

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Lk 24:44-47 - Review - God's purpose for nations as revealed in OT. Use us as *witnesses*. Historical unfolding of God's purposes for nations.
2. Commence survey of 1st part of Acts [Christopher Wright *Mission of God*]

**1st: God's Faithfulness to Israel**

1. Inclusion of temple - Zacharias 1:8-9: disciple - 24:52-53
2. Acts begins in temple - A 1:12 ends in Rome - A 28:14. According to prophecy. NCov is the climatic fulfillment of the story told in OT.
3. AbCov - *all the families of the earth will be blessed in you* - in Jesus. The church is "the climax of the history of Israel."

**2nd: Peter Preaches in the Temple**

1. The prophesied sequence is "to the Jew 1st & also to the Grk" - A 1:8 *witnesses* - expanding to include Gentiles
2. 1st 7 chpts of Acts located in Jerusalem w/ indicators of God's purposes for Gentile inclusion
3. A 1 - discs gather, replace Judas [Matthias] - waiting for promised HS
4. A 2 - Pentecost: HS given by exalted Christ. Internat'al - A 2:1-11
  - i. *every nation under heaven* [v5]; hear gospel *in language to wh/ they were born* [v8]. The judgment of Babel was being reversed.
  - ii. v11 *the mighty deeds of God* - Peter preaches from OT.
  - iii. Indict for murder of X & call to repentance. v37-38 promise forgiveness - Isa 44:1-6 *Servant*
  - iv. Result? church in Jerusalem - v41-47.
5. A 3 - healing - preaching of *witnesses* - AbCov - A 3:25.
6. A 4 - opposition - A 4:12. echoes Isa 45:21b-25. Church prospers - v33
7. A 5 - discipline - growth - opposition - preach: v30-31, Opposition - v42
8. A 6 - division - deacons - growth - 6:7
9. A 6:8-7:60 Stephen - miracles & preach - arrested
  - i. A 7 = history: Ab [v2-8]; Patriarchs - Joseph [v8-17]; Moses [v17-44]
  - ii. Joshua [v45] - Kg David [v45-46] Solomon [v47] cites Isa 66:1.

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iii. v51-53 *stiff-necked* - killed *the Righteous One*

10. 7:54-60 martyrdom [testimony] of Stephen - Saul hears becomes terrorist [8:1-3] & church scattered - *Judea & Samaria* [A 1:8].

**3rd: Philip Preaches to Samaritans and an Ethiopia**

1. Samaria: A 8:4-5 "*gospeling*" - v6-24: Philip in Samaria. 2nd "Pentecost" for benefit of apostles - v14 who come & preach to Gentiles - v25
2. Ethiopian: Philip to Gaza & meets Ethiopian God-fearer]. A 8:27-28
  - i. *Ethiopian - eunuch - court official to queen*. Reading Isa 53:7-8 - v35.
  - ii. v39-40 Jerusalem to Samaria to Gaza to Azotus to Caesarea

**Applic #1: Step Back and Get High-Level Overview of Acts 1-8**

1. Gospel -> local church of bapt'd disciples [A 2:41-42]. Opposition from apostate Judaism - as prophesied. Stephen rehearses history: martyred.
2. Gospel -> Samaria in A 8 - midst opposition.

**Applic #2: Note the Crucial Influence of Isaiah**

1. Fulfillment of OT prophesy.
2. Isa is prominent.

**Applic #3: The NCov Church is the "Israel" Prophesied by the OT Prophets**

1. Saw God's purpose for nations thru OT
2. See God being faithful to OT promises

**Applic #4: Trust in Christ and Live of Historical and Eternal Significance**

1. Gospel for all men: summon: repent & faith in Jesus as Savior for sinners.
2. To live for anyone or anything other than Jesus is idolatry. Let us be faithful witnesses.