

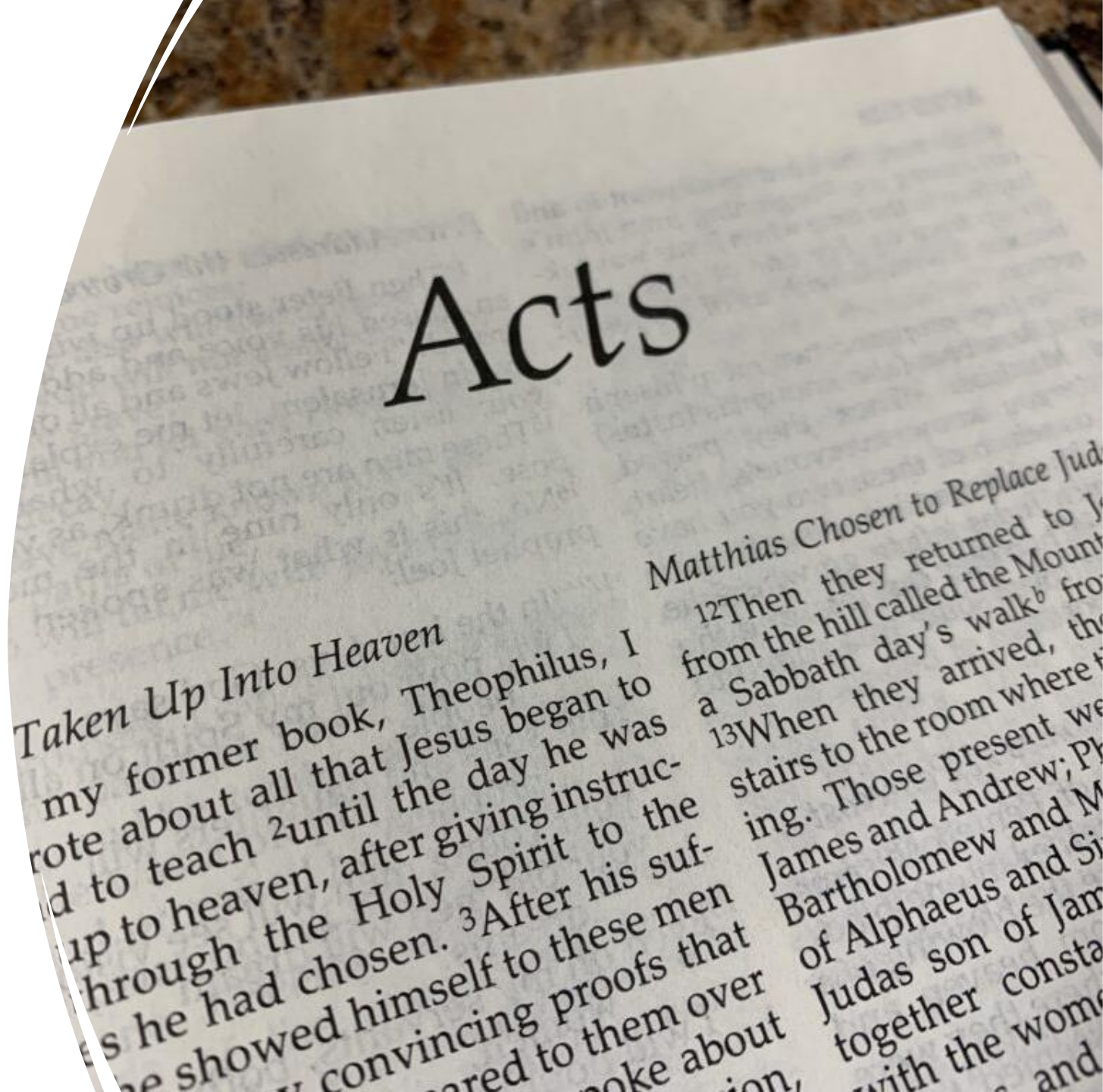


The CHURCH Series

Part 1- The Beginning

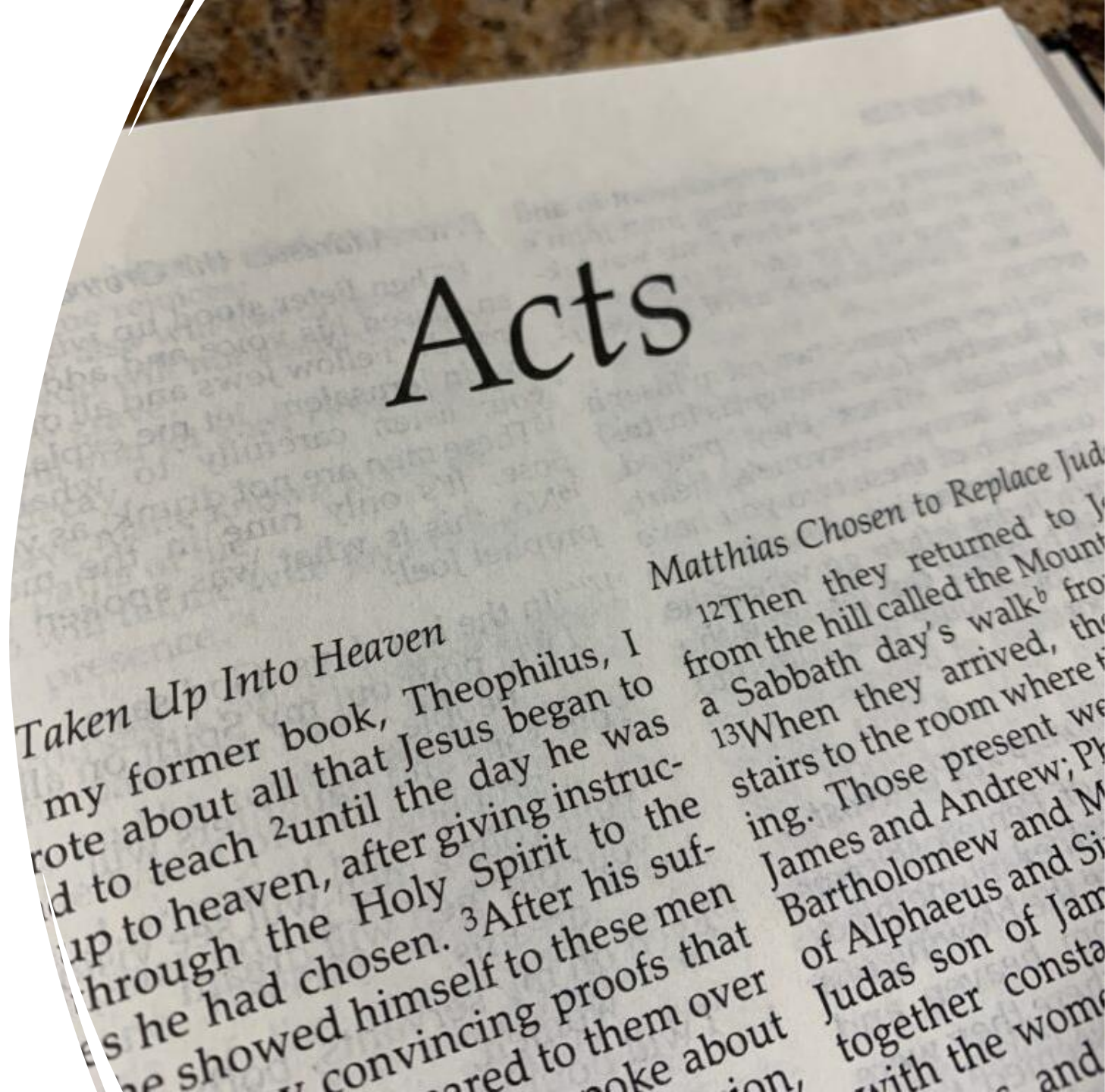
Introduction...

- In this first session after the introduction to the Book of Acts, we will now attempt to study this book Chapter by chapter.
- Meaning that we shall study the scriptures step by step as the Holy Spirit enables us.
- The Scriptures will impact us with Life and Truth, washing away misconceptions and mindsets we have carried for years.
- Let us begin...



O Theophilus...

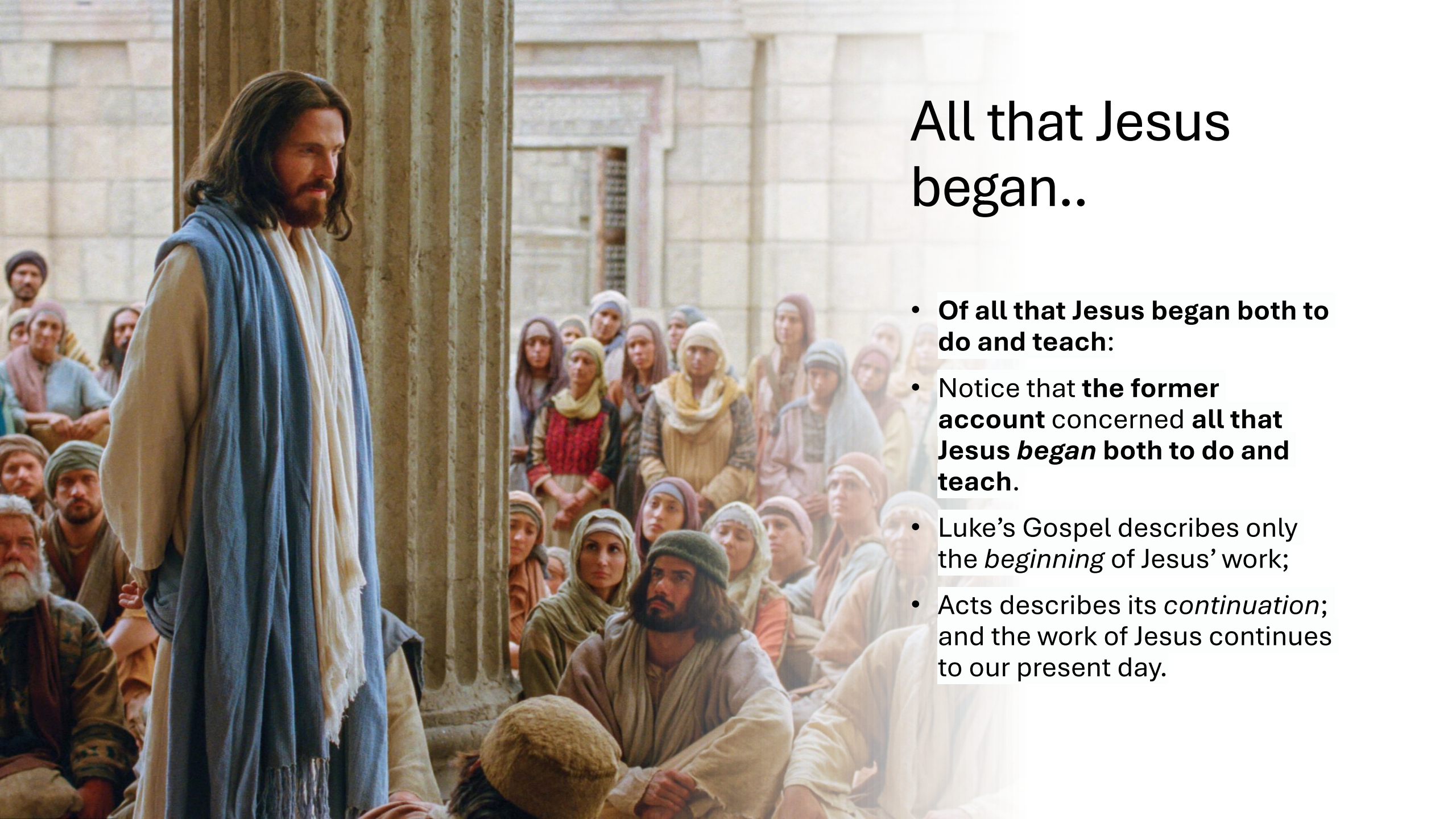
- The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,
- ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs,
- being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.



Luke...

- Luke 1:3...most excellent Theophilus, connects The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts to the same author.
- Luke the physician is credited as the writer of both books.
- It appears the Doctor may be writing to a Roman high official, hence the title “most excellent”
- Imagine if we did not have the Book of Acts? A lot of the epistles wouldn't make any sense.





All that Jesus began..

- Of all that Jesus began both to do and teach:
- Notice that **the former account** concerned **all that Jesus *began* both to do and teach.**
- Luke's Gospel describes only the *beginning* of Jesus' work;
- Acts describes its *continuation*; and the work of Jesus continues to our present day.

Jesus Began...

- **Until the day in which He was taken up:**
- **Jesus, through the Holy Spirit,** instructed the apostles regarding what to do in His absence.
- He **gave commandments to the apostles.** They carried out these commandments like He was present.
- He was! Through the Holy Spirit who had come to indwell the Early Church





Being seen by Them..

- The central figure for the Early Church was always the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit helped the New Church to focus on Christ and the finished work of the Cross.
- Over a forty day period, Jesus was amongst the Apostles and Church, showing Himself to them and teaching them.
- This appearance of Jesus to His followers continues to this day.

Pertaining the Kingdom...

- Our Lord taught them about the Kingdom of God.
- It was very real and tangible to them
- JESUS was the Teacher
- Not mighty Men or Women
- HE taught them Himself
- Every church built on Christ is built on eternal TRUTH





Acts 1:4-5

- ⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem,
- but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me;
- ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with
- the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

WAIT....

- The early church were told to wait for something they could not describe.
- The promise of the Father was something they had been told about but nobody really knew what it meant.
- They had to TRUST Him and simply OBEY His instructions
- Can you imagine what was going through the minds of the early Christians as they prayed and waited
- Waiting for what exactly....?





Baptized...

- Jesus uses an imagery they understood to explain that which they did not understand.
- They had seen John immerse people in the river Jordan
- So they knew something similar but spiritual, would happen to them.
- It was a matter of days and not weeks. When God speaks, what He says is what happens.

Will You Restore Israel...?

- This question shows where the minds and hearts of the Disciples were.
- There is a natural side to all of us that runs sometimes parallel to the Will of God.
- They wanted God to use this New Kingdom to root out the Romans!!
- How many of us want to use God's anointing for something we want in the natural?



Not for you to Know...

- In other words, focus on what I have just told you!
- You shall receive power when..
- Focus on the next few days...
- Don't get distracted with things that are outside your remit and understanding.
- We have prophetic people in the church who want you to focus on times and seasons in the Father's authority
- These are distractions from the key task of being WITNESSES!
- Start by being a Witness first!!



You Shall Receive...

- *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.”*



After That...

- The KJV versions says “..ye shall receive power, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST is come upon you...”
- The power comes from the Holy Spirit
- We therefore need to credit the Holy Spirit for whatever we do in the Name of Christ.
- He is the energiser
- He is the source
- He is the Power
- He is the enabler
- Whenever you hear a preacher or minister keep saying, I did this, I raised her up, I, I, I.....run for your life!!



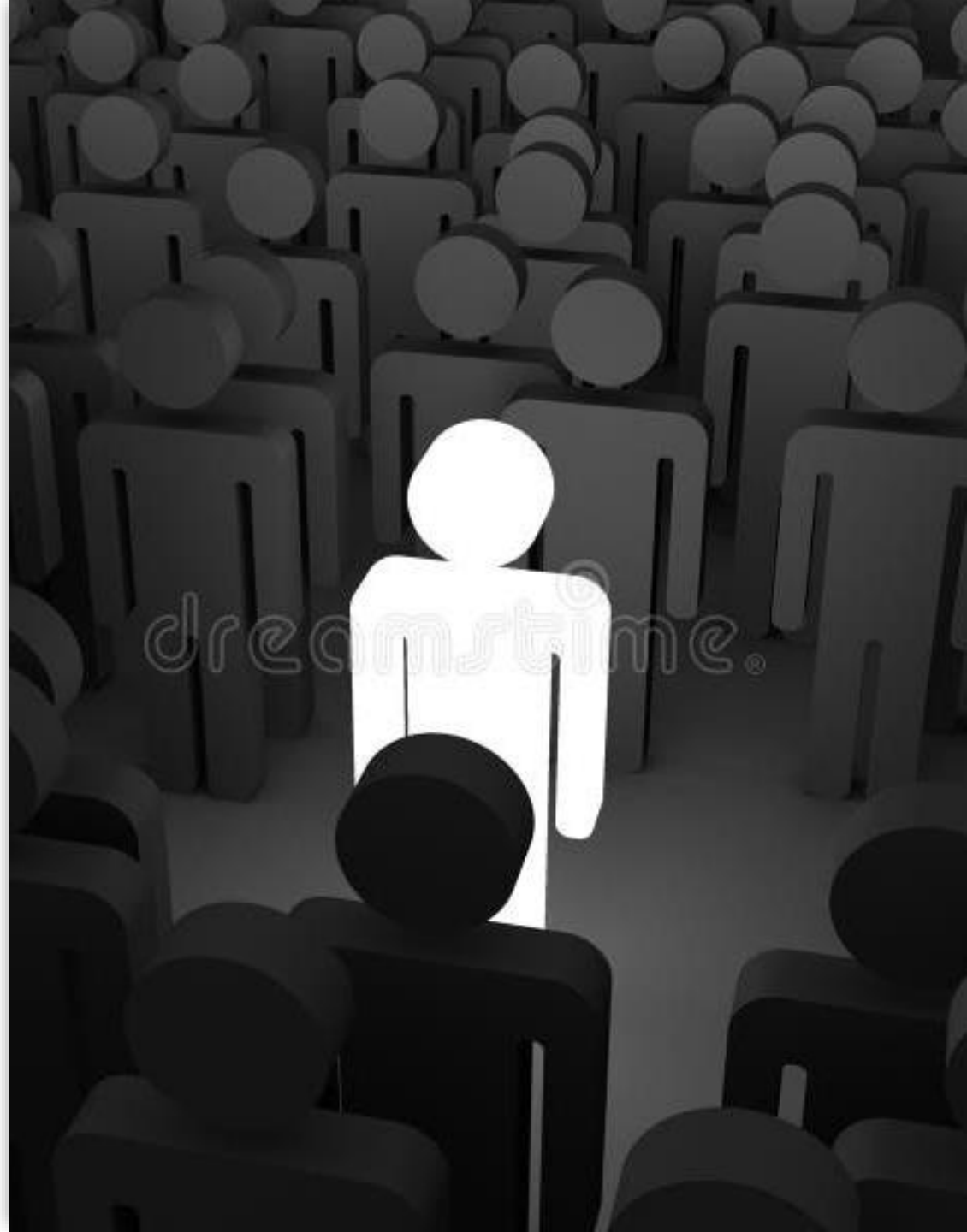
WITNESS!!

- The Greek word for witness interestingly is the word **Martyr**.
- Its quite interesting that those who have stood to testify of Christ even to the point of death are called **MARTYRS**
- The Lord is calling us to testify of Him wherever we go even if we have to suffer.
- The Lord is calling us to be witnesses by dying to our shyness, our embarrassment, our cowardice, our ego, to shame, to die to our selfishness
- And testify of Him the Christ.
- That the Holy Spirit will help us and empower us to be witnesses of Christ's resurrection.



Prayer

- In the Name of Jesus
- I will testify of Christ
- I will be a bold witness
- I will not be a coward, shy, embarrassed or ashamed to tell others about Christ.
- I overcome, my inner inhibitions
- I overcome anything internal or external that will prevent me from witnessing
- I am Bold!
- I am fearless
- Holy Spirit Help me, empower me, strengthen me to tell others about Christ!!
- In Jesus Name we pray!!



Acts 1:9-11

- *⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*
- *¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,*
- *¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?”*
- *This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*





Angels...

- He was taken UP!
- The Heavenly realm is on a superior invisible spiritual level
- Out of their sight...natural eyes cannot see into the spiritual realm.
- The two men who suddenly appeared had been there all along.
- The Angels sent to assist us are with us all the time. They appear in dreams, visions and sometimes to the natural eye when permitted to.
- Communication between Men and Angels happen whenever God permits it.

With one accord...

- ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.
- ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew;
Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew;
James *the son of Alphaeus* and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son of James*.
- ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.



Praying...

- They were united
- There was no debate about how long to pray, they just started praying
- When people have genuinely been with Jesus, certain things come naturally.
- Pray and supplication was spontaneous
- Women and Men were on the same page spiritually
- Mary and the Brothers of Jesus were amongst the early Church.
- This shows that whole families are transformed by real and genuine revivals.



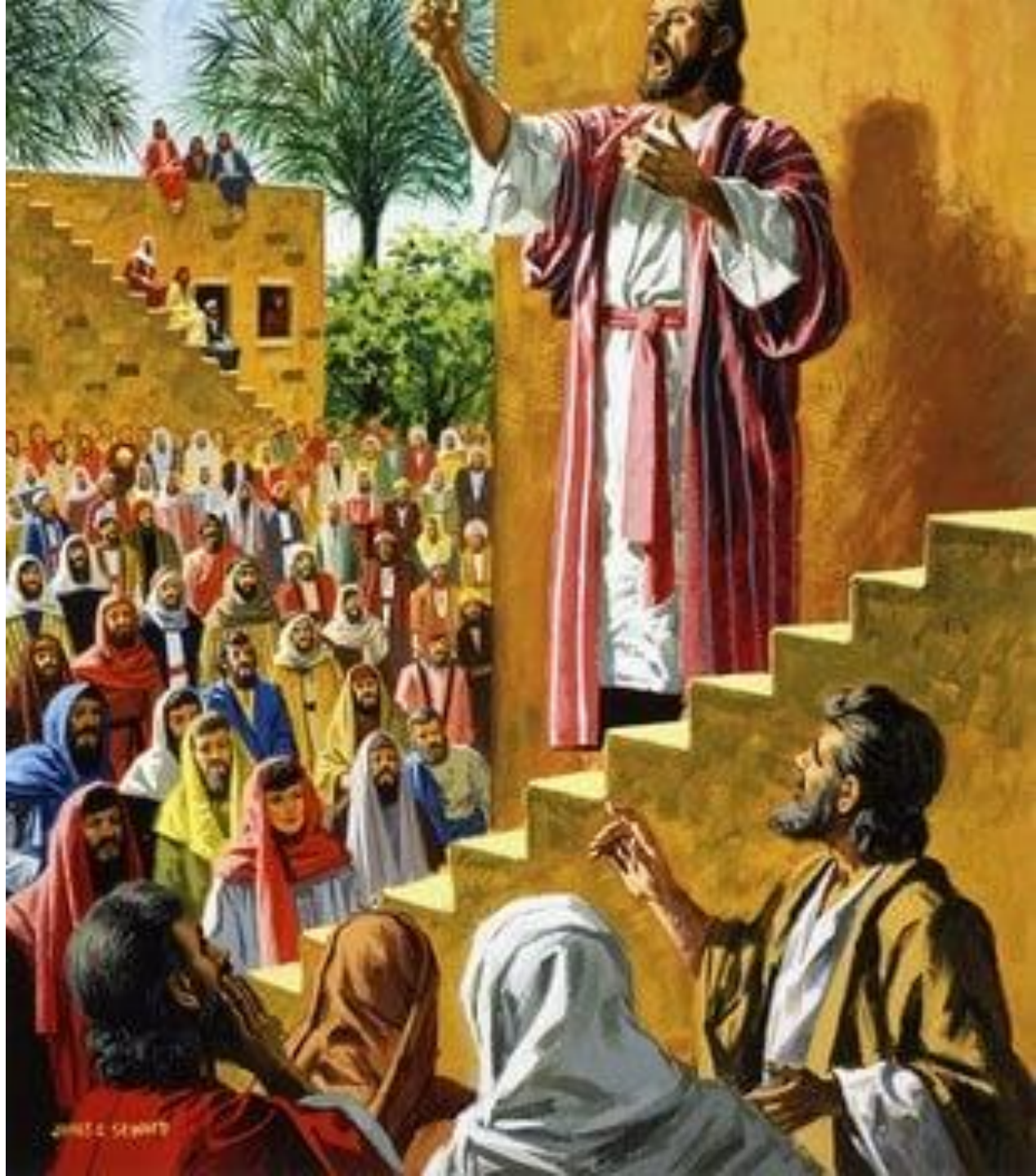
Peter stood up...

- ¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples
- (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,
- ¹⁶ “Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before
- by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;
- ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry



Leadership...

- These passages show the leadership of Peter and how the early church handled a terrible situation.
- Interestingly enough, they cast lots which was a very Jewish way to determining the Will of God in a matter.
- We can speculate that if this matter was handled after the arrival of the Holy Spirit, they would have prayed and be led by Him.
- We do not hear anything concerning Matthias aside from this footnote



MEMORY PASSAGE...

- *4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;*
- *5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*
- *6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”*
- *7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*
- *8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
Acts 1:4-8

