

Acts 1:1-11

¹Indeed, Theophilus^a the first account I composed concerning all the things^b which Jesus both began to do and to teach. ²Until the day he was taken up having given orders through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³And to whom he presented himself alive with many sure signs during [the] forty days having been seen by them and speaking the things concerning the Kingdom of God. ⁴And being assembled together [the apostles and Jesus] he [Jesus] instructed them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to await the promise of the Father: “That which you have heard of me ⁵for indeed John baptized^c with the Holy Spirit, not after many days.”^d ⁶Therefore, indeed those [the apostles] having come together were asking him [Jesus], saying “Lord, are you restoring the Kingdom of Israel at this time?” ⁷Then he said to them, “It is not yours to know [the] seasons which the Father put in place by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive authority, the Holy Spirit having come upon you and you will be witnesses^e in both Jerusalem and all of Judea and Samaria and to the end of the land. ⁹and [Jesus] having said these things, they [the apostles] looking he was taken up and a cloud hid him from their eyes. ¹⁰And as they were looking intently into heaven as he was going, and behold two men stood by them in white apparel ¹¹ and said “Men, Galileans, why do you stand looking into the heaven? This Jesus having been taken from you into the heaven, thus [he] will come in [to heaven] in the manner you beheld him going into heaven.

Acts 1:12-26

¹² Then they [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from [the] mount called Olivet which is near Jerusalem holding^f a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ And when they had entered into the upper room, they went up [to] where they were staying, both Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James [the son] of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas [the son] of James. ¹⁴ All these [men] were steadfastly continuing in prayer with one accord with [the] women^g and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers. ¹⁵ And in these days Peter having stood up in [the] midst of the brothers, then the number of the names together was about a hundred and twenty^h, he said, ¹⁶ “Men, brothersⁱ, it was necessary for the

^a Can be translated as “friend of God” or “beloved by God.” The same Theophilus is addressed at the beginning of Luke. Thus, the debate on if Luke and Acts were written by the same person. There is also debate on if Theophilus was one person with significant standing in the community or if it was written to one specific community which the author called Theophilus.

^b Luke's Gospel

^c In Greek the verb βαπτίζω (baptizó), means to dip or to sink. In Greek texts it refers to ritual washing.

^d In a few days from when Jesus was speaking with them, a foreshadowing of the day of Pentecost.

^e Μάρτυς (martus) was someone who witnessed something. Jesus is not telling the apostles that they will need to be executed, rather that they will witness/testify to what Jesus has done.

^f The idea of a trip “holding” time is lost in translation. We would say the trip “takes” so many days/hours.

^g It's important to remember that women played a huge part in the story of Jesus found in Luke's Gospel and they play a part in the story told in Acts as well.

^h A very Greek way of saying how many people were in the room.

ⁱ In many languages, including Greek, the masculine plural form can refer to either a group of men or mixed group of men and women. We have no evidence that the women were still not in the room.

scripture to have been fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas the [one] having become [the] guide to those having arrested Jesus.¹⁷ For he was numbered with us^j and was allotted a share of this ministry.¹⁸ Indeed, this [man] [Judas] then acquired a field out of [the] reward of unrighteousness^k and having fallen headlong, he burst open in [the] middle and all the intestines gushed out of him.¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language, Akledama^l, that is [the] Field of Blood.²⁰ For it has been written in the book of Psalms^m, "Let his homestead become desolate and let there not be [one person] dwelling in it, and let another take his supervision."ⁿ ^{21/22} Therefore, it is necessary [that] one of the men [is] to become a witness of his resurrection, having accompanied us during all [the] time Jesus came and went out among us, having begun from the Baptism of John until the day he [Jesus] was taken up from us.^o ²³ And they [the apostles] put forward two [men], Joseph called Barsabbas [also] called Justus and Matthias.²⁴ And having prayed, they said, "You Lord, knower of the hearts of all show which one of these two you have chosen²⁵ to take the place of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go the place [of his] own."²⁶ And they gave lots for them and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Acts 2

¹And during the arriving of the day of Pentecost, they were all together in the one place^p ²And suddenly out of heaven came a sound like [the] rushing of a violent wind and it filled all [of] the house where they were sitting.³ And dividing tongues, as of fire, appeared to them and sat upon each of them.⁴ And they were all filled with [the] Holy Spirit and [they] began to speak in other tongues^q as the Spirit was giving them to utter forth.⁵ Now in Jerusalem were Jews dwelling, devout men from every nation of those under heaven.⁶ Now the sound of this having come about^r, the multitude came together and was confounded because each one was hearing [their] own language speaking [to] them.⁷ Then they were amazed and were marveling saying behold not all of these [men]^s who are speaking are Galileans.⁸ And how are we each [to] hear our language, in which we were born?⁹ Parthians, and Medes and Elamites, and those inhabiting Mesopotamia, also Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia.¹⁰ Both Phrygia and

^j One of the twelve

^k In Luke, Judas does not return the money to the chief priests and officers of the temple police. Luke does not tell us how much money he was given.

^l Aramaic

^m Psalm 69:25

ⁿ Someone else would take over the whatever the person was in charge of (land, animals, slaves etc)

^o Verse numbers were added much later after the texts were written down. In the Greek verses 21 and 22 are one sentence.

^p Presumably the upper room from chapter one

^q languages

^r Gossip/ word of mouth

^s Keep in mind that the women haven't left the story

Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya that [are] around Cyrene, and those visiting from Rome,¹¹ both Jews and converts, Cretans and Arabs, we hear them speaking the great things of God in our own tongues!¹² Then they were all amazed and perplexed, saying other to other, "What wills this to be?"

¹³ However, others mocking [them] were saying, "They are full of new wine."¹⁴ However, Peter having stood up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke forth to the them: "Men of Judea and those inhabiting Jerusalem let all of this be known to you and give heed to my words.¹⁵ For [it is] not as you suppose, that these men are drunkards for it is the third hour of the day.¹⁶ But this is that having been spoken by the Prophet Joel^t: **17 And God says it will be in the last days [when] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. And your sons and daughters will prophecy. And your young men will see visions and your elders dream dreams.** **18 And in those days I will even pour out my spirit upon my servants and handmaidens and they will prophecy.**

19 And I will show wonders above in heaven and signs below on the earth, blood and fire and smoke vapor. **20 The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before [the] great and glorious coming day of the Lord.** **21 And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.** ²² Men, Israelites hear these words of Jesus of Nazareth, a man having been sent forth by God to you with miracles and signs and wonders which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know²³ him [Jesus] delivered up by the determinate and foreknowledge of God, you put to death, having crucified [him] by lawless hands²⁴ [the one] whom God raised up, having loosened the agony of death because it was not possible for him to held by it [death].²⁵ For David^u says about him [Jesus]: **I foresaw the Lord continually before me because he is at my right hand, I should not be shaken** ²⁶ **Because of this my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced and now also my flesh will dwell in hope.** ²⁷ **For you will not abandon my soul into Hades nor will you allow the holy one to see decay.** ²⁸ **You have made known to me [the] paths of life. You will fill me with joy in your presence.**

²⁹ Men, brothers, it is permitted [to me] to speak to you with freedom concerning the Patriarch David, that he both died and was buried and unto this day his tomb is among us.³⁰ Therefore being a prophet [David] knowing that God swore to him with an oath [that] out of the fruit of his loins [the one] to be set upon his thrown.³¹ Having foreseen, he [David] spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that he was neither abandoned into Hades nor [did] his flesh saw decay.³² God had raised up this Jesus, which we are all witnesses [of].³³ Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured this out, which you are both seeing and hearing.³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, however he says himself^v: **"The Lord, my Lord, said to me, "sit at my right hand** ³⁵ **until I place your enemies as a footstool at your feet."**³⁶ Therefore let all [the] house of Israel assuredly know that God has him, both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.³⁷ Then having heard [this] they were pierced to the heart, then they said to Peter and the other apostles,

^t Joel 2:28-32

^u Psalm 16:8-11

^v Psalm 110:1

“Men, brothers what shall we do?”³⁸ Then to them Peter declared repent and every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Crist for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For to you is the promise, and to your children and to all those far off, as many as [all who] shall call the Lord, our God to himself.⁴⁰ And he [Peter] earnestly testified many other words and was exhorting them saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Therefore, indeed those having received his word were baptized. And on that day three thousand souls were added.^w ⁴² Now they were steadfastly continuing in the teaching of the apostles and in fellowship, [in] the breaking of the bread and the prayers ⁴³ Then awe was coming upon every soul and both many signs and wonders were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all having believed were the same together^x and having all things in common. ⁴⁵ They were selling and dividing their possession and goods to all as anyone had need.⁴⁶ And [they were] steadfastly continuing everyday in the temple, then breaking bread at each house [and] they were partaking of food with gladness and sincerity of heart.^y ⁴⁷ They were praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number those who were being saved every day.

Acts 3:1-10

¹ And now Peter and John were going up into the temple [at] the ninth hour of prayer. ^{2/3} And a certain man, lame from his mother’s womb, whom they placed everyday at the Gat of the temple called Beautiful to ask [for alms] was being carried [and] having seen Peter and John being about to enter into the temple was asking Peter and John to receive alms. ⁴ Now Peter with John, having looed intently upon him, [Peter] said, “Look unto us.” ⁵ And he [the lame man] began to give heed to them, expecting to receive something from them.⁶ However, Peter said, “Silver and gold, there is none to me. However, what I have^z I give this to you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up^{aa} and walk!”⁷ And having taken him [the lame man] by the right hand he [Peter] raised him up, immediately his feet and ankles were strengthened.⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began walking and he entered into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ Then they recognized him, that he was the one sitting the Beautiful Gate of the temple asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at that having happened to him.

Acts 3:11-26

¹¹ Now he is clinging to Peter and John and all the people [were] greatly amazed [and] ran together to them in the Porch called Solomon’s.¹² However, having seen [this] Peter answered to the people, “Men, Israelites, why [do] you wonder at this? Or why do you look intently at us

^w We can safely assume that this number is inflated

^x The text implies that the caste system that was in place at the time was not practiced in this community

^y It’s important to note that they were still practicing in the temple. Later, communities would come under attack because they stopped going to the temple and were only worshiping in houses.

^z The authority from the Holy Spirit

^{aa} Early texts lack “rise up”

as if we made him to walk by our own power of godliness? ¹³The God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you indeed betrayed and disowned in the presence of Pilate, [though] he had judged to release him. ¹⁴ However, you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and requested a man, a murderer to be pardoned to you.¹⁵ And you killed the Author of Life, whom God raised out from the dead, whereof we are witnesses. ¹⁶And on faith in the name of him [Jesus], this man whom you see and know has strengthened his [Jesus'] name and the faith which [is] through him has given him [the lame man] complete soundness, this was done before all of you.^{bb} ¹⁷ And now brothers, I know that you and also your rulers acted in ignorance. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that this Christ should suffer [and] thus he has fulfilled [it].¹⁹ Therefore, repent and turn again for the blotting out of your sins. ²⁰ So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the one having been appointed to you, Christ Jesus. ²¹ Whom it indeed behooves heaven to receive until the time of restoration of all things, of which God spoke from the age^{cc} of the mouth of his holy prophets. ²² Indeed Moses said^{dd}, **“The Lord, your God will raise a prophet to you, out from your brothers like me. You will listen to him in all things, [in] as many [things] as he might say to you.”** ²³ Now it will be that every soul who if it might not heed the prophet, will be utterly destroyed out from the people.²⁴ And now all the prophets from Samuel and those after have spoken and have announced these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers saying to Abraham, “Your seed will be blessed in all the families of the earth.” ²⁶ God having raised up his servant sent him to you first, blessing you in turning each of you away from your wickedness.

Acts 4:1-12

¹Now [while] [they were] speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees ²being distressed because of their teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus' resurrection out from [the] dead.³ And they laid hands on them [Peter and John] and put [them] in custody until the next day, because it was already evening. ⁴ However, many of those having heard the word believed and the number of men became about 5,000.^{ee} ⁵ Then on the next day it came to pass [that] their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered in Jerusalem,⁶ and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John and Alexander, and as many were of high priestly descent. ⁷ And having placed them [Peter and John] in the midst, they began to inquire in what power or by what name you did this?⁸ Then Peter, having been filled with [the] Holy Spirit said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders⁹ if we are being examined this day as to a good work [done] to the ailing man, by what means has he been healed,¹⁰ let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom you

^{bb} Verse 16 has a lot of problems in the Greek text. Scholars debate on what the original version of the text says and how it should be read. I did my best to give a faithful translation of the verse.

^{cc} Long ago

^{dd} Deut. 18:15

^{ee} We can safely assume that these numbers are inflated

crucified, whom God raised out from [the] dead, in him this man stands sound before you.

¹¹This is the stone having been rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is not salvation in no other, for there is not another name under heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:13-31

¹³ Now seeking the boldness of Peter and John and having understood that they are unschooled and ordinary men, they were astonished. Then they recognized them,¹⁴ and beholding the man having been healed standing with them they had nothing to contradict.¹⁵ However, having commanded them to outside the council began to confer with one another,¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do to these men? That for truly with a note worthy sign has come to pass through them, it is evident to all those inhabiting Jerusalem, and we are not able [to do signs].¹⁷ But that it might not spread further among the people, let us warn them to no longer speak in this name [Jesus] to no man. ¹⁸ And having called them [Peter, John, and the man], they commanded [them] not to speak nor to teach in the name of Jesus at all.¹⁹ But answering them Peter and John said, "You must judge before God whether it is right to listen you rather than God. ²⁰ For we are not able to not speak for what we have seen and heard."²¹ And having further threatened them [and] finding nothing [on] how they might punish them, because they [were] all glorifying God for that having happened.²² For the man on whom this sign of healing had taken place was more than forty years old.²³ Now having been let go they came to their own^{ff} and reported to them how much the chief priests and elders had said.²⁴ And having heard [what had been said], they lifted up their voice in one accord to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, You made the heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them.^{gg} Having spoken by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of our father David your servant, "Why did [the] nations rage and why did peoples devise vain things?²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers were gathered together, themselves against the Lord and his Christ.^{hh} ²⁷ For in truth in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel were gathered together against your [God] Holy Servant Jesus whom you [God] anointed²⁸ to do whatever your hand your purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now Lord look upon their threats and grant your servants to speak your word [with] all boldness.³⁰ You stretch your hand out for the healing and through the name of your Holy Servant Jesus signs and wonders take place."³¹ And having prayed the place in which they were assembled was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and were speaking the word of God with boldness.

^{ff} The other apostles.

^{gg} Psalm 146:6

^{hh} Psalm 2:1-2