Messiah Yahshua HaMashiach Jesus Christ.

This is not the first time that we hear of the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit):

Num 11:24 And Moses went out and spoke to the people the words of YAHWEH and gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and caused them to stand around the tabernacle.

*Num 11:25 And YAHWEH came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and **set apart of the spirit which was on him,** and put it on the seventy men of the elders. And it happened, as **the spirit rested on them,** that they prophesied, **but they did not continue.***

*Num 11:26 And two of the men were left in the camp, the name of the one being Eldad, and the name of the second Medad; and **the spirit rested on them,** and they were among those written, but did not go out to the tabernacle. And they prophesied in the camp.*

The first Mediator was Moses, and it was on his 70 elders that the Ruach or the Holy Spirit rested, but it was short lived, and did not dwell with in them, it simply rested on them.

Once again my friends we see **the fulfillment of the Torah being fulfilled in the rest of the Testament,** (aka the New Testament).

Now I want us to notice something else in Acts 1:6

*Act 1:6 Then, indeed, coming together they questioned Him, saying, Master, **do You restore the kingdom to Israel at this time?***

You see the Apostles **were waiting for a Messiah who was prophesied to come from the house of David** who would restore the kingdom back to Yahweh our Elohim and rescue **them from the Roman Empire.**

And they knew that it was only **through Davids son Solomon that this Messiah could come,** and they knew that Yahshua was part of that blood line, and so they were anxious about when the time for a revolt would come, thinking that Yahshua was their to lead them to freedom from the Roman Empire.

Yahshua knew that his mission was not complete as of yet... he had to complete his work on the cross in order to join the two sticks of Esekial back into one stick in the hand of Yahweh our Elohim, and to save the "Lost Sheep of Israel" so that they could once again come back to her groom, and be married back to Yahweh and to once again and to make the "Olive Tree" whole as one tree, one body that the rest of the nations of the world could be grafted into.

We who read and study the scripture know and understand that Jerusalem will be the new Kingdom of Yahweh our Elohim it will be the new Heaven if you will and it will be the capitol of the World where he will rule and reign from, and that time is closer now... than when we first believed my friends. The new Testament is still in progress as we speak.

So just as our Messiah instructed his Apostles back in his day... we need to carry on the work of expanding the coming kingdom, and yes we will hear of wars and rumorse of wars and see kingdoms rising against kingdoms, and we will see famines, and plagues, and all of these things, but we need not let these things hinder us from doing our work.

We are told in the 12 chapter of Luke in the 56th verse not to be hypocrites that can not interpret the times in which we live in, we are told in

1Th 5:2 For you yourselves know accurately that the day of YAHWEH comes as a thief in the night.

1Th 5:3 For when they say, Peace and safety! Then suddenly destruction comes upon them, like the travail to the woman with child, and not at all shall they escape.

1Th 5:4 But you, brethren,, are not in darkness, that the Day should overtake you as a thief.

GUARD THE FAITH!

1Ti 6:20 O Timothy, be careful of that which is committed to thee; and shun vain words, and the perversion of false science:

1Ti 6:21 for those professing this have missed the mark concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

1Co 16:13 Watch! Stand fast in the faith! Be valiant! Be strong!

1Co 16:14 Let all your things be in love.

Jud 1:3 Having made all haste to write to you about the common salvation, beloved, I had need to write to you to exhort you to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Jud 1:4 For certain men stole in, those of old having been written before to this condemnation, wicked ones perverting the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and denying the only Sovereign Elohim, and our Master Yahshua Messiah.

Are we guarding the faith? Are we contending for the faith? Do we understand the biblical definition of the “obedience of faith”?

IN CLOSING:

Mat 13:13 Because of this, I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mat 13:14 And the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled on them, which says, "In hearing you will hear and in no way understand, and seeing you will see yet in no way perceive.

Mat 13:15 For hardened is the heart of this people, and with their ears they were hard of hearing, and their eyes are blinded that they should not see with their eyes and hear with their ears and should understand in their heart and return and I heal them. (Isa. 6:9, 10, Isa. 29:11)

Mat 13:16 But your eyes are blessed because they see; and your ears because they hear.

To be continued!