



The Acts of the Apostles

The Journey – 2020
Jim Hoffman

1

Prayer Requests

- President Trump and Team (wisdom)
- All leaders across America (wisdom)
- America – we need His mercy!
- Nelson and Paige Swarts
- Jerry and Julia Sweeten’s daughter-in-law
- Connie Zook’s cousin Sandy and Husband

2

2

Our Response to COVID19

- A sense of mortality.
- Fear – people wear masks even when walking or driving by themselves.
- Obey the authorities.
- We must care for each other and protect each other.
- Carpe Diem!

3

3

Revival

A Brief History of Spiritual Revival and Awakening in America

- The Great Awakening, 1734-43.
- The Second Great Awakening, 1800-1840.
- The Businessmen's Revival of 1857-1858.
- The Civil War Revival, 1861-1865.
- The Urban Revivals, 1875-1885.
- The Revivals of 1905-1906.
- The Azusa Street Revival, 1906.
- The Post-World War II Awakening.

4

4

The Acts of the Apostles

Short Lessons from Israel's History

5

5

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 7:3 God told him, '**Leave your native land** and your relatives, and **come into the land that I will show you.**' 4 So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and **lived in Haran** until his father died. **Then God brought him here to the land where you now live.** NLT
- Notice how God moved Abraham in steps – Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to **guide my feet** and a light for my path.
- Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down..... (you know, like the weight of disobedience.)

6

6

The Acts of the Apostles

- The “witnesses” of Hebrews 12 are not saints who are watching us from Heaven – instead, **their testimonies** are being witnessed by us through the scriptures.
- When we see that God sometimes leads just one step at a time through Abraham’s life we are to trust God and take the next step that is right before us.
- Green dot theory.

7

7

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 7:5 “But God gave him no inheritance here, not even one square foot of land. God did promise, however, that eventually the whole land would belong to **Abraham and his descendants**—even though he had no children yet.”
- **What God decrees, God will do** – we only struggle with God giving Abraham a promise that was never fulfilled in the natural because our natural mind struggles with supernatural things.
- Interesting that we can have an earthly inheritance even after we die – we understand his descendants owning the land, but a dead Abraham?

8

8

The Acts of the Apostles

- So how can land belong to someone who is dead? It can't, **but what if Abraham isn't dead?**
- Mark 12:26“But now, as to whether the dead will be raised—haven't you ever read about this in the writings of Moses, in the story of the burning bush? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said to Moses, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'. 27 **So he is the God of the living, not the dead.**" NLT
- John 11:25 Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.** 26 **Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.** NLT

9

9

The Acts of the Apostles

- While all of God’s promises will be kept, many times His promises are tied to time. (like the promise to give Abraham land)
- For the believer cancer is always cured, MS is always taken away, and loneliness always ceases to exist. (Psalm 103:3 **He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases – we know he will, we do not know when – so why doesn’t God heal all Christians is a moot point because he does heal all of his children**)
- God’s promises are always “amen and amen” and the ones that are not kept immediately will be kept at an even better time. 😊 10

10

The Acts of the Apostles

John 16:33 “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” NLT

2nd Tim 3:12 Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. NLT

11

11

The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 7:9 “These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. **But God** was with him 10 and rescued him from all his troubles.

• Throughout the bible, **BUT GOD!!**

• Do you see how comforting 2 short words can be when they so certainly point to the difference God makes in our lives and in the world?

12

12

The Acts of the Apostles

- Gen 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; **but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. KJV
- Matt 19:26 Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. **But with God everything is possible.**" NLT
- 1st Sam 23:14 And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, **but God delivered him** not into his hand. KJV

13

13

The Acts of the Apostles

- Psalm 49:15 **But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave:** for he shall receive me. Selah. KJV
- Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: **but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.** KJV
- Psalm 75:7 **But God is the judge:** he putteth down one, and setteth up another. KJV

14

14

The Acts of the Apostles

- Isaiah 17:13 The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: **but God shall rebuke them**, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. KJV
- Jonah 4:7 **But God prepared a worm** when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. KJV
- Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins **but God** only? KJV

15

15

The Acts of the Apostles

- Luke 12:20 **But God** said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? KJV
- Luke 16:14 The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. 15 Then he said to them, "You like to appear righteous in public, **but God** knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God. NLT
- Acts 13:30 **But God raised him from the dead:** KJV

16

16

The Acts of the Apostles

- Rom 5:8 **But God** commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. KJV
- 1st Cor 12:27 **But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;** and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; KJV
- 1st Cor 2:10 **But God hath revealed them unto us** by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. KJV

17

17

The Acts of the Apostles

- 1st Cor 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; **but God gave the increase.** 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; **but God** that giveth the increase. KJV
- 1st Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: **but God is faithful,** who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. KJV

18

18

The Acts of the Apostles

- Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us. Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together with Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;) **6 And hath raised us up together**, and **made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. KJV

19

19

The Acts of the Apostles

- So we come back now to Acts 7:9 “These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. **But God** was with him 10 and **rescued him from all his troubles**.
- “**and rescued him from all his troubles**” – this reminds me of Psalm 34:6 where we read, “In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; **he saved me from all my troubles**. NLT
- Above are two anecdotes that show God rescues his people from their troubles.

20

20

The Acts of the Apostles

- I love to read of all of the times God has intervened in history and rescued his people from their troubles.
- And the bible is true so we should hang on to the sweet words of rescue.
- **However**, the rescuing of Joseph also involved **being in the custody of slave holders, being falsely accused of rape, being thrown into prison, left to languish there for years, and finally having to suffer the riches of Egypt**.

21

21

The Acts of the Apostles

- As we grow, we ought to learn to embrace the works of God in our lives that are done in the hard times and places.
- Yes, God always rescues his people – just not always in the ways his people want him to, or in our timetables.
- Heb 11: others were tortured some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips... others were chained in prisons ... some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. NLT

22

22

The Acts of the Apostles

- What we learn from the scriptures when we read of Joseph, David, and others is that God is able.
- As for David and Joseph, the fact that God rescued them from their troubles are not promises for us to embrace as our own, they are experiences for us to learn from.
- The same God that allowed both to get into trouble is the same God who sustained them in their troubles and sometimes that is when he is most glorified, and we are most edified. ☺

23

23

The Acts of the Apostles

“If I have learned nothing else in my quest to make much of God’s glory, I have learned that my temporal comfort as I seek to glorify him is not a high priority for him.”

Unknown

24

24



Questions

25

25
