

Unit 9, Lesson 40, Acts 1:1-8:4, James

Daily Readings:

Day 1: Acts 1 & 2

Day 2: Acts 3 & 4

Day 3: Acts 5 & 6

Day 4: Acts 7:1-8:4

Day 5: James 1 & 2

Day 6: James 3 & 4

Day 7: James 5

INTRO , ACTS

Not really the Acts of *all* or even *most* of the apostles, author Luke centers on Peter (1-12) and Paul (13-28). Luke was a close travelling companion of Paul, with easy access to other apostles and the records needed.

Written about 62 AD, just before Paul stands before Caesar. There is no hint of a persecution under Nero, Paul's death, or destruction of Jerusalem, all of which happened in the years after 62.

As to JESUS, He is everywhere in the book, the preached message of Peter and Paul, the living force behind the early Church. There is no other Name given but His whereby men are saved, 4:12.

1:1-8:4: AD 33-35, the original Jerusalem Church, featuring Peter, John, and deacon Stephen, up until the Jewish (Pauline) persecution begins.

QUESTIONS, ACTS

1. What was "the Promise of the Father" ?(1:4) _____
 2. What was the disciples' last request? (1:6)_____
 3. Their quest for authority is filled by what?(1:8) _____
 4. What is the difference between Luke's and Matthew's list of apostles?(1:13, Matthew 10:2-4)_____
 5. What was the first job of the disciples?(1:15-26) _____
 6. Was Matthias a valid apostle?(1:15-26)_____
- note: "casting of lots" used often in OT, eg Aaron, Joshua, Saul. Exact nature of lot unknown, but similar to drawing straws or casting dice. Necessary in early days of revelation periods only.*
7. Compare Pentecost to Babel. (2:6, Genesis 11:7) _____

8. What *seemed* to be the disciples' problem on the day of Pentecost?(2:13)_____
9. Are we in the last days?Explain.(2:17)_____
10. What is one purpose of signs and wonders?(2:22)_____
11. What point does Peter make of the death of David?(2:25-32)_____
12. What is one of the first visible signs that someone has received the Word of God?(2:41)_____
13. Describe the lifestyle of the early church.(2:42-47)_____
14. Were the apostles rich?(3:6)_____
15. How was Peter's faith demonstrated after he proclaimed the lame man whole?(3:7)_____
16. The miracle was an open door to do what? (3:12-26)_____
17. What 2 results from the preaching of chapter 3?(4:1-4)_____
18. What difference in the Peter of Acts from the Peter of the Gospels?(4:8)_____
19. What dilemma did the Jewish rulers have?(4:16, 21)_____
20. When is civil disobedience justified?(4:19,20)_____
21. How were the needs of the early church met?(4:32-37)_____
22. Why were Ananias and Sapphira struck?(5:2,8,9)_____
23. Does this chapter teach communism?Capital punishment in the church?Explain._____
24. How was the ministry of the early church a continuation of the ministry of Jesus?(5:15,16)_____
25. What are some reasons the apostles keep running into Jewish opposition?(4:7,5:17, 5:28)_____
26. What was Gamaliel's wisdom regarding persecution?(5:34-39)_____
27. How did early disciples react to persecution?(5:40-42)_____
28. Why were 7 special servants chosen?(6:1-8)_____

note: "Hellenists" were Greek-speaking Jews, and were not fully accepted by the "pure" Hebrew-speaking ones.

29. What were the charges against servant (deacon) Stephen?(6:11,13,14)_____

30. Are "deacons" a second order of hierarchy, or 2nd class citizens of the Kingdom? (watch Stephen!)_____

31. List all the OT characters that Stephen mentions. (7 : 1 , 8 , 9 , 2 0 , 4 0 , 4 5 , 4 7)

32. Through which of the above men came the prediction of Christ?(7:37)_____

33. What is Stephen trying to prove through a Bible history lesson?(7:9,25,27,28,35,39-43,51-53)_____

34. Who may have been behind this whole incident? (7:58,8:1-3)_____

35. What motivated the church to obey the Great Commission?(8:1)_____

INTRO,JAMES

Theme: Works that show true faith.

Author: Which James? The apostle, and brother of John, was martyred in AD 44 (Acts 12:2). James the Lord's brother was a pillar of the church in Jerusalem (Galatians 1:19,2:9) who writes a letter in Acts 15:23-29, also. (See also Matthew 1:24,25; 13:55) Not converted until after resurrection (I Corinthians 15:7).

The book is very law-oriented, as a testimony to Jews, to whom it is addresses. There is stress on works, but as a proof of real faith. No Gentiles mentioned, hence probably first of the epistles, maybe even preceding the Gospels, as the "quotes" from Jesus do not match written records. Written in mid-40's AD. This James also martyred, in early 60's.

QUESTIONS. JAMES

1. What 2 types of tests does James see?(1:2-4,13-15)_____

note: in the Greek, "trials" and "temptations" are the same word, "pirasmos", a "putting to proof" But there seem to be two sources of tests in the Christian life.

2. What does "testing" do for us? (1:2-4)_____

3. What is true of our present "glory" and "lowliness"? (1:9-11)_____

4. Who is to be blamed for evil in our lives?(1:12-16)_____

5. What motivation is given for the stopping of sinful anger? (1 : 1 7 - 2 0)

6. In James' parable, what is the "mirror"?_____

7. What does "religion"(KJV) mean, and what is "true religion"? (1:26-27)_____

8. Is discrimination a sin?(2:1-9)_____

9. What do you think is the "law of liberty" that judges Christians?(1:25, 2:12,13)_____

10. Is James against Paul's later teaching about salvation by faith alone?(2:24 vs. Romans 3:28)

11. How does James *define* true faith?(2:14-26)

12. And what *aspect* of "faith" is James discussing in this section?(2:19)

13. Is it possible to have *true* faith without corresponding works?(2:26)_____

14. What man and what incident do both James and Paul use in proving their case? (Romans 4:3, James 2:23)_____

15. List all the pictures James paints of the tongue: (3 : 3 , 4 , 5 , 7 , 8 , 1 1 , 1 2)

16. How can you tell you have received Heaven's wisdom?(3:13-17)_____

17. Why do people fight?(3:18-4:5)_____

18. How can we walk with God?(4:6-10)

19. How should our plans be made?(4:13-16)_____

20. What is coming to the unrepentant rich?(5:1-6)

21. What two Old Testament examples of patience are cited?(5:10-11)_____

22. What Old Testament example of prayer is given? (5:14-18)_____

23. Why should we be diligent to warn the sinning church member? (5:19-20)_____