

Book of Acts – A Prophetic Witness

We present to you the notion that the Book of Acts is a prophetic witness. Our purpose is to reveal that the Book of Acts is not only merely a history book, but also foreshadows end time events in detail. We have gained these insights partly through spiritual numbers related to the order of Books in the Bible and the order of Chapters in a Book.

A summary of our prophetic interpretations of the Book of Acts is presented in two graphics at the end of this paper. The two graphics are also available on our website as a separate document.

OVERVIEW

There are 66 Books in the Bible. **Acts is the 44th Book**. The spiritual number **44** can be interpreted either as '**Blood Thirsty Killers**'¹ (most common sense) or '**Apostles of the Mystery**'² (less common).

The Book of Acts is full of examples of both misguided zealots and holy apostles!

A Blood Thirsty Killer (44) ravages God's flock like a wolf. An Apostle builds up God's flock like a shepherd. It can be the same person! Saul persecuted believers; Paul ministered to believers.

The Sword of the LORD is double-edged. The one who grasps it either smites the enemies of God, or he harms the people of God. To minister to God's people requires such humility, spiritual enlightenment, and faithfulness! The moment the Man of God slips in his holy calling, he brings danger to himself and to his hearers.

The same man can be a saint that shines God's light and then later be an agent of spiritual darkness.

Two papers we have written illustrate the grave seriousness of this phenomenon: "**I am the Sinner**" (*the life of David*) and "**I Am Your Brother**" (*the life of Joseph*)³.

It is so often the case in the Bible that God chooses to use a man to bring about a great victory then at a later time that same man becomes a channel of error, sin, and contention. Gideon wrought a great victory for God then Gideon led Israel into idolatry (*by constructing a golden ephod from the booty of defeated enemies*). The apostles in Jerusalem are another example of how fast leadership can regress.

All the scenes in the human drama in Acts foreshadow distant future events for both Christians and Jews. The **Book of Acts (44)** is itself a '**Message**' (4) of the '**Mystery**' (11). This paper will prove it.

The Bible student is well served to study and uncover the prophetic messages in the Book of Acts. This is especially relevant since **we are living in the Last Days right now**.

¹ Messengers (4) of Darkness (11) or Secret (11) World (4)

² Messengers (4) of Mystery (11)

³ They are available on Page 99 THE CHURCH on our website: www.biblenumbersforlife.com.

THE LIFE OF PAUL

Paul is David, Joseph, Moses, and Gideon in reverse. All those men began well but in the end failed miserably. Paul began as the enemy of God and finished his spiritual journey as the champion of God.

Paul was a missionary, a Bible expositor, and an unparalleled author of Scripture (twelve books in the Bible, thirteen if you count Hebrews). Those are great achievements. But Paul was more than that.

The life of Christ was cut short. Paul in a mysterious way lived out and fulfilled the ministry of Christ after his premature death, resurrection, and ascension. We will explain.

Did you ever marvel how many times Paul was stoned yet lived? How many times his enemies plotted to kill him but he survived? Shipwrecks, riots, mob beatings, and floggings – nothing could kill Paul.

The reason is Paul is a prophetic fulfillment of the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement. Paul was under the mighty hand of God's protection: his enemies might abuse him but they could not kill him.

Two goats were brought to the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. A lot was cast. One of the goats died as a sacrifice. The other goat was led out into the wilderness and set free. The High Priest placed his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confessed all the sins of the children of Israel over him.

Christ was the sacrificial goat. He presented his life as atonement for sin on the altar (the cross of Calvary). The pairing of these two goats indicates a special connection between them. It was more than just a bond. Christ died on the cross. Paul then continued and fulfilled the life of Jesus.

Paul was the goat set free. Although he was a Hebrew, he was led away from the fellowship of Israel, and sent out into the wilderness: to preach to the Gentiles. They received the message of the good news of salvation in the name of Jesus. But to the Jews Paul was always '**Azazel**' – the cursed goat.

Make no mistake: a goat is a symbol of a Hebrew. Christ fulfilled this prophecy because he descended through Mary from the line of David. The goat set free must also be a Hebrew. Paul fulfilled this prophecy. According to his testimony he was a 'Hebrew of Hebrews': the most pious Jew that lived!

It was not just the Jews who abused Paul. Barnabas had a sharp disagreement with Paul. The apostles in Jerusalem humiliated Paul (and the gospel) by asking him to shave his hair, pay his dues, wash in the purification water of the Temple, and present himself to a priest of the Jews to be cleansed!

Paul is our litmus test. Everything Paul did and said from the time of his conversion until the very end was holy and perfect. Paul was literally the Spirit of Christ in the flesh! The goat set free from sin.

We may examine the rest of the apostles and the churches in the accounts of the Book of Acts and evaluate them according to whether they agreed to Paul or opposed Paul. In this way we know whether they were in the will of God or not in the will of God.

PROPHECY REVEALED IN ACTS

How could there be an historic account full of Hebrew people and it not be steeped in prophecy?

The first four books of the New Testament recount the history of the life of Jesus Christ. Prophecy is fulfilled in three of the Feasts of the LORD⁴ described in the Law of Moses:

- Feast of Passover – Crucifixion of Christ
- Feast of First Fruits – Resurrection of Christ
- Feast of Unleavened Bread – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Book of Acts records history after the resurrection of Christ and also contains fulfillment of prophecy declared in the regulations concerning the Feasts of the LORD written in the Law of Moses:

- Feast of Pentecost – Birth of the Church

There are 28 chapters in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. $28 = 4 \times 7$. Using spiritual numbers this means: Message (4) of the End (7). In other words, the book contains prophetic Messages (4) concerning the Time (7) of the End (7): the last days of the church and the last days of the Jews.

Seven Prophetic Messages (Comprised of Four Chapters Each) in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles

1. Christians - In Heaven During the Great Tribulation
2. Christians – Persecution Prior to the Rapture
3. Jews - Great Tribulation – Mid-Point of the Great Tribulation
4. Christians - Church History – Last Days
5. Christians - Church History – Cross to Last Days
6. Jews - First Half of the Great Tribulation
7. Jews - Second Half of the Great Tribulation

Why are the prophetic periods presented in this odd order? In the Old Testament chapters are not arranged in the precise future order of prophetic events either.

For example: Joseph is thrown into a pit in Genesis 37 (prophetic of the death of Christ) and the Lord destroys Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18 (prophetic of judgment fire during the Great Tribulation).

A key to understanding prophetic meanings in the Bible is to look at the spiritual meaning of the number of the chapter in which they occur. The spiritual number 37 means 'Chosen Servant', so it is appropriate to find a prophecy pertaining to the Chosen Servant, Jesus Christ, in Genesis 37. The spiritual number 18 means 'Bondage' (to sin). The whole world will be in bondage to sin during the Great Tribulation when the Holy Spirit has departed: the connection to Sodom in Genesis 18 is clear.

⁴ We have papers on each of the Feasts of the LORD on Page 4 PROPHECY of our website.

To assist in following the prophetic threads: historical events recorded in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles are colored **Black**, future prophetic fulfillments in Christians are colored **Green**, future prophetic fulfillments in Jews are colored **Blue**, and future prophetic events are colored **Red**.

The expanded list of prophetic messages for each chapter in Acts:

1. Christians - In Heaven After Rapture & Return With Christ

- a. Chapter 4: **<First Half of Great Tribulation>**
 - i. *Peter and John Testify of Jesus to Jews at the Gates of the Temple in Jerusalem (Two Witnesses of Revelations: On Earth)*
 - ii. *High Priest of Jews (False Prophet) Questions Peter and John (Two Witnesses): 'By What Power Or In What Name Do You Do This?'*
 - iii. *Sanhedrin: 'Everyone in Jerusalem Knows They Have Done an Outstanding Miracle' ('I Will Give Power to My Two Witnesses' [Rev. 11:3])*
 - iv. *Peter and John Report Back To Their Own People⁵ (Christians in Heaven Hear Reports of The Trial of the Two Witnesses)*
 - v. *Saints Pray 'Stretch Out Your Holy Hand to Heal and Perform Signs and Wonders' (Christians in Heaven Intercede on Behalf of Two Witnesses)*
 - vi. *Believers Sell Fields and Share Possessions (Christians in Heaven Receive Rewards From Jesus in Accordance to Their Sacrifices as His Servants in their Life on Earth: 'Possessions' Refers Specifically to the Promised Land⁶)*
 - vii. *There Were No Needy Persons Among Them (Christians Blessed in Heaven)*
- b. Chapter 3: **<Mid-Point of Great Tribulation>**
 - i. *Peter and John 'Went to the Temple' (Two Witnesses are Resurrected and go to Heaven: The True Temple Where the LORD Sits Enthroned)*
 - ii. *Lame Beggar at Gate Beautiful Asks For Alms (Jews Seeking God for Answers)*
 - iii. *Peter and John Say 'Look at Us' (Call to Faith: Believe our Message!)*
 - iv. *Beggar Gives Peter and John Attention (A Vision: Like Saul on Road to Damasc.)*
 - v. *Peter and John Say 'Rise Up and Walk' (A Command: Like Saul 'Arise and Go...')*
 - vi. *Beggar Taken By the Right Hand (The Scapegoat: Led by the Hand of the Man)*
 - vii. *Lame Beggar Healed (Salvation in the Name of Jesus)*
 - viii. *Beggar Walking, Leaping, Praising God (Jews Experience New Spiritual Life)*
 - ix. *Peter and John Say 'Repent and Be Converted...'* (Message Spreads)

⁵ 'Own People' cannot refer to Jews on Earth because none of them repent until after the Two Witnesses are killed, rise from the dead, and ascend directly to Heaven. So, we take it 'Own People' refer to Christians in Heaven.

⁶ The Promised Land belongs to the Seed of Abraham, who is the Messiah (Gal. 3:16). As children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians are reckoned to be 'in the Seed' (Gal. 3:29) and are heirs of the promise, in other words, co-owners of his possessions, which include the Promised Land. The Jews rejected Christ. By doing so, they forfeited their claim to his property. In the Millennium the Promised Land will be divided among Christians. Tribulation Jews who are resurrected in the Millennium will be the 'guests to the wedding feast': they will live in the Promised Land in rented homes, not as owners.

- x. *'That He Might Send Jesus Christ'* (Return of Christ Promised If Jews Repent)
- xi. *3,000 Were Added To Their Number* (Nation (1,000) of God (3) Restored!)
- c. Chapter 2: **<Second Half of Great Tribulation>**
 - i. *All in One Place and in One Accord* (Christians in Heaven and Believing Jews on Earth Reconciled)
 - ii. *Mighty Rushing Wind from Heaven* (Holy Spirit Descends)
 - iii. *Tongues of Fire Divided and Rested on Each One* (144,000 Witnesses Anointed)
 - iv. *Gospel Proclaimed to Ethnic People Gathered* (144,000 Witnesses Proclaim to the Gentiles)
- d. Chapter 1: **<End of Great Tribulation>**
 - i. *Prayer in 'Upper Room'* (Christians Worship in Heaven)
 - ii. *Judas is Missing* (Apostate Apostle Fell From His Place)
 - iii. *Lot Cast: Mattias Replaces Judas* (Lowly Servant Elevated To Replace Him)
 - iv. *Ascension of Christ from Mount of Olives* (Christ Returns to Earth with an Army of Glorified Saints and Stands on Mount of Olives)
- 2. Christian – Persecution Immediately Prior to Rapture
 - a. Chapter 8:
 - i. *Great Persecution Breaks Out in Jerusalem* (Christians Reviled by All World Religions)
 - ii. *Philip Preaches in Samaria* (Revival in America?) [see footnote⁷]
 - iii. *Simon the Sorcerer Rebuked* (Harlot Religion (Professional Paid Ministers Masquerading as Apostles of Christ) is Rejected: 'Your heart is not right with God. You have no part in this ministry')
 - iv. *Ethiopian Eunuch is Baptised* (Men Reduced to Slaves in Last Days. Men Emasculated by Political Correctness ~ Queen Candace Rules the Workplace)
 - b. Chapter 7:
 - i. *Gentile Stephen on Trial* (Christians Dragged Before Courts)
 - ii. *Gentile Stephen Stoned* (Christians Killed For Their Faith)
 - c. Chapter 6:
 - i. *Widows (Refugees) Complaint* (Scourge of War in Syria, North Iraq, Greece)
 - ii. *Seven Deacons Chosen To Spread Gospel* (Lay Ministers Reach World for Christ: Church Ministers Unconcerned Masses Are Dying For Lack of Spiritual Food)
 - iii. *Gentile Stephen Accused of Blasphemy Against Moses* (Christianity Persecuted By Religious Authorities: Message of Salvation by Faith in Christ is Offensive)
 - d. Chapter 5:

⁷ See our paper 'Exile of Ephraim' regarding the fall of America. Ephraim is the tribe which occupied modern day Samaria. The absence of Samaria in the time when the 144,000 preach indicates, as we predict, that America will fall in the Last Days. However, if our interpretation is correct, there will also be a revival of true faith in America in the Last Days.

- i. *Ananias and Sapphira* (**Great Falling Away: Apostates Depart**)
- ii. *Apostles Heal Many* (**Great Harvest at the Same Time**)
- iii. *Apostles Thrown in Jail ~ Escape ~ Fearlessly Preach To The End* (**True Men of God on Display Before Persecutors**)

3. Jews - Great Tribulation – Mid-Point and 144,000 Witnesses

- a. Chapter 9:
 - i. *Saul's Conversion* (**Jews Accept Christ – Midpoint of Tribulation – Saul is the perfect prophetic type of the 144,000 Jewish Witnesses to the Gentiles**)
- b. Chapter 10:
 - i. *Peter's Vision of Sheet of Animals* (**144,000 Called to Go to the Gentiles**)
- c. Chapter 11:
 - i. *House of Cornelius Receives Spirit* (**Gentiles Repent at Preaching of 144,000**)
- d. Chapter 12:
 - i. *Peter Miraculously Escapes Prison* (**144,000 Protected By God**)

4. Christians – Church History – Last Days

- a. Chapter 13:
 - i. *Elymas the Sorcerer* (**False Teachers Deny Salvation By Faith: Walk in Darkness**)
 - ii. *Women of High Standing and Leading Men Drive Paul & Barnabas Out Of Town* (**Christianity Becomes Socially Unacceptable**)
- b. Chapter 14:
 - i. *Paul & Barnabas Worshipped as Zeus & Hermes* (**Religious Leaders Rule Over Christian Sects**)
- c. Chapter 15:
 - i. *Council in Jerusalem* (**World Christendom is Unified Under The Government of Religious Men Who Set Aside the Authority of Christ**)
 - ii. *Paul & Barnabas Fight* (**Brotherly Love is Gone: Every Man Against His Brother**)
- d. Chapter 16:
 - i. *Paul in Prison* (**Saints Set Aside For Slaughter**)
 - ii. *Gentile Timothy Is Circumcised* (**Christians Forced To Submit To Mosaic Law!**)

5. Christians – Church History – Cross To Last Days

- a. Chapter 17:
 - i. *Paul in Athens – Mars Hill Speech* (**Catholic Church Era: Religious Idolatry of Revering Saints {Mary, etc.}**)
- b. Chapter 18:
 - i. *Paul in Corinth – Stops Preaching to Jews* (**Dark Ages: Religion Reigns**)
 - ii. *Household of Titus Crispus is Saved* (**Only a Few Faithful Worship Privately**)
- c. Chapter 19:
 - i. *Paul in Ephesus – Christian Revivals* (**Rise of Protestantism**)

- ii. *Pagan Riots (Catholic Persecutions and/or World Wars)*
- iii. *Paul Determines To Go To Jerusalem (Nation of Israel Revived)*
- d. Chapter 20:
 - i. *Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders 'You Will Not See Me Again' (Elder Model of Governance of Christian Fellowships Passes Away)*
 - ii. *'After Me Savage Wolves Will Divide The Flock' (Denominationalism and Professional Protestant Paid Pastors)*
- 6. **Jews – Great Tribulation – First Half**
 - a. Chapter 21:
 - i. *Paul disembarks at Tyre (Babylon The Great Is World Power);*
 - ii. *Paul and Brothers (Two Witnesses) go to Jerusalem*
 - b. Chapter 22:
 - i. *Paul Testifies (Two Witnesses) in the Temple to Jews of Jesus*
 - c. Chapter 23:
 - i. *Paul Testifies (Two Witnesses) Before Sanhedrin (False Prophet) of Jesus;*
 - ii. *Paul Placed Under Roman Guard; Plot to Kill Paul Foiled (Protected By Angels)*
 - d. Chapter 24:
 - i. *Trial Before Felix (Antichrist)*
 - ii. *Paul (Two Witnesses) Declares 'It is Concerning the Resurrection of the Dead That I am On Trial (Testimony of Resurrection of Christ)*
 - iii. *Felix Says 'That is Enough! (Two Witnesses Die)*
 - iv. *You May Leave' (Two Witnesses Ascend to Heaven)*
- 7. **Jews – Great Tribulation- Second Half**
 - a. Chapter 25:
 - i. *Paul (Reborn Tribulation Jews) Cry Out in Distress*
 - ii. *'I Appeal To Caesar!' (To God in Heaven for Justice)*
 - b. Chapter 26:
 - i. *Paul (144,000 Witnesses) Preaches to Agrippa (Gentile Kings):*
 - ii. *Christ Would Suffer, Rise From Dead, Proclaim Light to His Own People and the Gentiles: Repent and Turn to God (Do Not Accept Mark of Beast)*
 - c. Chapter 27:
 - i. *Paul Sets Sail For Rome on High Seas (Satanic World Rule);*
 - ii. *Great Storm; Grain Thrown Overboard; Ship Sinks (Reborn Trib. Jews Die)*
 - d. Chapter 28:
 - i. *Crew Members Survive (Jewish Tribulations Saints Resurrected To Life);*
 - ii. *All Sick on Malta Healed (Jewish Tribulation Saints Receive New Bodies);*
 - iii. *Paul Preaches in Rome (Gentile Nations Who Survive Great Tribulation)*
 - iv. *In a Rented House (Promised Land Belongs To Bride of Christ)*

TWO GOATS OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Paul is a prophetic fulfillment of the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16). However, Paul is not the only prophetic fulfillment of the scapegoat. The 144,000 witnesses are also a prophetic fulfillment of the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement. We will explain.

Paul (the scapegoat) continues and fulfills the ministry of Christ (sacrificial goat), whose life was cut short at the Cross. He is a goat (Hebrew), who is cursed by the High Priest of the Jews (places both hands on his head), set free in the wilderness (preaches to the Gentiles), and guided there by the 'hand of a man appointed for the task' (personally guarded by the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus himself).

Now for the amazing revelation! The 144,000 witnesses (scapegoats) fulfill the ministry of Stephen!

Paul was present at the stoning of Stephen. He did not throw a stone but was consenting to Stephen's death. Paul represents the 144,000 pious Jews who are witnesses of the mass martyrdom of Gentile Christians (Stephen) at the end of the Age of Grace. Just as Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, the 144,000 witnesses will convert and follow Christ. The same conviction of sin that came upon Paul ('**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**') will come upon the 144,000. They will recognize in the holy way Stephen dies ('**Lord, hold not this sin against them**') the spirit of Jesus Christ who meekly went to his cross ('**Father forgive them, they know not what they do**').

But Stephen was not a goat! Yes, but the Spirit of Christ was in Stephen, and Christ was a goat!

John describes the 144,000 witnesses: '**have the Father's name written on their foreheads**' (Jews); '**they sang a new song**' (not the old gospel of the Age of Grace to Gentiles of forgiveness of sin and righteousness by faith in Christ; the new gospel of the Great Tribulation to Gentiles warning them not to take the mark of the Beast in order that they might survive and live into the Millennium); '**no one could learn the song except the 144,000**' (each one personally selected by Christ [Rev. 7:1-8] for their important mission); '**those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure**' (like Paul, a virgin); '**they follow the Lamb wherever he goes**' (like a tethered goat led about by the hand of a man); '**no lie was found in their mouths, they are blameless**' (like Paul, according to the Law, as to obedience in the flesh, they were perfect).

So, when we look at the life of Paul we see how powerful will be the ministry of the 144,000 witnesses! Imagine the Mediterranean world crawling with 144,000 indestructible evangelists! Glory to God!

If the High Priest of the Jews had known that the crucifixion of Jesus would lead to the conversion of Saul and the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles resulting ultimately in the obedience of hundreds of millions of Christians to faith in Christ, and the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, would he have authorized it?

If the High Priest of the Jews had known that the martyrdom of Christian saints at the end of the Age of Grace would lead to the sealing of 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the obedience of entire nations to Christ during the Great Tribulation, and the destruction of the harlot religious perversion of which he was the head, would he have authorized it?

Two goats! Two high priests! Two prophetic fulfillments: conversion of Saul (1st Century); conversion of 144,000 (Time of the End)!

All set before our eyes in the Books of the Acts of the Apostles:



‘The Stoning of Stephen’ woodcut.

THE BOOK OF ACTS - A PROPHETIC WITNESS - PART TWO {chapters 1 - 4 and 18 - 28}

Rapture

In Heaven... Raptured Christians... Joined By Two Witnesses



Peter & J. Report To People
{Christians in Heaven Hear Pray For Signs & Wonders on Earth}

Peter & J. Report To Felix Before Temple
{Two Witnesses Raised From Dead; Ascend to Heaven; This Event Is Seen By All Jews}

All in One Place; One Accord
{Jews and Christians Reconciled Forever!}



Holy Spirit
Mighty Rushing Wind

Return of Christ

Prayer in The 'Upper Room'
{In Heaven Solomon Meets!}

Judas is Missing
{Fallen Apostles in Age of Grace: Will Be Saved; But Will Not Return With Christ}

Millennium on Earth

On Earth... Jews and Gentiles

* Messengers Sent to Jews *

Peter & John Testify at Tyre
{Two Witnesses of Completely Proclaim Christ Prophecy in Jerusalem} 26,27,28

Paul Testifies Before Sanhedrin
{Put Witnesses to Kill Christ Followers} [See Eze. in Jerusalem}

* Some Jews Believe *

Paul's Trial Before Felix
{Felix Says: That is Enough! Two Witnesses Are Killed}

Lame Beggar Healed
{Faithful Jew}

Saul's Vision & Conversion
{144,000 Jews Accepts Testimony of Two Witnesses: Paul is the Perfect Model of Evangelist}

Two Witnesses Die & Ascend to Heaven

* Messengers Sent to Gentiles *

Tongues of Fire Divide Jewish Witnesses
{144,000 Sent to Gentiles}

Peter's Vision of Animals
{144,000 Gentiles Repent}

Cornelius Receives Holy Spirit
{Gentiles Repent}

Peter Escapes Prison
{Miracles Protect 144,000}



SECOND HALF GREAT TRIBULATION

* All Jews With Mark of Beast Die *

Paul Preaches to Caesar
{Faithful Jew Remnant Leaves Their Fate in God's Hands}

Paul Sails For Rome
{Christ Would Rise From Dead; Believers & Wicked}

Paul Thrown Overboard
{All Jews Die in Tribulation}

FIRST HALF GREAT TRIBULATION

- 4
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 3
- 9
- 2
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 1
- 28

MILLENNIUM