

To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to (what) the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3

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Acts 1:3

# Life in the Early Church

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# Life in the Early Church

As we face unprecedented times in the church, the most important question we can ask ourselves is this:

What can we learn about church from the early church?

Or what can we learn about what we are facing today from the book of Acts.

And the answer will both surprise and encourage you.

# The Book of Acts



# The Book of Acts

Why did God include Acts in His Scripture?

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What is He trying to teach us in these 28 chapters?

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Acts of the Apostles?

Or maybe is should say, Acts of the Holy Spirit?

# The Book of Acts



# The Book of Acts

The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple,  
and breaking bread from house to house, they ate  
their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,  
praising God and having favor with all the people.  
And the Lord added to the church daily those who  
were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

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were being saved.**

Acts 2:46-47

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

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# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

Acts 9:31

# The Book of Acts

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# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him,  
because he did not give glory to God.  
And he was eaten by worms and died.  
But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 12:23-24

# The Book of Acts

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Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him,  
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Acts 12:23-24

# The Book of Acts

The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

So the churches were strengthened in the faith,  
and increased in number daily.

Acts 16:5

# The Book of Acts

The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

So the churches were strengthened in the faith,  
**and increased in number daily.**

Acts 16:5

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Acts 19:19-20

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. **So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.**

Acts 19:19-20

# The Book of Acts

## The Progress Report of the Church in Acts

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching (what) the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Acts 28:30-31

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Gospels

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Acts

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Gospels

Acts

Revelation

# The Book of Acts

Gospels

The Message of the Kingdom

Acts

Revelation

# The Book of Acts

Gospels

The Message of the Kingdom

Acts

From the Message of the Kingdom to the Church

Revelation



# The Book of Acts

Gospels

The Message of the Kingdom

Acts

From the Message of the Kingdom to the Church

Revelation

From the Church to the Kingdom

# The Message of the Kingdom

# The Message of the Kingdom

John the Baptist

# The Message of the Kingdom

John the Baptist

Jesus

# The Message of the Kingdom

John the Baptist

“Repent, (why) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:2

Jesus

# The Message of the Kingdom

John the Baptist

“Repent, (why) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:2

Jesus

“Repent, (why) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17

# The Message of the Kingdom

John the Baptist

“**Repent**, (why) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:2

Jesus

“Repent, (why) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17

# The Message of the Kingdom

John the Baptist

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# The Message of the Kingdom

The Message of Jesus

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message of Jesus

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching (what) the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 4:23

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And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching** (what) **the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

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And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching (what) the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.**

Matthew 4:23

# The Message of the Kingdom

What Life is Like in the Kingdom

# The Message of the Kingdom

What Life is Like in the Kingdom  
(Sermon on the Mount)

# The Message of the Kingdom

Humility and Brokenness

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Humility and Brokenness

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
(why) for theirs is (what) the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Humility and Brokenness

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
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# The Message of the Kingdom

Being Light in Darkness (and suffering for it)



# The Message of the Kingdom

Being Light in Darkness (and suffering for it)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, (why) for theirs is (what) the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10

# The Message of the Kingdom

Being Light in Darkness (and suffering for it)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
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# The Message of the Kingdom

The Importance of Obedience in the Kingdom

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## The Importance of Obedience in the Kingdom

“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in (what) the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in (what) the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:19

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Importance of Obedience in the Kingdom

“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in (what) **the kingdom of heaven**; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in (what) the kingdom of heaven.”

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# The Message of the Kingdom

Righteousness and Entrance into the Kingdom

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## Righteousness and Entrance into the Kingdom

“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter (what) the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:20



# The Message of the Kingdom

## Righteousness and Entrance into the Kingdom

“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter (what) **the kingdom of heaven.**”

Matthew 5:20

# The Message of the Kingdom

The Kingdom in Prayer

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Kingdom in Prayer

“Your (what) kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Kingdom in Prayer

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is (what) the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Matthew 6:13

# The Message of the Kingdom

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“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. **For Yours is (what) the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**”

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# The Message of the Kingdom

The Kingdom and the Priorities of Life

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“But seek first (what) the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

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# The Message of the Kingdom

The Kingdom and Obedience, Once Again

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Kingdom and Obedience, Once Again

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter (what) the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Kingdom and Obedience, Once Again

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter (what) **the kingdom of heaven**, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21

# The Message of the Kingdom

The Message of Jesus' Preaching

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## The Message of Jesus' Preaching

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching (what) the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message of Jesus' Preaching

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# The Message of the Kingdom

The Message of the Disciples' Preaching



# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message of the Disciples' Preaching

“And as you go, preach, saying, (what) ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:7-8

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message of the Disciples' Preaching

“And as you go, preach, saying, (what) **‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

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# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message of the Disciples' Preaching

“And as you go, preach, saying, (what)  
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# The Message of the Kingdom

The Reason Jesus Spoke in Parables

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Reason Jesus Spoke in Parables

And the disciples came and said to Him,  
“Why do You speak to them in parables?”

He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of (what) the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”

Matthew 13:11

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Reason Jesus Spoke in Parables

And the disciples came and said to Him,  
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Matthew 13:11

# The Message of the Kingdom

Description of the Kingdom

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“When anyone hears (what) the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

Matthew 13:19

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“When anyone hears (what) the **word of the kingdom**, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

Matthew 13:19

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

Another parable He put forth to them, saying:  
“The (what) kingdom of heaven is like a man  
who sowed good seed in his field.”

Matthew 13:24

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

Another parable He put forth to them, saying:  
“The (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a man  
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Matthew 13:24



# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

Another parable He put forth to them, saying:

“The (what) kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,  
which a man took and sowed in his field.”

Matthew 13:31

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

Another parable He put forth to them, saying:

“The (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field.”

Matthew 13:31

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

Another parable He spoke to them:

“The (what) kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

Matthew 13:33

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

Another parable He spoke to them:

“The (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

Matthew 13:33

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Again, the (what) kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Matthew 13:44

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Again, the (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Matthew 13:44

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Again, the (what) kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Matthew 13:45-46

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Again, the (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Matthew 13:45-46



# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Again, the (what) kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.”

Matthew 13:47-48

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Again, the (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.”

Matthew 13:47-48

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“For the (what) kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

Matthew 20.1

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“For the (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

Matthew 20.1

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“The (what) kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son.”

Matthew 22:2

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“The (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son.”

Matthew 22:2

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Then the (what) kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

Matthew 25:1

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“Then the (what) **kingdom of heaven shall be likened** to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

Matthew 25:1



# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“For the (what) kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”

Matthew 25:14

# The Message of the Kingdom

## Description of the Kingdom

“For the (what) **kingdom of heaven is like** a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”

Matthew 25:14

# The Message of the Kingdom

The Message We Are to be Preaching

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

“And this (what) gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Matthew 24:14

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The Message We Are to be Preaching

“**And this** (what) gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

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The Message We Are to be Preaching

“And this (what) gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Matthew 24:14

This is exactly what happened in the book of Acts.

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

But when they believed Philip as he preached the  
(what) things concerning the kingdom of God  
and the name of Jesus Christ,  
both men and women were baptized.

Acts 8:12

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

But when they believed Philip as he preached the  
(what) **things concerning the kingdom of God**  
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both men and women were baptized.

Acts 8:12

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the (what) things of the kingdom of God.

Acts 19:18

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the (what) **things of the kingdom of God.**

Acts 19:18

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching (what) the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.”

Acts 20:25



# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching (what) **the kingdom of God**, will see my face no more.”

Acts 20:25

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

“So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of (what) the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Acts 28:23

# The Message of the Kingdom

## The Message We Are to be Preaching

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# The Message of the Kingdom

# The Message of the Kingdom

Receiving the Kingdom as an Inheritance

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Receiving the Kingdom as an Inheritance

See Matthew 25:31-46

# The Message of the Kingdom

Receiving the Kingdom as an Inheritance

See Matthew 25:31-46

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand,  
‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit (what)  
the kingdom prepared for you from the  
foundation of the world.’”

Matthew 25:34

# The Message of the Kingdom

Receiving the Kingdom as an Inheritance

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“Then the King will say to those on His right hand,  
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“Then the King will say to those on His right hand,  
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Receiving the Kingdom as an Inheritance

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Matthew 25:34

# The Message of the Kingdom

Receiving the Kingdom as an Inheritance

See Matthew 25:31-46

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Think, if this was an earthly kingdom, would there be  
a difference between entering and inheriting it?



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Again, yes.

So it would be vital for us to know exactly what it means to be called an “overcomer” and if there are any requirements to being an “overcomer”?

And what we will find out will shock and amaze you.

To Those Who Overcome

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:7 (Ephesus)

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Or just to those who overcome?

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Or is this promise only to those who overcome?

And what does it mean to be one who overcomes?

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”

Revelation 2:17 (Pergamos)

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“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ — as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:26-29 (Thyatira)

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And how does this relate to the kingdom of God?

