

**Coronavirus**

**The same Sovereignty that could have prevented the coronavirus and didn't, and could have stopped the coronavirus and hasn't, is the very Sovereignty that sustains our souls in it.**

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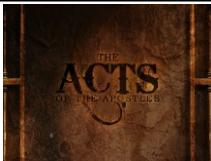
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**The Acts of the Apostles**

**The Journey – 2020**  
Jim Hoffman

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**Prayer Requests**

- **Connie Miller's sister Cathy is working near COVID19 patients – safety.**
- **Judy Lista's brother Paul – has COVID19 and is on Z-Pak and hydroxychloroquine.**
- **Julia Sweeten's friend, Linda Bohn (nurse) tested positive for COVID19.**
- **Julia's daughter-in-law (leukemia) white cell count has spiked.**

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**Prayer Requests**

- Gene Weiland’s grandchildren’s mother has COVID19. (protection for the kids)
- John Campbell’s sister-in-law, Bonnie, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- Cindy Eslinger’s son, Kevin is a respiratory therapist in Harrisburg Hospital and is treating COVID19 patients.
- Jocelyn Essick – frontline nurse.
- Cheryl Ciambotti’s uncle Ronnie – a rare form of Lymphoma.

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**Prayer Requests**

If you have questions during class please text them to 717-645-2134 and Jackie will relay them to me.

If you know how to use the ZOOM chat feature you may use that to send a question to me.

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

• Acts 5:17 The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19 But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, 20 “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” 21 So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching. When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. 22 But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported, 23 “The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!” 24 When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. NLT

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Rabbit trail #1 – the NIV, NASB, and NLT all translate this phrase the same, “an angel of the Lord”. Only the KJV translates the phrase as “the angel of the Lord”.
- So what? The term “The Angel of the Lord” signals to us it is a Christophany.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Reference – Gen 16:7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. NLT

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Gen 16:7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. 8 The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,” she replied. 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.” 10 Then he added, “**I will give you more descendants than you can count.**” NLT
- Once you get to the N.T. the phrase “the angel of the Lord” is not found as reference to a specific angel or person because Jesus acquired a body that he has kept for all time.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Rabbit trail #2 – “When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel”.
- This is what is meant by the term, “Sanhedrin” – it was ancient Israel’s equivalent to our Supreme Court.
- The Sanhedrin consisted of the high priest and 70 other men who were elders (religious leaders).

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- The opponents of the gospel of Jesus Christ were described as **“filled with jealousy”**.
- James 3:16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. NLT
- Jealousy and selfish ambition? That was exactly what drove the persecution and execution Jesus.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **The Jewish leaders were not opposed to Jesus because they thought he was an imposter; they were opposed to him because they knew he wasn't.**
- Later on in the chapter Gamaliel will declare that if a leader of a religious group is not the real thing, that movement will fall under its own weight.
- But such words will not quell their quest to quash any mention of his name, because they knew the threat he was.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- The Apostles were put in jail for the supposed crime of preaching Jesus, but the real reason was the fear of Jesus within the Jewish hierarchy.
- “But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out.”
- An amazing thing that a jail break of 12 men occurs and no one has a clue that it happened. ☺

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Think about what this says about the abilities angels have to interact with the physical.
- The angel was able to open a locked gate, swing it open, and then close it behind the Apostles when they exited.
- We are given no details about the experience from the Apostles vantage point – but it is easy to see how this encouraged them to start preaching the next morning.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- The angel was also able to speak for he tells them to go back to the temple to preach.
- How did he know what language the Apostles understood?
- The “gift of languages” (tongues) – it seems that angels may have the gift of tongues. Ever wonder what language we will speak on the New Earth?

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 5:25 Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!” 26 **The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles**, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. 27 Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. 28 **“We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man’s name!”** he said. **“Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!”** NLT 15

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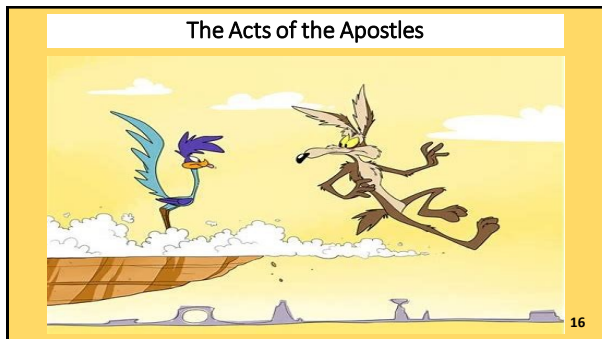
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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- Yes, I'll bet that was startling news! The apostles were locked up in jail, guarded in a prison, but yet there they are preaching in the temple! 😊
- The Apostles were re-arrested and brought before the council again – "We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man's name!" 😊
- This is both humorous and pathetic at the same time – an old axiom says, "there are none so blind as those who **will** not see."

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- In the past weeks Jerusalem has been the epicenter for the most important event in human history – **the resurrection of Jesus!**
- And the very ones who should have welcomed and embraced the Messiah were instead consumed with jealousy and fear.
- As it turns out the teachers of the Book, couldn't put together the prophecies of the Book. (or wouldn't)

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- **And then we have this** – “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!”
- Matt 27:25 All the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- What they wanted in the moment they had the crowds in their hands, now comes back to haunt them.
- They wanted Jesus dead, but they had no idea how powerful a dead Jesus who is raised from the dead would be.
- At this point the **Rabbi Jesus** must have seemed very appealing compared to the **Resurrected Jesus!**

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**The Acts of the Apostles**




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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 **The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross.** 31 Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as **Prince and Savior.** He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. 32 We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him.” NLT

• And the Apostles do not quit – they come right back with the same gospel because “faith comes by hearing”.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Notice this, “The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead” – this would serve to show the consistency of God in his redemption plan.

• They are saying, “God didn’t change his mind about his redemption plan, but is merely fulfilling his plan.”

• Their appeal is really to the scriptures – if they searched the scriptures they could have easily seen how all that Jesus did and all that happened to him confirmed he was the Messiah.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Have you ever explored this sentence - “Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as **Prince and Savior**”.

• “Prince”? Did Luke mean “Prince of Peace”, one of the titles given to Messiah by Isaiah?

• Both the Hebrew and the Greek words agree on “Prince” – and it means leader, person in charge, and even assigned the rank of captain. (not one to trifle with)

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 5:33 **When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.** 34 But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. 35 Then he said to his colleagues, "Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men! 36 Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, **but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways.** The whole movement came to nothing. 37 After him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, **but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered.** NLT 25

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 5:38 "So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. 39 **But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them.** You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" 40 The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. 41 **The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.** 42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah." NLT 26

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• "When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them" – **now it's no longer "shut up or go to prison, it's shut up or die".**

• Gamaliel, one of the leading rabbis of the day and the mentor to one Saul of Tarsus, calls for what we might call an executive session of the high council.

• Gamaliel advises the council to let the Apostles alone and explains his rationale for doing so. 27

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Gamaliel says, "If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!"
- His advice was sound, especially based upon what he had already seen play out in history as he cites two examples. (Theudas and Judas)
- By the way, Gamaliel was 100% right within his scope of knowledge.<sup>28</sup>

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- However, history shows that Gamaliel's strategy has not always worked throughout history.
- What is Islam, but a movement that is not of God yet has become very successful in forming a worldwide religion?
- The one part of Gamaliel's counsel that cannot be refuted anywhere in history is, "**if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them**".

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **God will always work his plan no matter the cost, no matter the opposition, no matter what.**
- If the above is not true, then God is not God because by definition God can do, and does do whatever he wants.
- And God wants to redeem a people for his own for the express purposes of worshipping, serving, and glorifying him!

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The Acts of the Apostles

God's redemption plan is far more about glorifying Him than it is about providing a home for believers in Heaven when we die!

He is of the utmost and ultimate importance – we are eternally blessed just to be vessels suitable for His presence.

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Easter Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2020



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Questions

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