

World Upside Down: The Book of Acts

Acts 2:14-41

- 1. When you think of the “end times,” what comes to mind? How will you know that you are *in* the End Times?**

- 2. The Church reads the Bible backwards.**

[25] And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! [26] Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” [27] And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- Luke 24:25-27

- 3. The design of Acts reminds us that “faith comes by hearing” (vv. 14-16).**

The preaching in Acts follows a basic structure (C.H. Dodd):

- i. Coming of the kingdom is at hand
- ii. It has taken place in and through Jesus
- iii. Jesus is exalted at God’s right hand via the resurrection
- iv. The Spirit is the sign of Christ’s present power & glory
- v. This age will reach its consummation with Jesus’ return
- vi. Forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, & salvation are received by faith and through the gift of Holy Baptism

- 4. The Holy Spirit is the end-times gift for all who believe (vv. 17-21).**

[24] So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. [25] Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

[26] Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. [27] And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” [28] And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” [29] But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!” [30] And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. (ESV)

- Numbers 11:24–30

5. Jesus' death & resurrection is in keeping with the divine economy (vv. 22–24).

[15] When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” [16] So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: [17] ‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. [18] His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” [19] But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? [20] As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. [21] So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (ESV)

- Genesis 50:15–21

[7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he

lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (ESV)

- Ephesians 1:7–10

6. Jesus destroyed death in keeping with David's prophecy (vv. 25–28).

[14] Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (ESV)

- Hebrews 2:14–15

“He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave.”

- 20th c. Masai creed

7. St. Peter's pragmatic preaching demonstrates the necessity of the Trinitarian rescue (vv. 29–33).

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.

- 2 Samuel 7:12–14

8. Every sinner is complicit in the death of Jesus (vv. 34–36).

[3] For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

[4] Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment. (ESV)
– Psalm 51:3–4

[15] The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

– 1 Timothy 1:15

9. God's promise for all is received by faith & baptism (vv. 37-41).

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

– Hebrews 4:12

Holy Baptism is...

- i. In the name of Jesus Christ (shorthand for Trinity)
- ii. For the forgiveness of sins
- iii. With the gift of the Holy Spirit
- iv. For us *and our children*

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (Mark 10:13–16)