



#### **New Testament Seminary Manual**

Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles as "the second of a two-part work. ... The first part is known as the Gospel According to Luke" (Guide to the Scriptures, "Acts of the Apostles," scriptures.lds.org; see also Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1). The Acts of the Apostles forms a bridge between the record of Jesus Christ's life and teachings in the four Gospels and the writings and labors of His Apostles. The book of Acts illustrates how the Savior continued to direct His Church through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to those who held the keys of the priesthood. The Holy Ghost revealed truth to the Apostles, who then led and taught the Church. The Apostles also performed miracles in the name of Jesus Christ.

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The book of Acts recounts the rise and spread of Christianity, beginning in the provincial Jewish capital of Jerusalem and ending in Rome, the great capital of the empire. The events described in Acts occurred over a period of about 30 years (about A.D. 30–62) and focus mainly on the ministries of Peter (see Acts 1–12) and Paul (see Acts 13–28). Without the book of Acts, our knowledge of the early history of the Church would be limited to the small amount provided by the New Testament epistles. In addition, Acts provides valuable historical context for the epistles of Paul.

#### Bruce M. Metzger, "The Text of the New Testament"

In talking about the books of Luke and Acts, he observes:

"The length of such a papyrus roll was limited by considerations of convenience in handling the roll; the normal Greek literary roll seldom exceeded 35 feet in length. Ancient authors therefore would divide a long literary work into several 'books', each of which could be accommodated in one roll. The two longest books in the New Testament - the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts - would each have filled an ordinary papyrus roll of 31 or 32 feet in length. Doubtless this is one of the reasons why Luke-Acts was issued in two volumes instead of one."

unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, <sup>a</sup>Feed my bsheep.

18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be aold, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

19 This spake he, signifying by what adeath he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he atarry till I come, what is that to thee? bfollow thou me.

23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not adie: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

24 This is the <sup>a</sup>disciple which testifieth of these things, and bwrote these things: and we know that his testimony is <sup>c</sup>true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be awritten every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

#### THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

#### CHAPTER 1

Jesus ministers for forty days after His resurrection—The kingdom is to be restored to Israel at a later time—The Twelve are to bear witness in Jerusalem, Judæa, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth—Jesus ascends into heaven—Matthias is chosen to fill the vacancy in the Twelve.

THE former treatise have <sup>a</sup>I made, O bTheophilus, of all L that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given acommandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he <sup>a</sup>shewed himself

### **Holy Spirit Promis** The

alive after his <sup>b</sup>passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things <sup>c</sup>pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the apromise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be abaptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time <sup>a</sup>restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the <sup>a</sup>seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive <sup>a</sup>power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be bwitnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in 'Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was ataken bup; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into <sup>a</sup>heaven? this same Jesus, which is btaken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 Then returned they unto Jeru-

salem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14 These all continued with <sup>a</sup>one accord in prayer and bsupplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

15 ¶ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David <sup>a</sup>spake before concerning <sup>b</sup>Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he aburst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their <sup>a</sup>proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be a desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

3b GR suffering. **JST Acts 1:3...** sufferings . . . c D&C 100:11. 4*a* D&C 95:9 (8–10). TO Promise

*b* Luke 24:48; D&C 27:12. c Acts 8:5 (5, 14). 9*a* 3 Ne. 10:18 (18–19); 11:8 (8–10).

TG Jesus Christ

Coming. 14a TG Unity.

b Moro. 6:5 (1–5).

c TG Jesus Christ, Family of. 16 a TC Holy Chost

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#### G Jesus Christ, Exemplar. Luke 9:27. Ohn 1:14; 13:23;

ohn 1:14; 13:23; 9:35; 20:2.

G Scriptures, Writing of.

#### [ACTS]

- **1** 1 a 2 Tim. 4:11 (10–11).
  - b Luke 1:3.
  - 2a TG Holy Ghost, Mission of.
  - 3a TG Jesus Christ,

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We do not know who Theophilus was or what positions or honors he held, though he appears to have been a Christian.

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#### Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

"From the first verse [of the book of Acts], the declaration is that the Church will continue to be divinely led, not mortally led. ... Indeed, a more complete title for the book of Acts could appropriately be something like 'The Acts of the Resurrected Christ Working through the Holy Spirit in the Lives and Ministries of His Ordained Apostles.' ...

"The direction of the Church is the same. The location of the Savior has been altered, but the direction and leadership of the Church is exactly the same."

("Therefore, What?" [Church Educational System conference on the New Testament, Aug. 8, 2000], 6).



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#### Bible Dictionary, "Acts of the Apostles"

Acts 1-5 = JerusalemActs 6–9 = Judea and Samaria Acts 10-28 = Uttermost part ofthe earth

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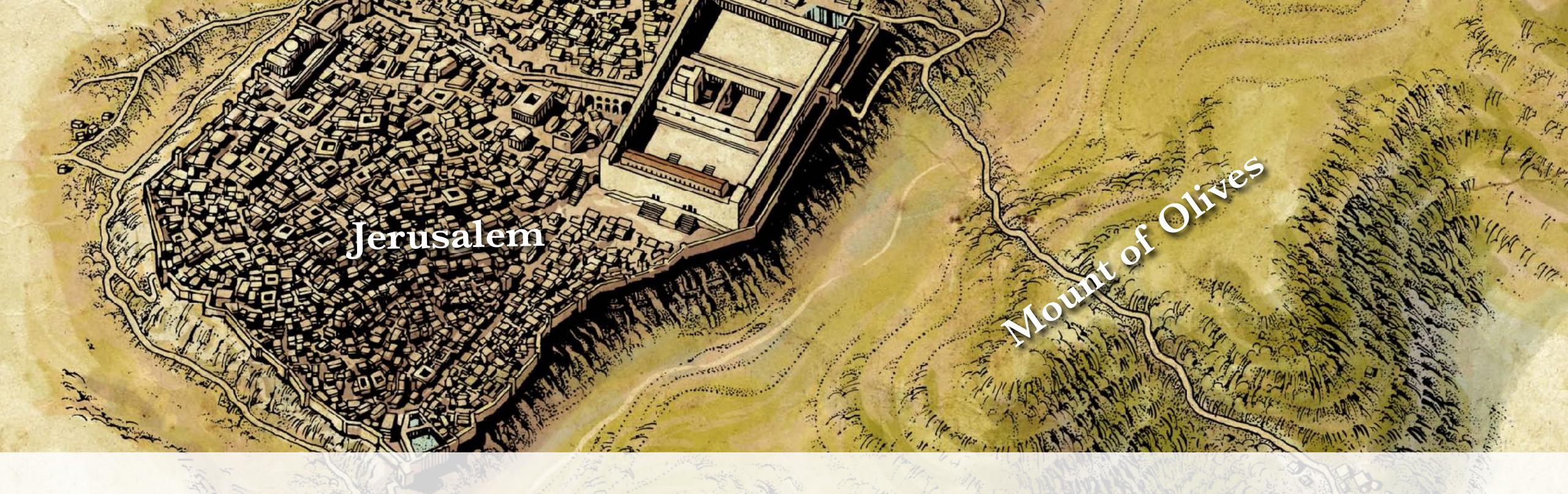
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According to Jewish oral traditions, a Sabbath day's journey was the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the Sabbath. Later rabbinic sources give this as 2,000 cubits [that's about 3,000 feet; or a little more than half a mile]



The Savior's Ascension took place on the Mount of Olives (v. 12). In accordance with the law of witnesses (see Deuteronomy 17:6; 2 Corinthians 13:1), two angels told them that Jesus Christ would return to the earth in "like manner" as He had ascended. When the Savior comes again, one of His appearances will be when He will descend and actually stand on the Mount of Olives (see Zechariah 14:4; D&C 45:47–53; D&C 133:19–20). This will be before His great and grand appearance to the world (see Isaiah 40:5).

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The "brethren" of Jesus Christ mentioned in Acts 1:14 were the sons of Mary and Joseph, Jesus Christ's half-brothers (see Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). Though Jesus's brothers had not always believed in His divinity (see John 7:5), they were now counted among the believers. Jesus's brother James would later become a leader of the Church in Jerusalem (see Acts 12:17; 15:13) and an Apostle (see Galatians 1:19). His brother "Juda" (Mark 6:3) is likely the author of the Epistle of Jude.

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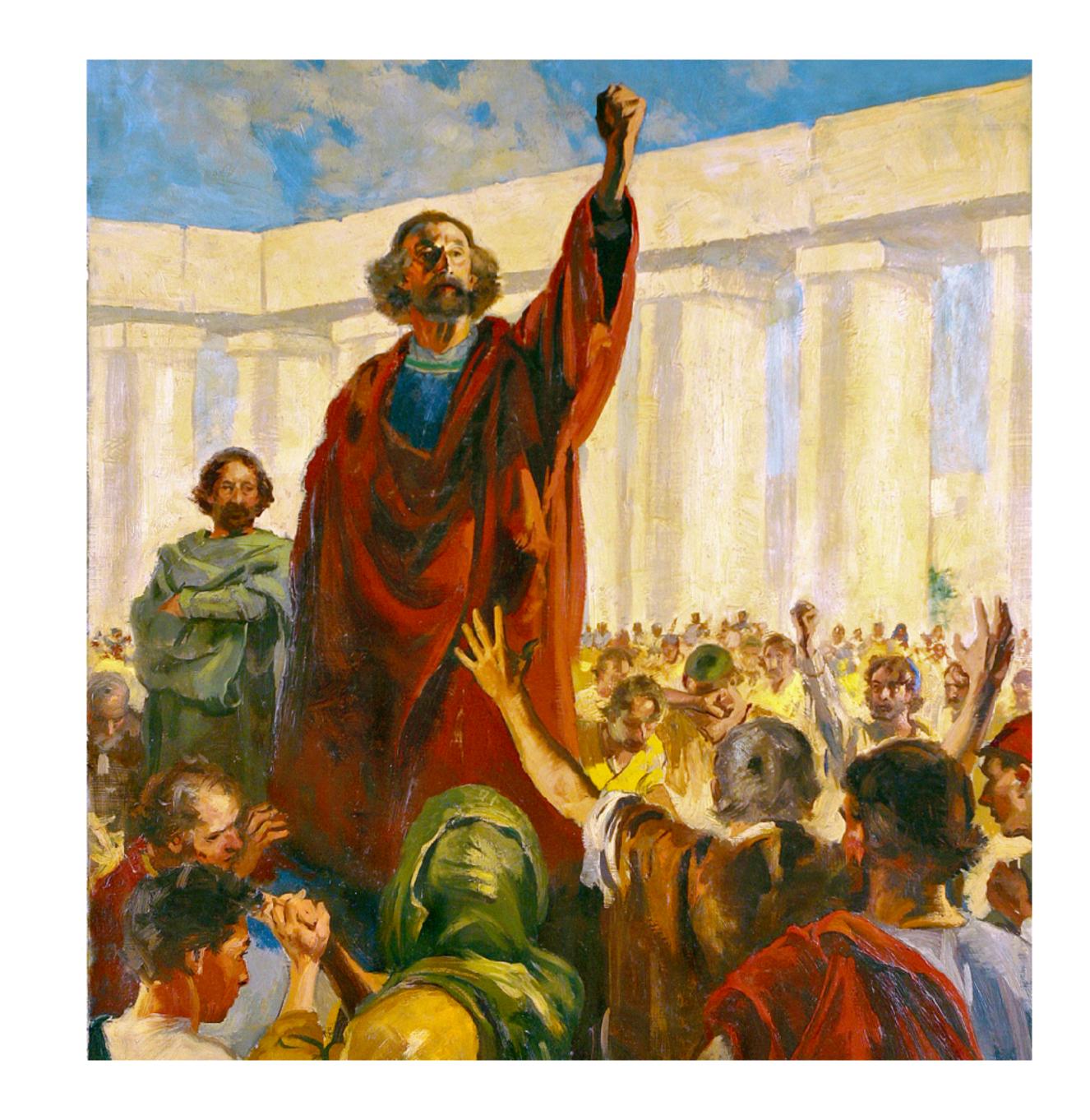
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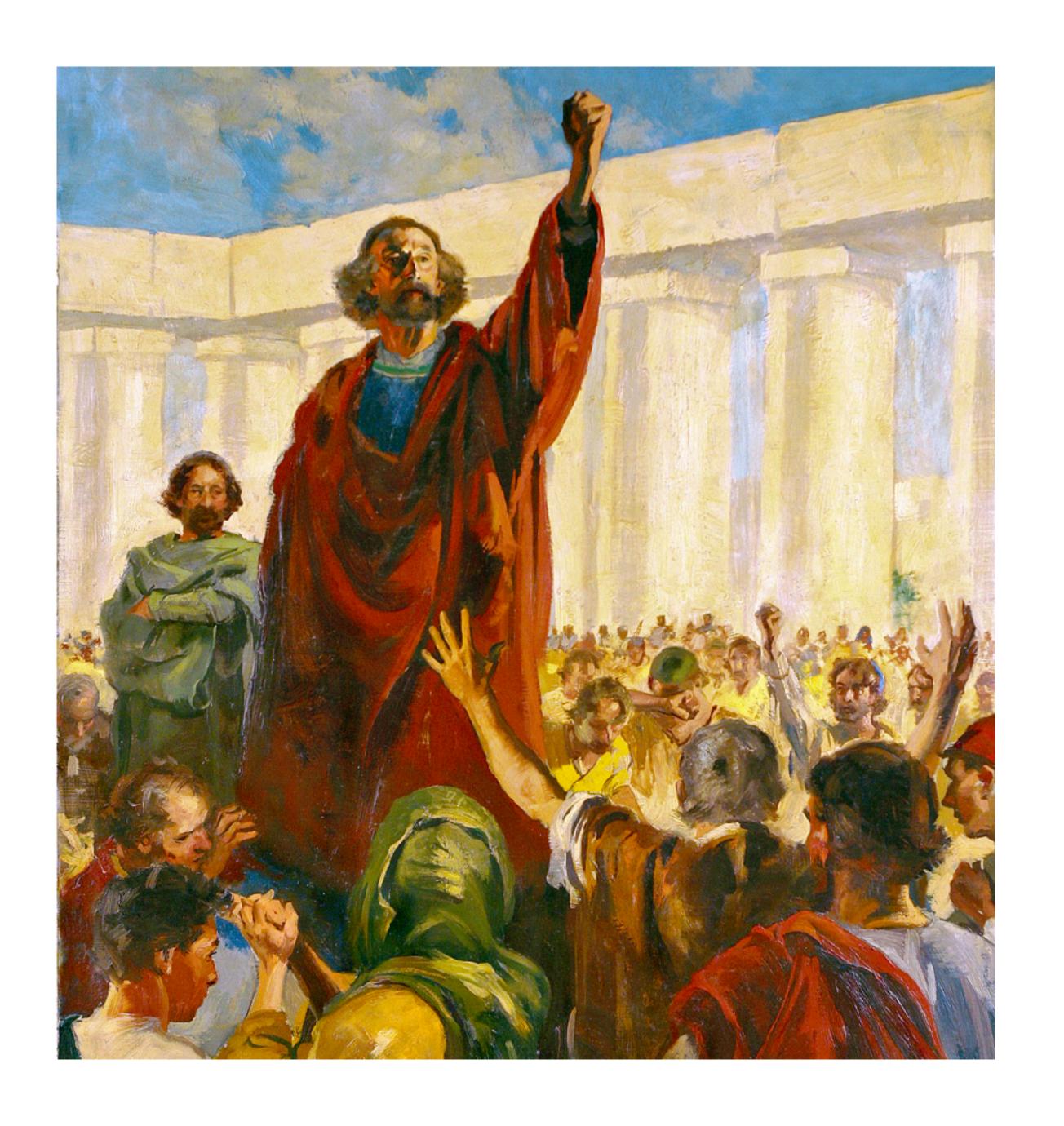
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17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he <sup>a</sup>burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their <sup>a</sup>proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.





21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one abe ordained to be a bwitness with us of his cresurrection.

23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

24 And they <sup>a</sup>prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which <sup>b</sup>knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew <sup>c</sup>whether of these two thou hast <sup>d</sup>chosen,

25 That he may take part of this ministry and <sup>a</sup>apostleship, from which Judas by transgression <sup>b</sup>fell, that he might go to his own place.

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon <sup>a</sup>Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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Anciently, casting lots was a means of making a decision (see Acts 1:26). Among the Jews it was generally believed that the hand of God would direct the outcome (see Proverbs 16:33). Though the exact method of casting lots in this instance is not known, one ancient method involved each voter writing a name on a broken piece of pottery and then putting it forth to be read or counted.



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When choosing a replacement for Judas Iscariot in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the remaining Apostles understood the importance of the man being a witness, with the others, of Jesus's ministry, from His baptism through His Resurrection (see Acts 1:22). The importance of this eyewitness testimony is a major theme in the early Church and the early chapters of Acts (see Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:20; 5:32). The Apostles sought to know whom the Lord had chosen (see Acts 1:24).

#### Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant

"President [Heber J.] Grant received revelations as President of the Church to guide the Church as a whole. One such revelation came just after he was set apart as President of the Church, when he sought the will of the Lord in appointing a new member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. As he pondered this responsibility, his thoughts turned repeatedly to his lifelong friend Richard W. Young, a faithful Latter-day Saint and a proven leader. President Grant discussed this possibility with his counselors, who supported his decision. When he finally felt confident with this course of action, he wrote his friend's name on a piece of paper and took the paper with him to the weekly temple meeting with the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve. However, when he was about to present the name for the approval of his Brethren, he was unable to do so. Instead of presenting the name of Richard W. Young, he presented the name of Melvin J. Ballard, a man whom he hardly knew. President Grant later told of the impact this experience had on him:



#### Heber J. Grant

"I have felt the inspiration of the living God directing me in my labors. From the day that I chose a comparative stranger to be one of the apostles, instead of my lifelong and dearest living friend, I have known as I know that I live, that I am entitled to the light and the inspiration and the guidance of God in directing His work here upon this earth" (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant [2002], 181–82).

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#### CHAPTER 2

The Spirit is poured out on the day of Pentecost—Peter testifies of Jesus' resurrection—He tells how to gain salvation and speaks of the gift of the Holy Ghost—Many believe and are baptized.

AND when the day of <sup>a</sup>Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty <sup>a</sup>wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them <sup>a</sup>cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the <sup>a</sup>Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other btongues, as the cSpirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own <sup>a</sup>language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilæans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judæa, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and aproselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our atongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others amocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 ¶ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judæa, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet <sup>a</sup>Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the <sup>a</sup>last days, saith God, I will <sup>b</sup>pour out of my <sup>c</sup>Spirit upon all flesh: and your

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sons and your daughters shall <sup>d</sup>prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall edream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall <sup>a</sup>prophesy:

19 And I will shew awonders in heaven above, and beigns in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into <sup>a</sup>darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and bnotable cday of the Lord come:

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be asaved.

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man <sup>a</sup>approved of God among you by <sup>b</sup>miracles and wonders and signs, which <sup>c</sup>God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, being delivered by the <sup>a</sup>determinate counsel and <sup>b</sup>foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have ccrucified and slain:

24 Whom God hath araised up, having loosed the <sup>b</sup>pains of <sup>c</sup>death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the <sup>a</sup>Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be movea:

26 Therefore did my heart rejoice,

and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in ahell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see <sup>b</sup>corruption.

28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the apatriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an aoath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up bChrist to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God <sup>a</sup>raised up, whereof we all are bwitnesses.

33 Therefore being <sup>a</sup>by the <sup>b</sup>right hand of God 'exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath dshed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For <sup>a</sup>David is not <sup>b</sup>ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my cLord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye

17d Acts 21:9.

TG Holy Ghost, Gifts of.

e TG Dream.

18*a* Acts 11:28 (27–28); 21:11 (4, 10–11).

19a TG Last Days.

h TG Signs

c Matt 26.24.

purpose. b TG Foreordination; God, Foreknowledge of.

John 3:2;

Acts 10:38.

23 a GR appointed plan,

29 a TG Patriarch. *b* 1 Kgs. 2:10.

30a TG Oath.

b TG Jesus Christ, Davidic Descent of.

32a Eph. 1:20. TG Jesus Christ

About one week after the Savior ascended into heaven, Jews from many nations came to Jerusalem to participate in the feast of Pentecost and to worship at the temple and give thanks to the Lord. This feast occurred 50 days after the Passover feast and celebrated the first harvest of the season. (Guide to the Scriptures, "Pentecost")

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17 A <sup>a</sup>last d of my

2 1 a Ex. 23:17; 34:22 (16, 22);

<sup>22</sup>a GR become a witness.

b TG Witness.

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John the Baptist had likened the reception of the Holy Ghost to a baptism of "fire" (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16). In ancient Israel, fire often symbolized the divine presence (see Exodus 3:2-5; 13:21; 24:17; Helaman 5:22-24, 43-45; 3 Nephi 19:13–14). For example, the "fire" of the Lord had rested upon the tabernacle in ancient Israel (see Exodus 40:38)... On the day of Pentecost, the environment of heaven was brought to earth.

aposties.

#### CHAPTER 2

The Spirit is poured out on the day of Pentecost—Peter testifies of Jesus' resurrection—He tells how to gain salvation and speaks of the gift of the Holy Ghost—Many believe and are baptized.

AND when the day of <sup>a</sup>Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty awind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them <sup>a</sup>cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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ots; and ven 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own <sup>a</sup>language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilæans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Partifians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judæa, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and <sup>a</sup>proselytes,

#### **NT Institue Manual**

Pentecost was a pilgrimage festival, when all males of the covenant were to come before the Lord at Jerusalem, which is why so many people from various countries were crowded into Jerusalem (see Acts 2:9–10).

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9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judæa, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

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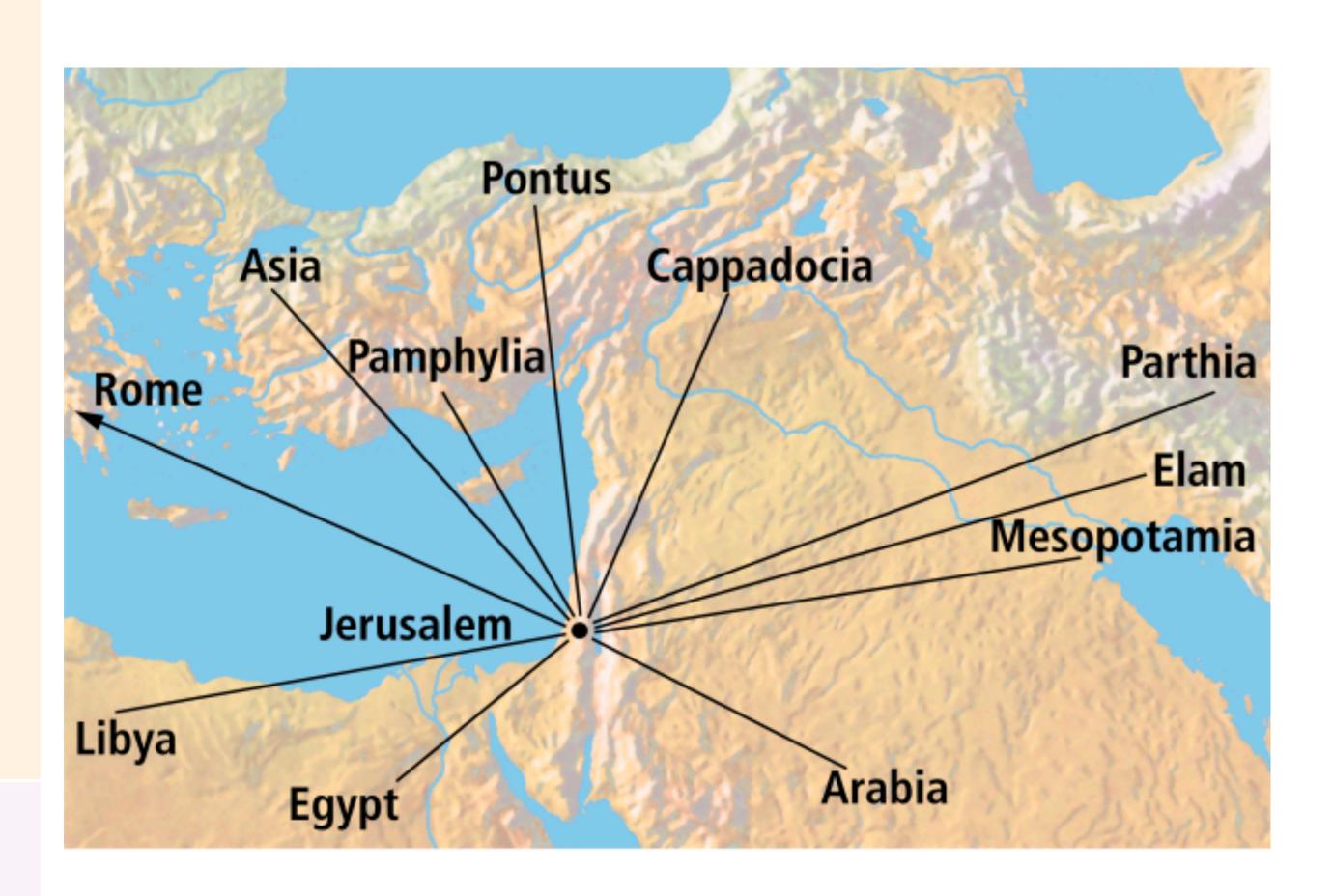
11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our atongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others amocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 ¶ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judæa, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For those are not drunken as



#### 1 Corinthians 2:11, 14

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

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16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet <sup>a</sup>Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the <sup>a</sup>last days, saith God, I will <sup>b</sup>pour out of my <sup>c</sup>Spirit upon all flesh: and your

5 And there were dwelling at Jehich rusalem Jews, devout men, out of time every nation under heaven. out 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and tism

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sons and your daughters shall <sup>d</sup>prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall edream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall <sup>a</sup>prophesy: 19 And I will shew awonders in

heaven above, and beigns in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into

<sup>a</sup>darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and bnotable cday of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that

whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be asaved. 22 Ye men of Israel, hear these

words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man <sup>a</sup>approved of God among you by <sup>b</sup>miracles and wonders and signs, which 'God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, being delivered by the adeterminate counsel and bforeknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 Whom God hath araised up, having loosed the bpains of cdeath: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the aLord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be movea:

26 Therefore did my heart rejoice,

and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave

my soul in ahell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see <sup>b</sup>corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me

full of joy with thy countenance. 29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the apatriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with

us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an aoath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up <sup>b</sup>Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God <sup>a</sup>raised up, whereof we all are bwitnesses.

33 Therefore being <sup>a</sup>by the <sup>b</sup>right hand of God 'exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath dshed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

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34 For <sup>a</sup>David is not <sup>b</sup>ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my <sup>c</sup>Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy foot-

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they were <sup>a</sup>pricked in their <sup>b</sup>heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, cwhat shall we do? 38 Then Peter asaid unto them, bRe-

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40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, <sup>a</sup>Save yourselves from this <sup>b</sup>untoward generation. 41 ¶ Then they that gladly are-

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lowship, and in breaking of cbread, and in prayers. 43 And <sup>a</sup>fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and beigns were

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x. 23:17; 1:22 (16, 22);

c D&C 14:8. 6a TG Language.

18*a* Acts 11:28 (27–28); 21:11 (4, 10–11). 19a TG Last Days.

TG Holy Ghost, Gifts of.

17d Acts 21:9.

e TG Dream.

h TG Signs

John 3:2; Acts 10:38. 23 a GR appointed plan,

purpose. b TG Foreordination; God, Foreknowledge of. c Matt 26.24.

29 a TG Patriarch. b 1 Kgs. 2:10.

30 a TG Oath.

b TG Jesus Christ, Davidic Descent of.

32a Eph. 1:20. TG Jesus Christ 37*a* Alma 22:3 (3–11). TG Conscience:

Holy Chock Mission of

Crucifixion of.

36a TG Jesus Christ,

e TG Remission of S TG Holy Ghost, Gi g Acts 8:17 (14–17).

b TG Jesus Christ, Lord; Jesus Christ, Power of.

TG Holy Ghost, Baptism of. 39 a TG Promise. h Ica 57.10

- 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be asaved.
- 22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which cGod did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:
- 23 Him, being delivered by the <sup>a</sup>determinate counsel and <sup>b</sup>fore-knowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have <sup>c</sup>crucified and slain:
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- 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
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- 33 Therefore being <sup>a</sup>by the <sup>b</sup>right hand of God <sup>c</sup>exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath <sup>d</sup>shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
- 34 For <sup>a</sup>David is not <sup>b</sup>ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my <sup>c</sup>Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
- 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
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42 And they continued <sup>a</sup>steadfastly

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#### Elder M. Russell Ballard

"True conversion comes through the power of the Spirit. When the Spirit touches the heart, hearts are changed. When individuals ... feel the Spirit working with them, or when they see the evidence of the Lord's love and mercy in their lives, they are edified and strengthened spiritually and their faith in Him increases. These experiences with the Spirit follow naturally when a person is willing to experiment upon the word. This is how we come to feel the gospel is true" ("Now Is the Time," Oct. 2000 GC, Ensign, Nov. 2000, 75).

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37 ¶ Now when they heard *this*, they were <sup>a</sup>pricked in their <sup>b</sup>heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, <sup>c</sup>what shall we do?

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#### Elder Dale G. Renlund

"We may be perfected by repeatedly ... exercising faith in [Christ], repenting, partaking of the sacrament to renew the covenants and blessings of baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost as a constant companion to a greater degree. As we do so, we become more like Christ and are able to endure to the end, with all that that entails" ("Latterday Saints Keep on Trying," Apr 2015 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2015, 56).

and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, cwhat shall we do?

38 Then Peter <sup>a</sup>said unto them, <sup>b</sup>Repent, and be <sup>c</sup>baptized every one of you in the <sup>d</sup>name of Jesus Christ for the <sup>e</sup>remission of sins, and ye shall receive the <sup>f</sup>gift of the <sup>g</sup>Holy Ghost.

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44 And all that believed were together, and had all things acommon;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had aneed.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the atemple, and breaking bread from house to house,

2 And a certain man alame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have <sup>a</sup>give I thee: In the bname of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and alifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

36a TG Jesus Christ, Crucifixion of.

σ Acts 8.17 (14\_17)

e TG Remission of Sins. TG Holy Ghost, Gift of. c TG Bread; Sacrament.

h TG Signs

43 a TG Courage; Fearful.

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47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord <sup>a</sup>added to the <sup>b</sup>church daily such as should be saved.

## CHAPTER 3

Peter and John heal a man lame since birth—Peter preaches repentance—He also speaks of the age of restoration preceding the Second Coming—He identifies Christ as the prophet of whom Moses spoke.

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

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7 And he took him by the right hand, and alifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our aown power or holi-

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people asaw him walking and praising God:

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. 11 And as the lame man which was

the aporch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. 12 ¶ And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or

healed held Peter and John, all the

people ran together unto them in

ness we had made this man to walk? 13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath aglorified his Son Jesus; whom ye bdelivered up, and <sup>c</sup>denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

the Just, and desired a amurderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the <sup>a</sup>Prince of life, whom God hath braised from the

14 But ye denied the Holy One and

dead; whereof we are <sup>c</sup>witnesses. 16 And his aname through faith in his name hath made this man

strong, whom ye see and know: yea,

the bfaith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. 17 And now, brethren, <sup>a</sup>I <sup>b</sup>wot that

through 'ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things, which God before had ashewed by the mouth of all his bprophets, that Christ should <sup>c</sup>suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19  $\P$  <sup>a</sup>Repent ye therefore, and be

<sup>b</sup>converted, that your sins may be

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9a Acts 4:16.

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Restoration of the

21 a TG Dispensations;

25c TG Israel, Mission of. 10*a* Acts 3:6. 26a TG God, Body of, 11 a TG Cornerstone;

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Peter and John heal a man lame since birth—Peter preaches repentance—He also speaks of the age of restoration preceding the Second Coming—He identifies Christ as the prophet of whom Moses spoke.

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man <sup>a</sup>lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an <sup>a</sup>alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of

# Acts 4:22

For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

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7 And he took him by the right hand, and alifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

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8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

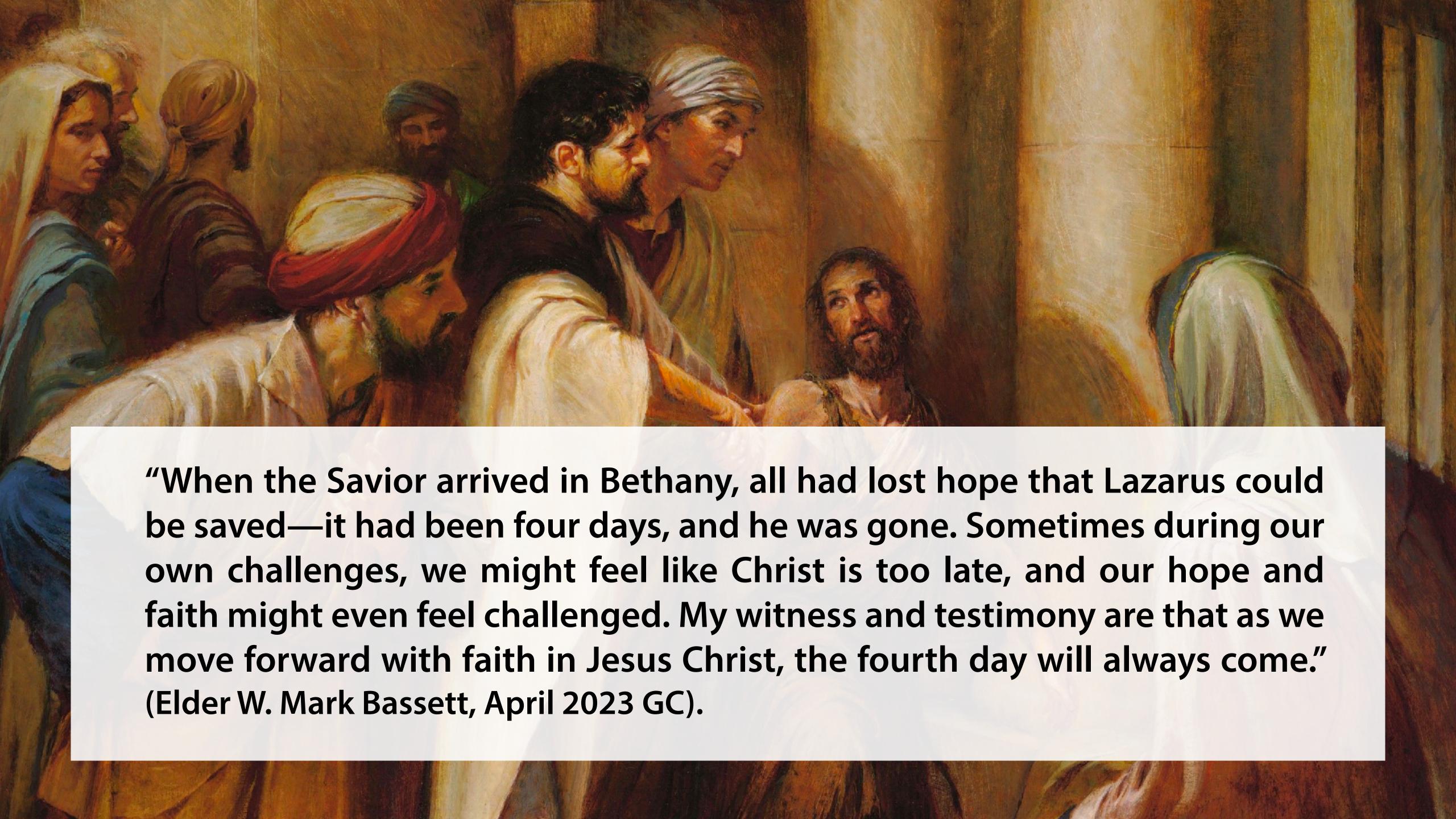
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11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the aporch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 ¶ And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our <sup>a</sup>own power or holi-

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## **Wrong Roads**







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## Description

When making decisions, God expects us to pray, trust, and be believing and then not give up, panic, or "jump ship" when something doesn't seem to be going right.

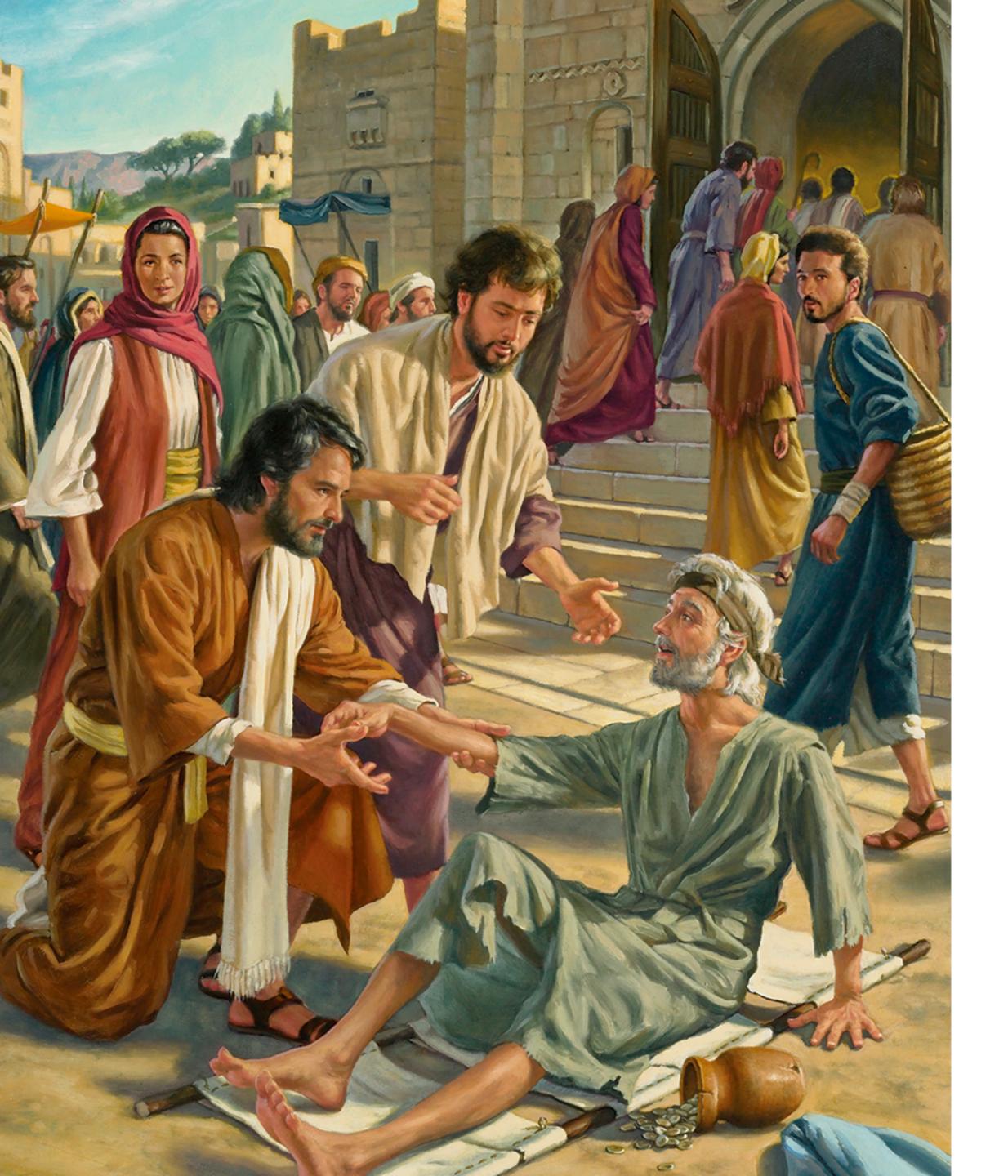
## Tags

Obedience

Prayer

Heavenly Father

Faith



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13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath <sup>a</sup>glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye <sup>b</sup>delivered up, and <sup>c</sup>denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a amurderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the <sup>a</sup>Prince of life, whom God hath <sup>b</sup>raised from the dead; whereof we are <sup>c</sup>witnesses.

16 Ånd his aname through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea,

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21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of <sup>a</sup>restitution of all things, which God hath <sup>b</sup>spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

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18 But those things, which God before had <sup>a</sup>shewed by the mouth of all his <sup>b</sup>prophets, that Christ should <sup>c</sup>suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 ¶ <sup>a</sup>Repent ye therefore, and be <sup>b</sup>converted, that your sins may be <sup>c</sup>blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the <sup>d</sup>presence of the Lord;

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# Elder Bruce R. McConkie

"This times of refreshing, is to take place at the second coming of the Son of Man, in the day when the Lord sends Christ again to earth.

"If we are to catch the vision of Peter's prophecy, we must know pointedly and specifically what is meant by the times of refreshing. It is elsewhere spoken of by Jesus as 'the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory.' (Matt. 19:28.) It is the day when the earth shall be transfigured, even according to the pattern which was shown unto mine apostles upon the mount, ...' the Lord says. (D&C 63:21.) It is the day when 'the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.' (Tenth Article of Faith.) It is the day of the 'new earth' that Isaiah saw (Isa. 65:17), the earth which will prevail when wickedness ceases, when the millennial era is ushered in" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1967, 43).

did eat their meat with gladness and and bsingleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour d this, with all the people. And the Lord heart, <sup>a</sup>added to the <sup>b</sup>church daily such as le rest thren, should be saved.

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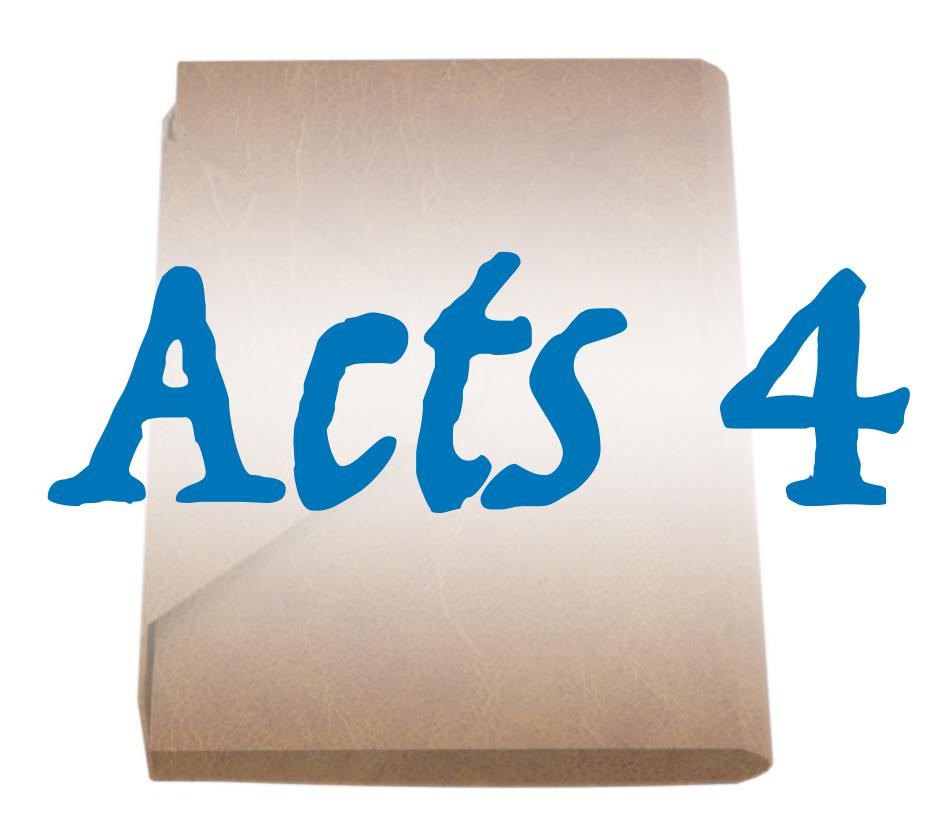
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#### CHAPTER 4

Peter and John are arrested and brought before the council—Peter testifies that salvation comes because of Christ—The Sadducees strive to silence Peter and John—The Saints glory in the testimony of Jesus—They have all things in common.

AND as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the <sup>a</sup>resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about <sup>a</sup> five thousand.

5 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and ascribes,

6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high <sup>a</sup>priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what <sup>a</sup>power, or by what <sup>b</sup>name, have ye done this?

8 Then Peter, filled with the <sup>a</sup>Holy

Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the aname of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the <sup>a</sup>stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there <sup>a</sup>salvation in any other: for there is none other <sup>b</sup>name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be <sup>c</sup>saved.

13 ¶ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were <sup>a</sup>unlearned and <sup>b</sup>ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Before

John

and

**Pray for Boldness** 

**Believers** 

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable amiracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18 And they called them, and <sup>a</sup>commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be

# right in the sight of God to <sup>a</sup>hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but <sup>a</sup>speak the

20 For we cannot but <sup>a</sup>speak the things which we have <sup>b</sup>seen and heard.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

23 ¶ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and <sup>a</sup>earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The <sup>a</sup>kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast <sup>a</sup>anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand

to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 ¶ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were <sup>a</sup>assembled together; and they were all filled with the <sup>b</sup>Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of <sup>a</sup> one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that <sup>b</sup> ought of the things which he <sup>c</sup> possessed was his own; but they had all things <sup>d</sup> common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles <sup>a</sup>witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great <sup>b</sup>grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses <sup>a</sup> sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and <sup>a</sup>distribution was made unto every man according as he had <sup>b</sup>need.

36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed <sup>a</sup>Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the <sup>a</sup>money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

## **CHAPTER 5**

Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Lord and lose their lives—The Apostles continue the miracles of Jesus—Peter and John are arrested, an angel delivers them from prison, and they testify of Christ—Gamaliel counsels moderation.

The Sadducees strive to silence Peter and John—The Saints glory in the testimony of Jesus—They have all things in common.

AND as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

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# **Elder Richard G. Scott**

"Do what is right even though it seems you will be alone in so doing, that you are going to lose friends, that you will be criticized. What you will find is that by doing what is right, after a period of testing, the finest friends will be discovered and you can mutually support each other in your resolve to be obedient to all of the commandments of the Lord. I have never been sorry on any occasion that I stood for what was right even against severe criticism. You will learn that truth. You will also discover that when you have taken a determined stand for right, when you have established personal standards and made covenants to keep them, when temptations come and you act according to your standards, you will be reinforced and given strength beyond your own capacity, if that is needed" ("Do What Is Right" [address given at Brigham Young University, Mar. 3, 1996], 5; speeches.byu.edu).

God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be 'blessed.

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26 The <sup>a</sup>kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast <sup>a</sup>anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

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36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed <sup>a</sup>Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

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# **NT Institute Manual**

"They had all things common" (Acts 4:32) probably does not mean that they pooled all of their resources and then divided up equal portions among believers. Rather they used their excess resources to care for the poor and needy among them.

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BUT a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, <sup>a</sup> sold a possession,

2 And akept back bpart of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to <sup>a</sup>lie to the Holy Ghost, and to <sup>b</sup>keep back *part* of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not <sup>a</sup>lied unto men, but unto <sup>b</sup>God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and <sup>a</sup>gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to attempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down <sup>a</sup>straight-way at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

12 ¶ And by the hands of the apostles were many <sup>a</sup> signs and wonders

wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13 And of the <sup>a</sup>rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more <sup>a</sup>added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the <sup>a</sup>shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16 There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were <sup>a</sup>healed every one.

17 ¶ Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with <sup>a</sup>indignation,

18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19 But the <sup>a</sup>angel of the Lord by night opened the <sup>b</sup>prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the awords of this life.

21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the

doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

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27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them,

28 Saying, Did not we straitly acommand you that ye should not teach in this bname? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

29 ¶ Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to abey God rather than men.

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and <sup>a</sup>hanged on a tree.

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9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to atempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

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18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19 But the <sup>a</sup>angel of the Lord by night opened the <sup>b</sup>prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

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21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to

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# **New Testament Institute Manual**

Ananias and Sapphira made a solemn covenant with God to have "all things common" (see Acts 4:32-35). They were to donate their possessions to the Church to be distributed according to the needs of the members. By lying to Peter, their priesthood leader, they also lied to God about the price they had received for a piece of land so they could avoid giving the full profit to the Church (see Acts 5:1-10). Breaking this covenant by stealing and lying was a serious offense with calamitous consequences for them. This is a powerful illustration of the need to keep our covenants and be honest before our God.



# President Gordon B. Hinckley

"In our time those found in dishonesty do not die as did Ananias and Sapphira, but something within them dies. Conscience chokes, character withers, self-respect vanishes, integrity dies. ... We cannot be less than honest, we cannot be less than true, we cannot be less than virtuous if we are to keep sacred the trust given us" ("An Honest Man—God's Noblest Work," Apr. 1976 GC, Ensign, May 1976, 61–62).



# Bishop Richard C. Edgley

"Honesty is the basis of a true Christian life. For Latter-day Saints, honesty is an important requirement for entering the Lord's holy temple. Honesty is embedded in the covenants that we make in the temple. Each Sunday as we partake of the holy emblems of the Savior's flesh and blood, we again renew our basic and sacred covenants—which encompass honesty. ... Honesty should be among the most fundamental values that govern our everyday living" ("Three Towels and a 25-Cent Newspaper," Oct. 2006 GC, Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2006, 74).

# **NT Institute Manual**

The word church is mentioned only three times in the Gospels (see Matthew 16:18; 18:17). However, it appears over 100 times in Acts through Revelation. It seems likely that during the 40 days prior to the Lord's Ascension into heaven, His teachings to the Apostles about "the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" included instruction about how the Church was to be organized and how it should function (Acts 1:3).

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Gamaliel was the grandson of the famous rabbi Hillel. He was a member of the Sanhedrin and a distinguished scholar of Jewish law. Paul was tutored by this famous master of the law (see Acts 22:3). Gamaliel had a reputation for being tolerant and kind, relaxing the standards of the Sabbath observance so they were not so rigorous and encouraging more humane treatment of women in divorce laws. His wise counsel likely saved the lives of the Apostles, who had been brought again before the Jewish council after being released from prison by an angel.

# **New Testament Institute Manual**

In his speech before the Jewish leaders, Gamaliel referred to two historical situations that showed how a movement would fail if the Lord was not with it. The first was a Jewish uprising against the Romans that was led by a man called Theudas, who had gained about 400 followers before he was slain and his followers were scattered. The second occurred in about A.D. 6, when Judas of Galilee and a band of followers revolted against Roman taxation; in the ensuing violence, Judas died and his followers were dispersed.

In effect, Gamaliel's counsel was, "Let nature take its course. If this movement of Jesus's followers is of men, it will fail, as did the uprisings of Theudas and Judas. But if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it" (see Acts 5:35–39).