

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

The book of *Acts* gives the account of God's faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit's direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Admit Your Need! Acknowledge all the ways you need Christ.

Use the Gifts Christ Has Given You! He enabled the lame man to walk.
What has He enabled you to do? Use it to God's glory!

Praise the Lord! Recount the blessings He has showered on you.

Daniel—Series Overview

Holy Living in a Hostile World

The book of *Daniel* was written to console and motivate God's people during desperate times. It shows us how to live faithfully in the midst of a faithless world. It is a book-long treatment of Christ's command to be in the world but not of it (John 15:17). But the book of Daniel is far more than a "how-to" manual. It sets in context the whole flow of history. It shows that all of history is *His story*—the story of God's redeeming work for His people. From the horrific discipline of the exile to the horrors of the cross, God is sovereignly directing all human history for the redemption of His saints.



Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren

March 8th, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 3: 11 – 21

Time of Refreshing

1. Why Are We Surprised at God's Faithfulness (11-12, 14-15)?
2. Of Course God Is Doing What He Promised (13, 16-21).
3. He Has Promised to Restore All That Was Lost (18-21).
4. Christ Is Our Refreshing (16-21).

The man born lame that we saw healed and brought near to God in the temple last week, we now find clinging to those who brought him to Christ. All those who saw it were astounded and mistakenly credited the apostles with this supernatural wonder. But Peter points out that foolishness is from the same root that drove them to reject Christ and murder the very Savior who had come to deliver them from their ignorance. However, all is not lost. If they would repent and turn away from their sinful arrogance, *their sins could be blotted out in Christ*. So too can ours.

Evening Service:

Daniel 2: 27 – 49

Kingdoms to Come

1. First, a Word About Prophetic Images.
2. What Is the Significance of the Kingdoms in the Vision?
3. Jesus (Rock) Decimates Earthly Kingdoms to Establish His Own.

The King of Heaven has raised up Nebuchadnezzar as king of Babylon to serve His own purposes safeguarding His people. He will likewise raise up kings of Persia, Greece, and Rome in His timing and for His purpose. All these kingdoms will pass away, but His eternal Kingdom will remain forever. Christ, Himself, will accomplish it. Praise the King of Heaven!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God's promise to rescue us from all our sin and rebellion against Him and to restore all things has echoed over and over again through the ages. Yet it still shocks us. Run to Christ this week with all your doubts and disbelief. Gaze afresh at the glory of God in Christ who is faithful.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ.

Sunday AM

READ **Acts 3:11-21; First Peter 5:6-11**. DISCUSS, How does this man's healing demonstrate Christ's mercy? How is Christ faithful to His promise to the Church? What did his resurrection, ascension, and pouring out the Spirit accomplish? PRAY for God to bring us renewal as individuals, as families, as a congregation. Ask the Lord to renew us.

Sunday PM

READ **Daniel 2:27-49; First Timothy 5:11-16**. How has God revealed Himself? PRAISE God for making Himself known to us.

Monday

READ **Acts 3:11-21; Luke 8:22-25**. DISCUSS, Why do we marvel at God doing what He alone can do? What specific disbelief are you struggling with today? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends, & family, asking God to show them His power in Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 3:11-21; Deuteronomy 7:6-11**. DISCUSS, What should we know (v. 9)? What happens when we forget this or disbelieve it? MEDITATE on Christ's faithfulness. REJOICE in Christ's steadfast love. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for making us Your holy people based on Your faithfulness and not ours. Make us faithful too."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 3:11-21; 15:12-21**. DISCUSS, The Apostles refer back to the promise of God to understand His work among both Jews and Gentiles. What has been made known from of old? How are you waiting for that reality? PRAY, "Lord, You have been faithful, brought us near, and made us Your own. We praise You!"

Thursday

READ **Acts 3:11-21; First Peter 5:10**. DISCUSS, What has Jesus come to restore? How? Why are we surprised? REJOICE in the restoration that Jesus provided us. PRAY, "Lord, enable us to praise You and follow Your Holy Spirit's leading as we await Your return."

Friday

READ **Acts 3:11-21**. How has God been teaching you from this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us outside, but brought us near to Him! PRAY for our neighbors to know God and themselves as they truly are and so run to Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 3:12-26**. Invite others to come with you to worship tomorrow. Pray for God's glory to be shown through us as we extend His grace and celebrate it together.

First Peter 5: 6 – 11

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, *will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you*. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.