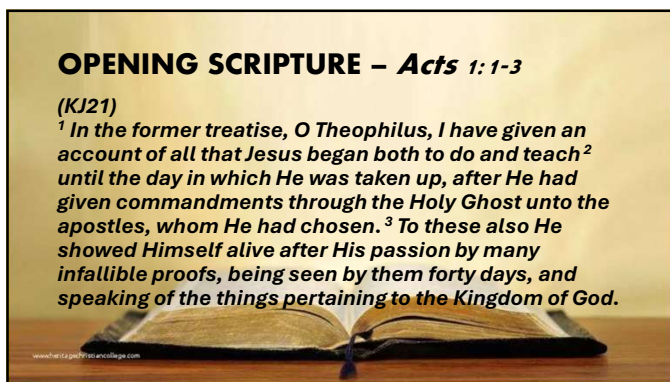
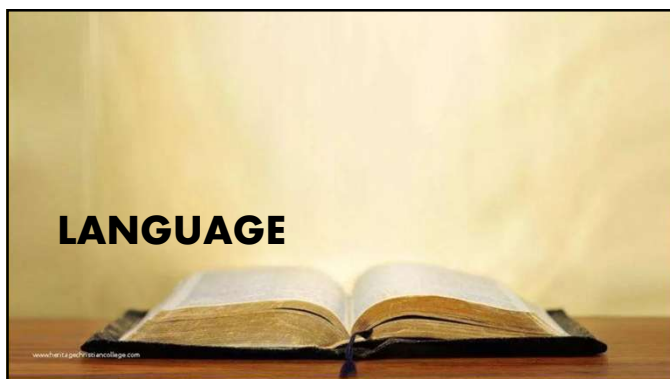


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2



3

LANGUAGE

- Historical narrative and speeches.
- Similar in many way to the Gospels.
- The difference lies in the occasion.

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4

OCCASION

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5

OCCASION

- We are dealing with the same social and historical setting as the Gospel.
- Still in the Roman Empire.
- The Gospel is crossing cultures so we must be aware of that.

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6

OCCASION

- Why was the Book of Acts written?
- We know it is meant to be part 2 of Luke. Luke is the author and Theophilus is the stated recipient.
- What is the orderly account that Luke intends to give in the Book of Acts?



7

OCCASION

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- This statement of Jesus quoted by Luke gives us a sense of the outline and purpose of the book.
- The movement of the Gospel from the Jews to Gentiles is the major purpose for the Book.



8

OCCASION

"Narrative vs Normative"

- Is Luke trying to tell us what happened? Or is Luke trying to tell the future church how to act?
- Is it an account of what happened? Or is Luke trying to establish the NORM for the New Testament church?
- The answer may lie somewhere in the middle.



9

OCCASION*Acts 6:1-4 (ESV)*

¹ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

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10

OCCASION

- Is Luke's purpose to report what the church did?

Yes.

- Is Luke's purpose to tell the church that they must do the same?

No.

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11

OCCASION*Acts 4:32-35 (CSB)*

³² Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. ³³ With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. ³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, ³⁵ and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

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12

OCCASION

Narrative or normative?

- Does this passage mandate some form of Christian communism?
- Certainly not, what is Luke describing?
- What is the point of including this?
- What does that mean for the Twenty-first century church?

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13

OCCASION

"He is concerned to show that the fulness of the Spirit is manifest in deed as well as word, service as well as witness, love for family as well as testimony to the world, So, just after the first coming of the Spirit he describes the characteristics of a Spirit-filled community (2:42-47), so after they are again filled with the Spirit he provides a second description. ... This was fundamental solidarity of love which the believers enjoyed, and their economic sharing was but one expression of the union of their hearts and minds." – John Stott

- Stott, *The Message of Acts*. The Bible Speaks Today series. (Downers Grove, IVP, 1990), 106.

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14

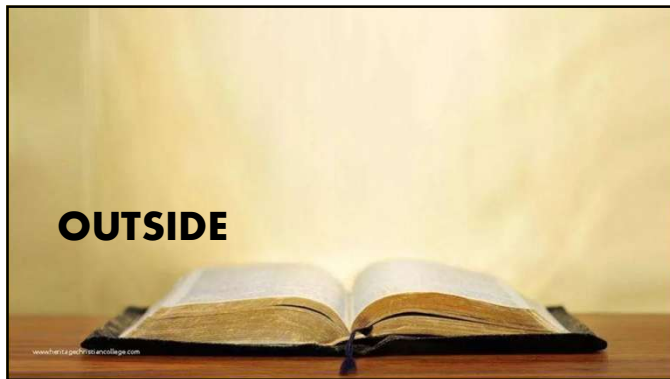
OCCASION

"Unless Scripture explicitly tells us we must do something, what is only narrated or described does not function in a normative (i.e. obligatory) way - unless it can be demonstrated on other grounds that the author intended it to function in this way." – Fee and Stuart

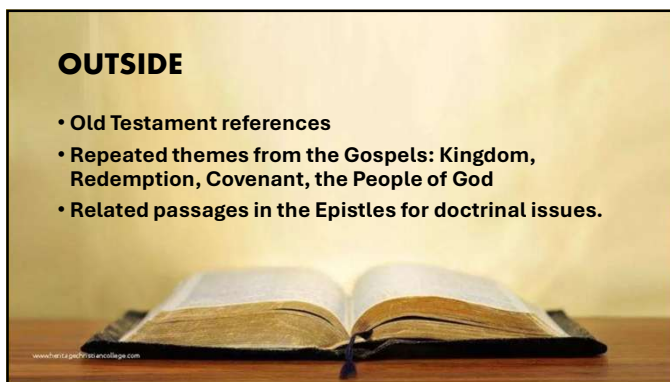
- Fee and Stuart, 118-119.

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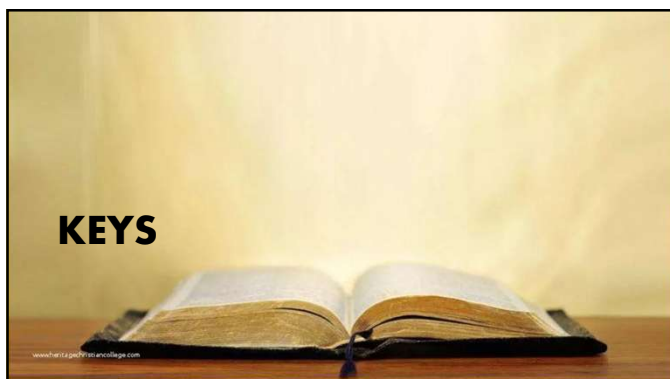
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18

KEYS

Key Themes

- Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Boldness & Spirit Empowerment
- Movement of the Gospel to the Gentiles through human agents and providential actions of God.
- Unity of the Church




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19

KEYS

Key People

- Peter
- James
- Saul/Paul
- Silas
- Barnabas
- John Mark



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20

KEYS

Key Events

- Pentecost
- Conversion of Saul
- The Inclusion of the Gentiles
- Paul's Missionary Visits
- Paul's Arrest and Movement Toward Rome



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21

KEYS

- Transition Statements/Summary Statements

Acts 6:7 (NKJV)

7 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.

Also 9:31; 12:24; 16:4; 19:20

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22

KEYS

- Look for principles rather than instructions.
- Look for examples of how the early Church operated, not patterns to be followed.
- Look for the work of the Holy Spirit. Acts has been called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" by some.
- Look for beginnings. Acts is like Genesis in that it is a book of beginnings and firsts.

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23

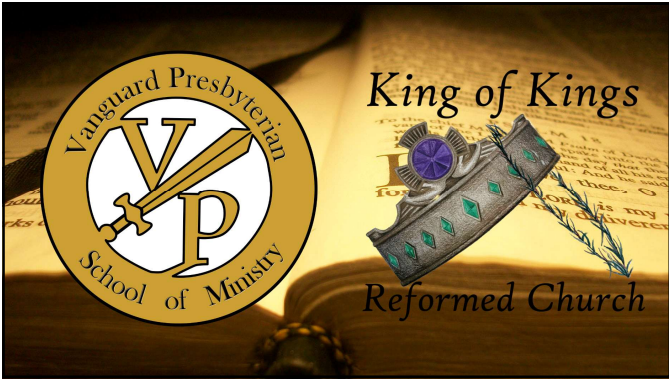
Assignment:

Acts 4:23-31

The Church Prays for Boldness

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24



25
