

# From the BIG Beginning



• God's person and character does not change

• His relentless pursuit of a personal relationship with every one of us for eternity continues



## Preparation of the Disciples

¶ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach
 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.
 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.



### Acts 1:

Promise of the Spirit

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 ¶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to located?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive nower when the Holy Spirit comes

8 But you will enceive power when the Holy Sould comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking interluty up into the sky as he was going when suddenly two men dressed in white stood headed.

beside trieff. 11 "Men of Galiliee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."



# Prayers of the Eyewitnesses

### cts 1:

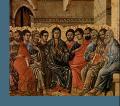
12 ¶ Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James

14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus. and with his brothers.

15  $\P$  In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and wentv)

wenny) 16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus — 17 he was one of cur number and shared in this ministry."







## Peter's Preaching of the Good News



Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

## The Proliferation of the early Church



- 42.4 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
  43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.
  44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.
  45 Seling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.
  46 Every day they continued to meet together with glad and sincere hearts,
  47 prising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their neuron called the perior called the presence of the tord added to their neuron.

Acts 2

## The Proliferation of the early Church

## Via Persecution

Acts 8

1 ¶ And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout J

Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.
 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.
 If Theory who had began and transformed.

4 ¶ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.





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