# Act 7 Expanding the New Community

• Acts 1:1-5

• Luke 1:1-4

#### **Structure**: Acts has really 4 main sections

- I. Chapter 1:1-6:7 Development of the Church in Jerusalem under Leadership of the 12
- II. Chapter 6:8-12:24 Expansion to Judea, Samaria & Gentile areas with ministry widening
- III. Chapter 12:25-19:20 Planned Geographical expansion into Asia Minor & Europe Paul
- IV. Chapter 19:21-28:31 The Word prevails even under Paul's persecution and arrest Paul

## The Acts of the Apostles More expanded structure:

- I. An Introduction to Acts (1:1-14)
- II. The Word in Jerusalem (1:15-6:7)
- III. The Word goes out from Jerusalem (6:8-9:31)
- IV. The Word Advances in Judea & Syria (9:32-12:25)
- V. The Word goes to Cyprus & Asia Minor (13:1-16:5)
- **VI.** The Word goes to Europe (16:6-18:22)
- VII. The Word in Ephesus: Climax of Paul's Mission as free man (18:23-20:38)
- VIII. Paul's Final Missionary Journey: To Jerusalem & Rome (21:1-28:31)

• Acts 1:1

"began to do and teach"

Acts 1:2-5

"clothed with power from on high"

#### Joel 2:28-32

"It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

"I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

"The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

"And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

His Words are coming true...

> FOR Israel

Through Israel to the World

<u>Is. 32:15</u> Until the <u>Spirit is poured out upon us</u> from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fertile field, And the fertile field is considered as a forest.

Ez. 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

Ez. 36:25-27 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

#### **Closing comments**:

1. Exile and the sin that caused it - God steps into and thru the Apostles and creates His Community of Believers



#### **Closing comments**:

- 1. Exile and the sin that caused it God steps into and thru the Apostles and creates His Community of Believers
- 2. The Book of Acts displays God's faithfulness to His promise to Abraham
- 3. Luke goes out of his way to show how lives like Paul's mirrored Jesus' life

## The Acts of the Apostles Closing comments:

- 1. 57 different occurrences of the noun PNEUMA = Spirit in Acts alone
  - Misunderstood their role in ministry
  - > They were afraid to be with Him...They were afraid to be w/out Him
  - They misunderstood His heart for them
  - They misinterpreted His abilities
  - > They had their own plans for Him
  - > And they left Him in His most difficult moments