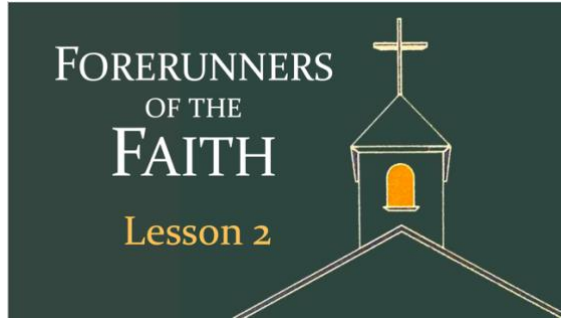


## Forerunners of the Faith



### Pentecost to Patmos

#### Key Passage

Acts 1:8

“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to THE END OF THE EARTH.”

#### I. ACTS AND THE APOSTOLIC AGE

- The book of Acts is the first book of church history ever written. It describes events that occurred during the Apostolic Age, and was written by \_\_\_\_\_.
- It covers roughly the first \_\_\_\_\_ years of Christian history, from about \_\_\_\_\_.
- The disciples were transformed into courageous preachers by both
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- The word “apostle” means \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- The title “Apostles of Jesus Christ” refers to a specific group of men personally appointed by the Lord. They saw the risen Christ with their own eyes, and were able to \_\_\_\_\_.
- An Apostle of Jesus Christ had to be:
  1. an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22; 10:39–41; 1 Cor. 9:1; 15:7–8)
  2. directly appointed by Jesus Christ (Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13; Acts 1:2, 24; 10:41; Gal. 1:1)
  3. able to confirm his mission and message with miraculous signs (Matt. 10:1–2; Acts 1:5–8; 2:43; 4:33; 5:12; 8:14; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3–4)
- The Apostle John was the last surviving apostle. When he died around \_\_\_\_\_, the apostolic age ended.

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### II. THE CHURCH IS BORN (ACTS 2)

- In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised He would build His church. That promise was fulfilled on the \_\_\_\_\_ recorded in Acts 2.
- The year was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus' followers (about \_\_\_\_\_ people) gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem (Acts 1)
- Many Jewish pilgrims from around the Roman Empire traveled to Jerusalem for the feast. They came from places where \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ were not their native languages.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated the gospel was to be preached to all peoples.
- Some \_\_\_\_\_ souls were added to the church that day.
- They expressed faith in Christ, repented, and were \_\_\_\_\_ as a symbol of their commitment to Him.

### III. THE MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7)

- Stephen is ordained, arrested, tried, and martyred (Acts 6–7). Martyr means “\_\_\_\_\_.”

### IV. THE CONVERSIONS OF SAUL AND CORNELIUS (ACTS 9-10)

#### SAUL

- Saul continues to persecute the church, heading to Damascus to find Christians there (Acts 9). “Saul” is Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ name. “Paul” is his \_\_\_\_\_ name.
- Saul’s persecution efforts against the church led to Christians scattering throughout the Roman Empire. They took the gospel with them.
- Some went north to Syrian Antioch, where they planted a church that Saul would later co-pastor with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### CORNELIUS

- After showing him a vision of \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev. 11), God sent Peter to Caesarea to preach to a Gentile man named Cornelius (Acts 10).

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### V. THE FIRST CHURCH COUNCIL (ACTS 15)

- Paul preached the good news that his listeners could be \_\_\_\_\_ of their sin and \_\_\_\_\_ (or declared righteous) in the eyes of God.
- This salvation was available, not through the Mosaic Law, but through \_\_\_\_\_ in the resurrected Messiah, the Lord Jesus.
- As Peter reiterated, the hearts of both Jewish and Gentile people are cleansed by faith (v. 9), according to the grace of the Lord Jesus (v. 11).
- Under the leadership of \_\_\_\_\_, the brother of Jesus, the council affirmed the true gospel. The Law of Moses is not necessary for salvation.

### VI. ADDITIONAL MISSIONARY JOURNEYS (ACTS 16-28)

- Paul travels with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (15:36–16:10)
- Philippi (16:11–40)
- Thessalonica (17:1–9)
- Berea (17:10–15)
- Athens (17:16–34)
- Corinth (18:1–17)
- Return to Syrian Antioch (18:18–22)
- In each city, Paul would start by preaching in the \_\_\_\_\_, demonstrating that Jesus is the Messiah from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- He would then shift his focus to preaching the gospel to the \_\_\_\_\_ in that city.
- Ephesus (Acts 19) – impact on \_\_\_\_\_
- Various places in Macedonia (20:1–6)
- Troas (20:7–12)
- Miletus with the Ephesian elders (20:13–38)
- Journey to Jerusalem (21:1–16)
- Eventually making it to Rome, Paul was placed under house arrest for at least \_\_\_\_\_.

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### VII. AFTER THE BOOK OF ACTS

- Paul’s “Fourth Missionary Journey” (AD 62–66) is based on references in the pastorals that do not fit with Acts:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 4:13, 20)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 1:5)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:23–24)
- Paul writes his “Pastoral Epistles” to Timothy (pastor at Ephesus) and Titus (church planter on Crete) (AD 62–66).
- Peter writes his epistles to encourage suffering believers and to warn of false teachers in the church. Jude is also written around this time.
- When rumors began to circulate that Nero may have been behind the fire, the emperor shifted blame to the Christians.
- He then began to persecute them violently. This persecution provides the historical context for 2 Timothy, 1 & 2 Peter, and Hebrews.
- Paul was imprisoned a second time (67/68) and executed (prior to Nero’s death in 68).
- Mark wrote down the “memoirs of Peter,” sometime before Peter was also executed under Nero (prior to 68).
- At some point (probably in the mid 60s), John moved from Jerusalem to Ephesus, where Timothy was pastoring.
- It may have been the deaths of Peter and Paul that motivated John to come to Asia Minor and help give oversight to those churches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ likely wrote his three letters and his gospel in the 80s. The book of Revelation was written in the mid 90s.
- Persecution under Domitian (AD 81–96) resulted in John’s exile to the Isle of Patmos (in the mid- 90s) from Ephesus.
- According to church tradition, John died a natural death (back in Ephesus) during the reign of Trajan, sometime after AD 98.
- During the Apostolic Age, the foundation of the church was laid (cf. Eph. 2:20) and the canon of the New Testament closed—since only the apostles had the authority to write or oversee the writing of Scripture (John 14:25–26; 16:12– 15).