



The
ACTS
OF THE APOSTLES

The image features a dark, textured background with stylized, wavy patterns in shades of brown and grey, resembling flames or smoke. The central focus is the title 'The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES'. The word 'The' is written in a light grey, cursive font. 'ACTS' is in a large, bold, orange-red font, with the 'A' stylized as a flame. Below it, 'OF THE APOSTLES' is written in a smaller, light grey, serif font.



Today's Scripture Reading

Acts 25: 1-12



¹Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ²And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, ³asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. ⁴Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. ⁵“So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.”



⁶ After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. ⁷ When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. ⁸ Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.” ⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”



¹⁰ But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. ¹¹ If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” ¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”



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Potentially boring but...

There's always a relevance to each audience (OT and NT) for development and understanding

Romans says Scripture is power. And that it's capable to transform our mind, mindset, bringing change and obedience



Jesus had a perfect eternal perspective

Paul was similar in his perspective



What happened during the two year imprisonment that kept the Jews angry?

Acts 5 – Gamaliel’s Address to the Sanhedrin

39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”



1 Peter 2:12

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”



John 19:11

“You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”



Romans 4:20-21

“Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Paul's perseverance under pressure and persecution.



Observation

Early on in Acts, we've witnessed exceptionally vivid pictures of the Holy Spirit's move:

- Peter's boldness,
- Jesus' resurrection,
- Silver and Gold...arise and walk,
- cell doors angelically opening,
- Salvation of entire households.

Now what do we see?



This portion of Scripture doesn't even mention God, Christ, Salvation, or the Kingdom of Heaven. **NOTHING but a narrative. But in the whole of the gospel narrative is life, eternal life.**



Do we ask Jesus for a sign
or do we see them all around us?





Two Points to Ponder:

The Holy Spirit's workings are always miraculous, maybe not by theological definition, but sovereignly so nonetheless

They will not always be spectacular to our carnal senses, but can and should be acknowledged as His as we train our spiritual discerners



APPLICATION:

DO NOT THINK IN TERMS OF COINCIDENCE, CHANCE, OR LUCK BUT REMIND YOURSELF OF GOD'S MUNDANE PROVIDENCE IN ALL PEOPLE AND CIRCUMSTANCES

DON'T WAIT TO BE "LED" BY THE SPIRIT IN ORDER TO LIVE FOR GOD EXERCISING FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

HOW CAN YOU TRAIN YOURSELF TO RECOGNIZE GOD IS AT WORK IN THE ROUTINE OF DAILY LIFE?

ACTS of the APOSTLES | 25:1-12



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF BROTHER LAWRENCE?



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