

God's Big Ideas

The Acts of the Apostles – Key themes with Bible verses

Nature of the work

“In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (Acts 1:1-2)

Salvation history

“[The believers prayed,] ‘For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.’” (Acts 4:27-28)

Salvation

“[Peter said,] ‘Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.’” (Acts 3:19-21)

Jesus

“[Peter said,] ‘Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’” (Acts 2:36)

The Holy Spirit

“[Peter said,] ‘No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel... “Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”’” (Acts 2:16,18)

Israel and the Gentiles

“The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’” (Acts 10:45-47)

Discipleship

“[Peter said,] ‘Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.’” (Acts 15:10-11)

The church

“[Paul said,] ‘Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.’” (Acts 20:28)

The mission of the church

“[Jesus said,] ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’” (Acts 1:8)

Relation to political authorities

“Then the king got up and with him the governor and Bernice and those who had been seated with them, and as they were leaving they said to one another, ‘This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.’” (Acts 26:30-31)

Bible quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.