

The  
Action  
Bible

The Church  
Is Born



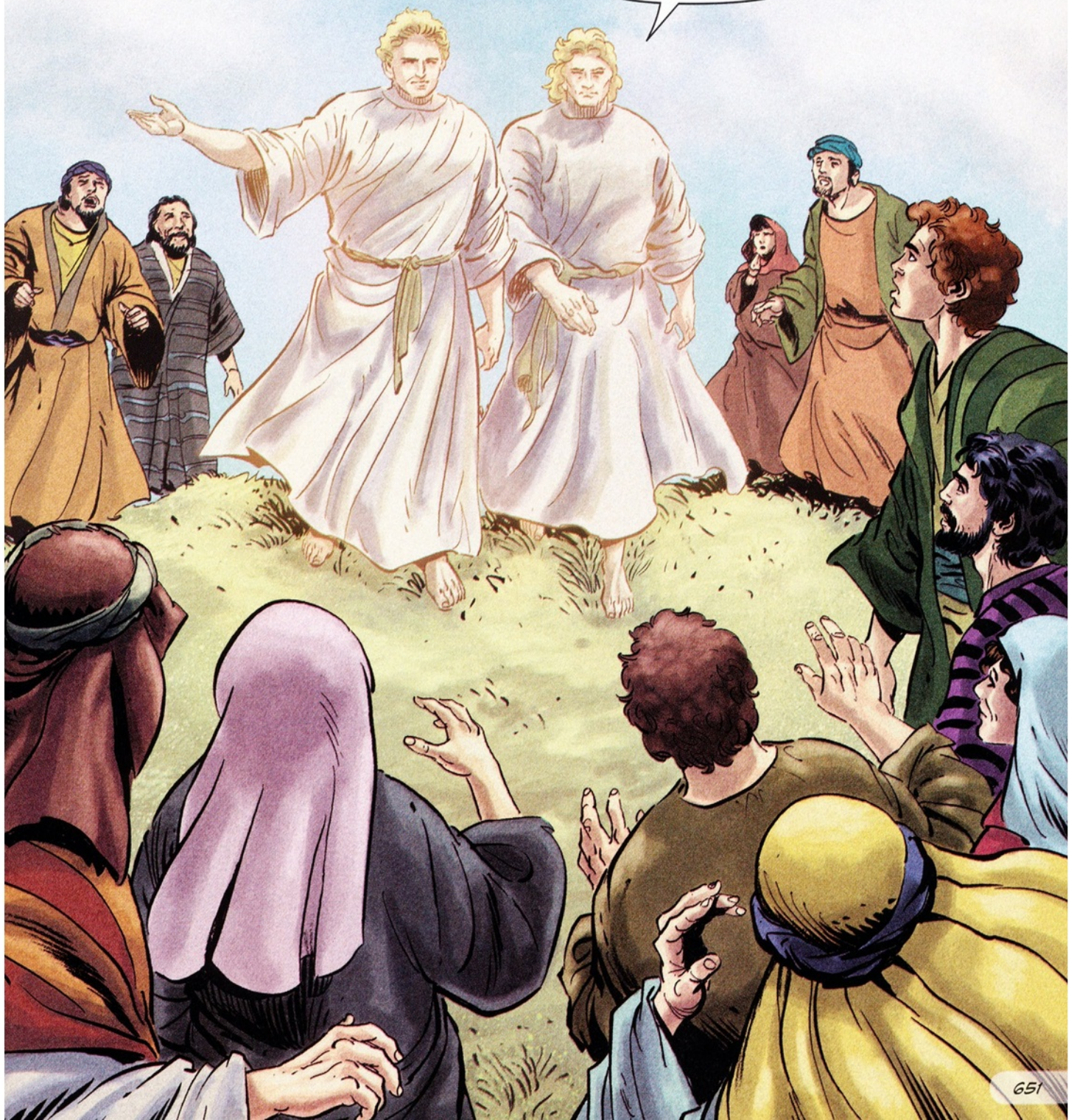
# Waiting for the Spirit

BASED ON ACTS 1

IN AWE AND WONDER, JESUS' FOLLOWERS STAND AND LOOK UP INTO HEAVEN AS IF TO CATCH ONE MORE GLIMPSE OF THE MASTER THEY LOVE. SUDDENLY TWO ANGELS APPEAR ...

WHY DO  
YOU STAY  
HERE LOOKING  
AT THE SKY?

JESUS WAS  
TAKEN TO HEAVEN,  
BUT HE WILL COME BACK  
THE SAME WAY YOU  
SAW HIM GO.





THE DISCIPLES, WHO HAD ONCE FLED BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF BEING ARRESTED FOR BEING JESUS' FRIENDS, NOW RETURN TO JERUSALEM. THEY KNOW THAT JESUS IS DEPENDING ON THEM TO CARRY ON GOD'S WORK.

LET'S DO WHAT JESUS TOLD US—WAIT IN JERUSALEM FOR THE POWER HE PROMISED TO SEND US.



IN JERUSALEM, THE DISCIPLES GATHER TOGETHER. PETER TAKES CHARGE ...

JUDAS, WHO BETRAYED JESUS, IS DEAD. WE SHOULD APPOINT SOMEONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE.

I NOMINATE BARSABBAS.

I NOMINATE MATTHIAS.





THE DISCIPLES  
ASK GOD'S  
GUIDANCE FOR  
THEIR DECISION,  
AND MATTHIAS  
IS CHOSEN.

FOR THE NEXT TEN DAYS, THE DISCIPLES  
MEET TOGETHER IN PRAYER. THEY ARE  
WAITING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO COME, AS  
JESUS PROMISED. AT THE SAME TIME, JEWS  
FROM ALL OVER PALESTINE—AND EVEN  
DISTANT COUNTRIES—ONCE AGAIN FILL THE  
STREETS OF JERUSALEM. THEY COME TO  
CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THANKSGIVING  
CALLED PENTECOST.



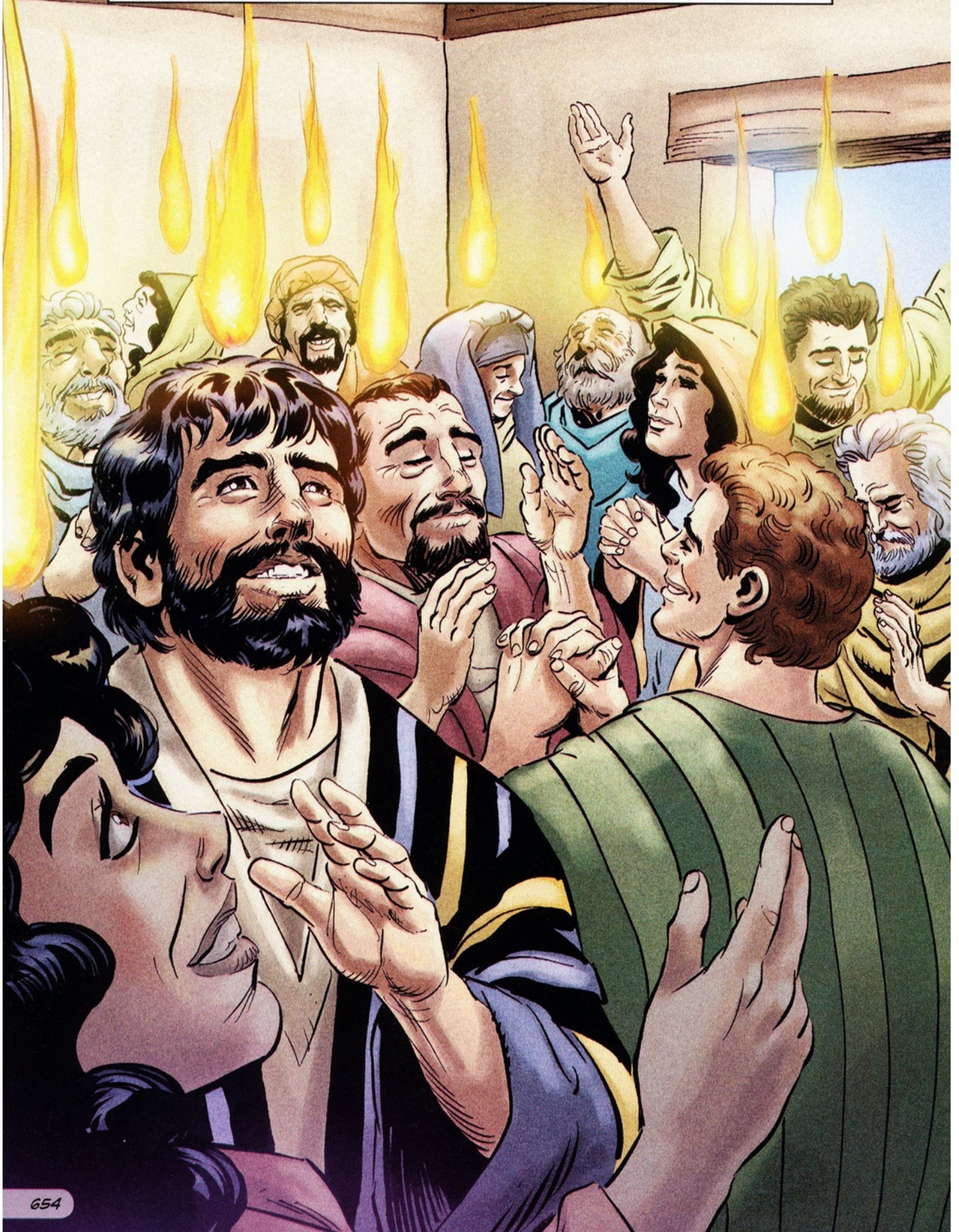
THESE PILGRIMS COME WITH LOTS OF  
QUESTIONS AFTER THE RECENT EVENTS.  
"WAS JESUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD?"  
"OR DID HIS DISCIPLES STEAL HIS BODY  
FROM THE TOMB AND CLAIM THAT HE  
WAS ALIVE?" THESE QUESTIONS LINGER  
IN THE AIR AS JEWS FLOOD INTO  
JERUSALEM FOR THE PENTECOST FEAST.  
JESUS' DISCIPLES KNOW THE TRUTH,  
BUT THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THEM.



# Tongues of Fire!

BASED ON ACTS 2

EARLY ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, 120 FOLLOWERS OF JESUS GATHER TO PRAY. SUDDENLY A SOUND LIKE A MIGHTY RUSHING WIND ROARS THROUGH THE ROOM AND FILLS THE WHOLE HOUSE. THEN, TONGUES OF FIRE SETTLE ON THEM.





IN THAT HOLY MOMENT, JESUS' FOLLOWERS ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY START TO SPEAK IN LANGUAGES THEY DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE.

JERUSALEM IS CROWDED FOR THE FEAST. WHEN PEOPLE HEAR THE SOUND, THEY COME RUNNING ...

WE HAVE TO SEE FOR OURSELVES WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH JESUS' FOLLOWERS.



THE PEOPLE FIND THE DISCIPLES AND LISTEN ...

IT'S TRUE! WE HEAR THEM SPEAKING IN OUR OWN LANGUAGES.

EVEN THOSE OF US FROM FAR AWAY—FROM EGYPT OR ROME OR ARABIA—WE HEAR THEM SPEAKING ABOUT GOD'S WONDERS!



THEY'VE BEEN DRINKING TOO MUCH WINE! THAT'S ALL IT IS.

PEOPLE WHO ARE DRUNK DO NOT SUDDENLY SPEAK IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.





PETER SPEAKS  
OUT FOR ALL  
THE DISCIPLES.

WE ARE NOT  
DRUNK! WE ARE FILLED  
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.  
AS THE PROPHET JOEL  
PREDICTED, YOU  
CRUCIFIED JESUS, THE  
CHOSEN ONE OF GOD. BUT  
GOD RAISED HIM FROM  
THE DEAD, AND WE ARE  
WITNESSES TO HIS  
RESURRECTION.



PETER'S WORDS  
CUT DEEP INTO THE  
HEARTS OF THE  
PEOPLE. THEY  
REMEMBER HOW  
THEY HAD DEMANDED  
JESUS' CRUCIFIXION  
ONLY A FEW WEEKS  
EARLIER.

STOP YOUR  
SINNING WAYS!  
BE BAPTIZED IN THE  
NAME OF JESUS. THEN YOU  
WILL RECEIVE GOD'S  
HOLY SPIRIT FOR  
YOURSELVES.









BEFORE THE DAY OF PENTECOST IS OVER, 3,000 PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS AND ARE BAPTIZED. AS THE DAYS PASS, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SEE THE LOVE OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS. BELIEVERS BEGIN MEETING IN HOMES, SHARING MEALS AND EVERYTHING THEY OWN.

I'VE BROUGHT SOME FRIENDS WHO WANT TO LEARN ABOUT JESUS.

COME IN. WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.

HAVE YOU HEARD? THE POOR WIDOW WE TALKED TO YESTERDAY NEEDS FOOD FOR HER CHILDREN.

I'LL GIVE THE APOSTLES SOME MONEY TO HELP HER.

THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER'S NEEDS AND WORSHIP TOGETHER EVERY DAY. EVERY DAY MORE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS AND JOIN THE BELIEVERS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE FRIENDS OF JESUS?

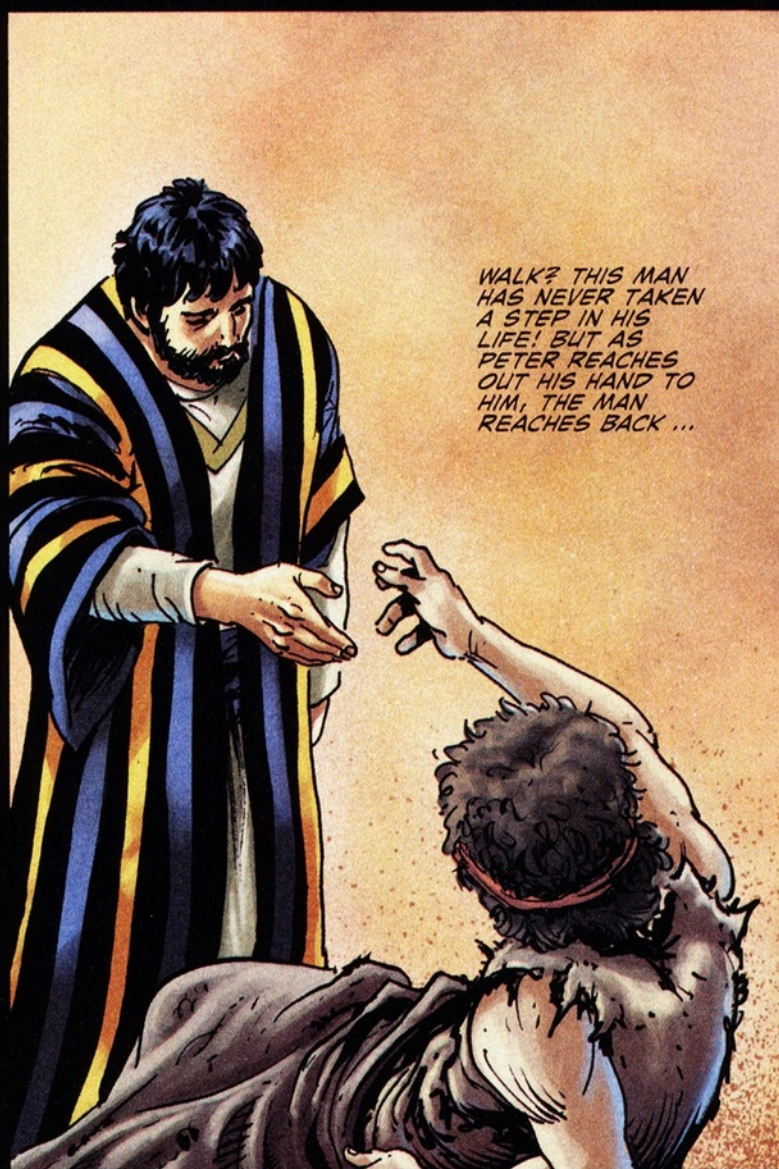
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM, BUT I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE. LOOK AT HOW THEY LOVE EACH OTHER!



# Stand Up for Jesus

BASED ON ACTS 3-4

ONE AFTERNOON WHEN PETER AND JOHN GO TO THE TEMPLE FOR PRAYER, THEY MEET A LAME MAN BEGGING AT THE GATE CALLED BEAUTIFUL.







IN HIS EXCITEMENT, THE MAN RUSHES INTO THE TEMPLE, LEAPING AND SHOUTING FOR JOY.



GRATEFULLY, THE MAN TURNS TO PETER AND JOHN. THE CROWD PASSES IN, ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.





SEEING THAT HE HAS THE ATTENTION OF THE CROWD, PETER CONTINUES ...

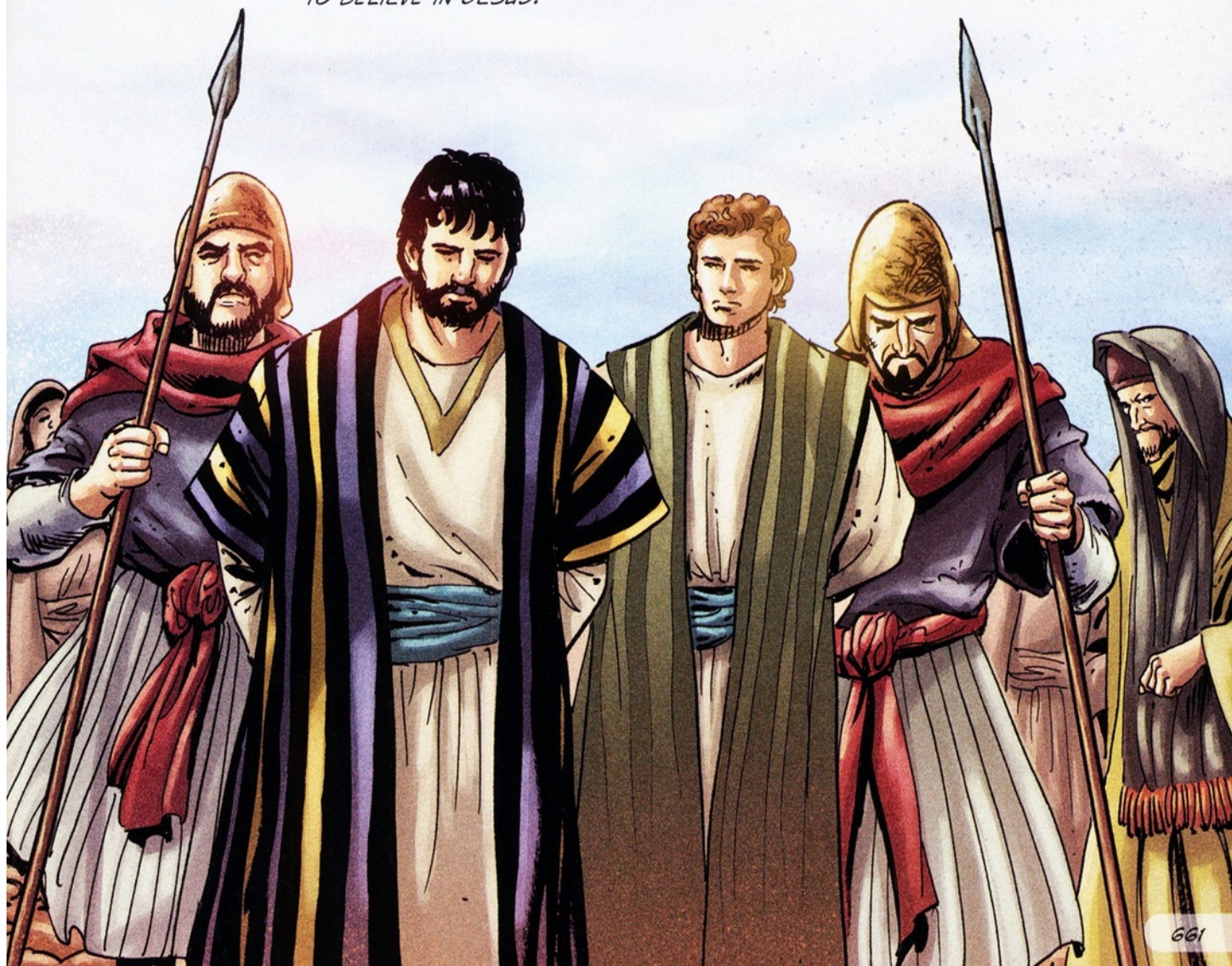
REPENT AND TURN TO GOD  
SO YOUR SINS MAY BE WIPED OUT.  
PREPARE YOURSELVES, FOR  
JESUS WILL COME AGAIN.



PRIESTS IN THE CROWD GROW ANGRY AS THEY LISTEN TO PETER'S TESTIMONY, AND THEIR ANGER INCREASES AS THEY WATCH THE GROWING INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE. THE PRIESTS GET THE HELP OF THE TEMPLE GUARDS ...



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, PETER AND JOHN ARE MARCHED AWAY TO PRISON, WHERE THEY SPEND THE NIGHT. BUT ALREADY 5,000 PEOPLE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.





THE NEXT MORNING, THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS RULERS—THE SAME ONES WHO CONDEMNED JESUS TO DEATH—HAVE PETER AND JOHN BROUGHT TO THEM FOR QUESTIONING. THE HEALED BEGGAR IS WITH THEM.

BY WHAT POWER AND IN WHOSE NAME HAVE YOU HEALED THIS MAN?



FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, PETER SPEAKS OUT COURAGEOUSLY.

LET ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL KNOW THAT THIS MAN WAS HEALED BY THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH. YOU CRUCIFIED HIM, BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.



THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE STUNNED. PETER AND JOHN ARE UNEDUCATED FISHERMEN, BUT THEY SPEAK AND ACT WITH AUTHORITY AND POWER.

TAKE THEM AWAY!



WHEN THE PRISONERS ARE OUT OF SIGHT, THE LEADERS DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEM.

EVERYONE KNOWS A MIRACLE HAPPENED. WE CAN'T DENY IT. BUT WE HAVE TO KEEP THE NEWS FROM SPREADING.

TELL THEM IF THEY SPEAK OF JESUS AGAIN, WE'LL PUT THEM TO DEATH TOO!







THE PRIESTS WANT TO PUNISH THE DISCIPLES, BUT THEY ARE AFRAID TO STIR UP THE CROWDS TO A RIOT.

WE WILL RELEASE YOU THIS TIME. BUT DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD ABOUT JESUS!



YOU TELL US— SHOULD WE LISTEN TO YOU, OR SHOULD WE OBEY GOD? GOD HAS COMMANDED US TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THE THINGS WE'VE SEEN AND HEARD.



THE PRIESTS THREATEN PETER AND JOHN AGAIN, BUT LET THEM GO. PETER AND JOHN HURRY BACK TO THEIR FRIENDS, WHO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN PRAYING.

LORD AND KING, YOU MADE EVERYTHING. HELP US TO BE BRAVE AS WE SHARE YOUR MESSAGE.

AND MAY WE CONTINUE TO HEAL AND DO MIRACLES IN YOUR NAME, JESUS!



# A Grave Lie

BASED ON ACTS 4:32-5:11

STRENGTHENED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE DISCIPLES KEEP ON PREACHING. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS. ONE DAY A MAN NAMED BARNABAS BRINGS THE DISCIPLES A LARGE BAG OF MONEY.



WHY ARE YOU GIVING ALL THIS MONEY TO US?

I SOLD A FIELD. I WANT YOU TO USE THE MONEY TO HELP FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

ANOTHER MAN, ANANIAS, WANTS TO APPEAR GENEROUS TOO. BUT HE ALSO WANTS TO KEEP MOST OF HIS MONEY. SO HE LIES ...

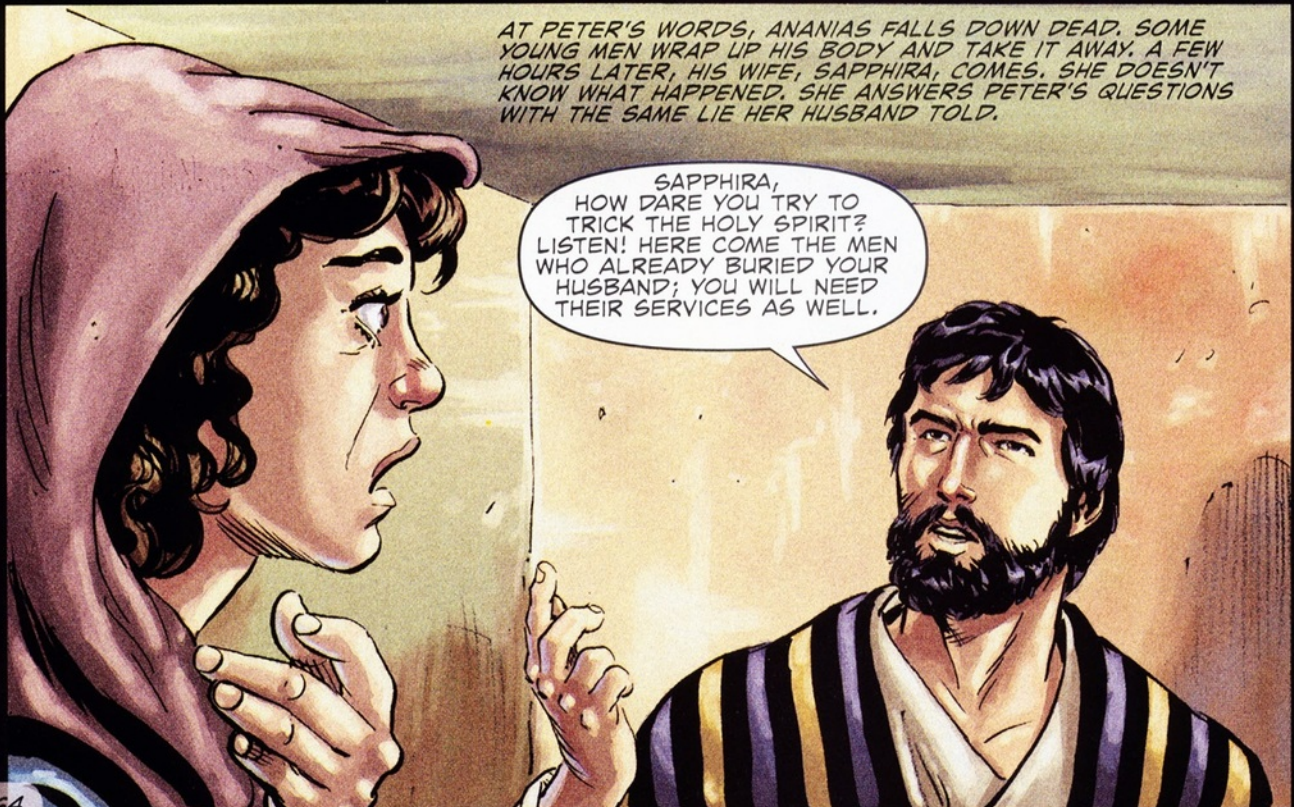


... BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO PETER.

WE, TOO, HAVE SOLD OUR LAND, AND WE'RE GIVING ALL OF THAT MONEY TO HELP THE CHURCH.

ANANIAS, YOU COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING YOU WANTED WITH YOUR MONEY. BUT DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE GIVING ALL OF IT WHEN YOU'RE NOT. YOU HAVEN'T LIED TO ME; YOU'VE LIED TO GOD!

AT PETER'S WORDS, ANANIAS FALLS DOWN DEAD. SOME YOUNG MEN WRAP UP HIS BODY AND TAKE IT AWAY. A FEW HOURS LATER, HIS WIFE, SAPPHIRA, COMES. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. SHE ANSWERS PETER'S QUESTIONS WITH THE SAME LIE HER HUSBAND TOLD.



SAPPHIRA, HOW DARE YOU TRY TO TRICK THE HOLY SPIRIT? LISTEN! HERE COME THE MEN WHO ALREADY BURIED YOUR HUSBAND; YOU WILL NEED THEIR SERVICES AS WELL.



INSTANTLY, SAPPHIRA FALLS DEAD ON THE FLOOR. THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEE THIS AS A WARNING TO ANYONE WHO TRIES TO DECEIVE GOD OR THE CHURCH.



# Prison Break

BASED ON ACTS 5:12-6:11

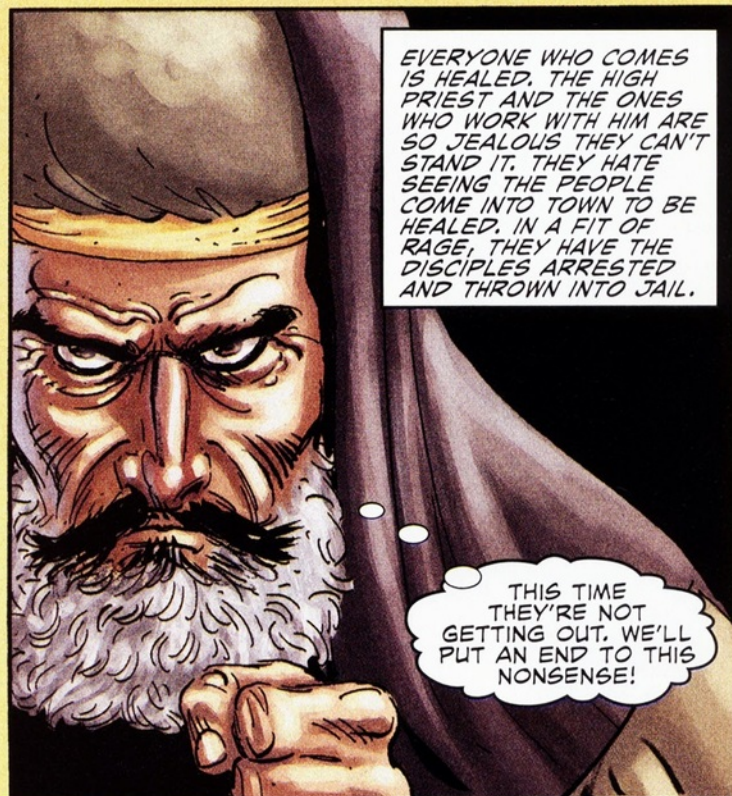


THE THREATS OF THE JEWISH LEADERS DO NOT KEEP THE DISCIPLES FROM DOING GOD'S WORK. THEY KEEP ON HEALING IN THE NAME OF JESUS. FAMILIES BRING THEIR SICK INTO THE STREETS, HOPING THAT PETER WILL PASS BY AND CURE THEM. CROWDS ALSO GATHER FROM THE TOWNS AROUND JERUSALEM.



HE CAN'T WALK. PLEASE MAKE HIM STRONG SO HE CAN RUN AND PLAY WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN.

I CANNOT HEAL HIM, BUT JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, CAN. IN JESUS' NAME, I TELL YOU YOUR SON IS HEALED.



EVERYONE WHO COMES IS HEALED. THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE ONES WHO WORK WITH HIM ARE SO JEALOUS THEY CAN'T STAND IT. THEY HATE SEEING THE PEOPLE COME INTO TOWN TO BE HEALED. IN A FIT OF RAGE, THEY HAVE THE DISCIPLES ARRESTED AND THROWN INTO JAIL.

THIS TIME THEY'RE NOT GETTING OUT. WE'LL PUT AN END TO THIS NONSENSE!





*DURING THE NIGHT, AN ANGEL OF GOD COMES TO PETER AND JOHN IN JAIL.*

GO, STAND IN THE TEMPLE COURTYARD. TELL THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE NEW LIFE GOD HAS PROMISED TO ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS.

*THE NEXT MORNING, THE HIGH PRIEST CALLS THE JEWISH COURT INTO SESSION AND SENDS FOR THE PRISONERS. WHEN THE OFFICERS RETURN ...*



THE PRISON IS LOCKED AND THE GUARDS ARE ON DUTY, BUT THE PRISONERS ARE GONE!

WHEN WE OPENED THE DOORS, NO ONE WAS THERE!

NOT THERE?  
WHERE ARE THEY?







THEN  
WORD  
COMES ...

THE MEN  
YOU PUT IN JAIL  
LAST NIGHT ARE  
IN THE TEMPLE  
TEACHING ABOUT  
JESUS!



THE HIGH PRIEST ORDERS THE DISCIPLES  
BROUGHT TO THE COURT AT ONCE.

DIDN'T WE  
WARN YOU **NOT**  
TO PREACH ABOUT  
JESUS?



WE  
MUST OBEY  
GOD, NOT  
MEN.



THIS ANSWER MAKES THE PRIESTS FURIOUS, AND  
THEY WANT ALL THE DISCIPLES KILLED AT ONCE.  
BUT A FAMOUS TEACHER NAMED GAMALIEL SENDS  
THE DISCIPLES OUT OF THE ROOM ...

BE CAREFUL  
WHAT YOU DO WITH  
THESE MEN. IF THIS  
TEACHING IS THEIR OWN  
IDEA, IT WILL SOON FADE.  
BUT IF IT IS FROM GOD,  
YOU CAN'T DEFEAT IT.  
YOU DON'T WANT TO  
END UP FIGHTING  
AGAINST GOD!



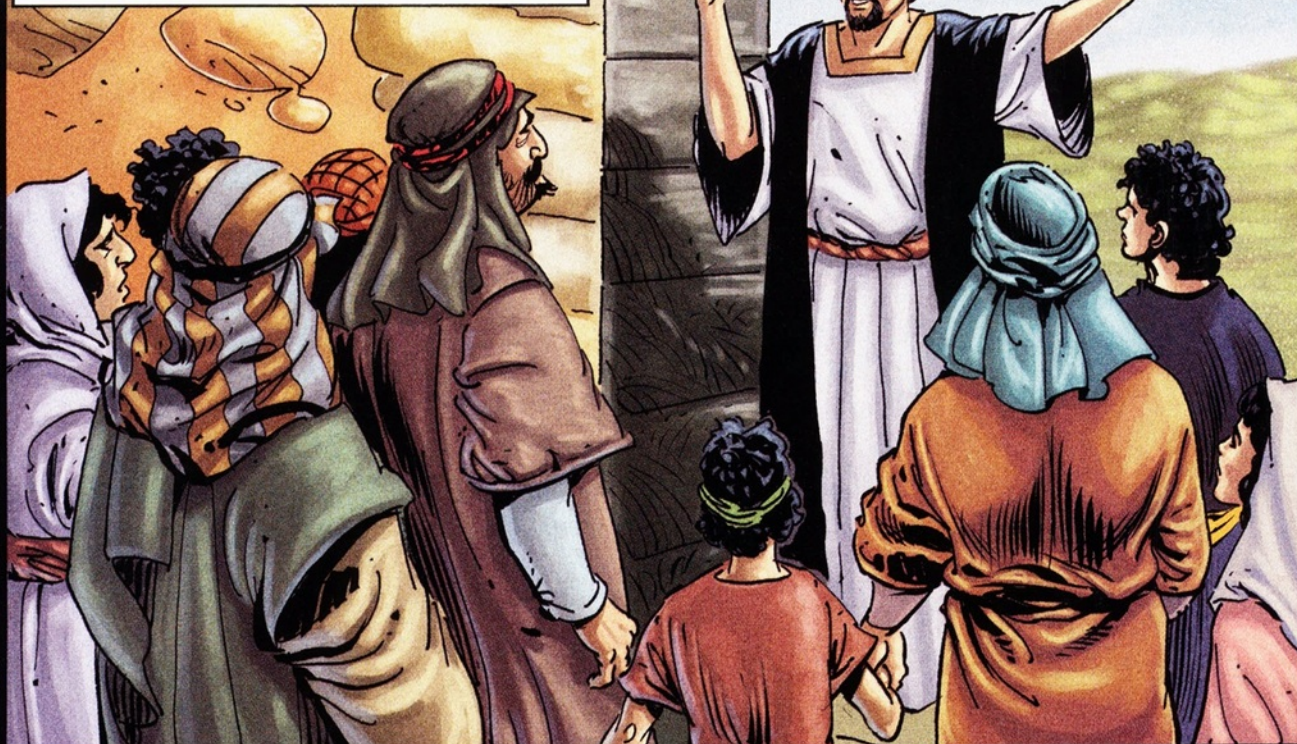
THE COURT IS FORCED TO ADMIT THE WISDOM OF THIS ADVICE. STILL FURIOUS, THE LEADERS ORDER THAT THE DISCIPLES BE BEATEN. THEN THEY RELEASE THEM WITH THE THREAT OF MORE PUNISHMENT IF THEY KEEP ON PREACHING ABOUT JESUS.

IT'S AN HONOR TO SUFFER FOR THE NAME OF JESUS.

WE CAN'T STOP NOW. WE HAVE TO KEEP TELLING THE GOOD NEWS.

THE DISCIPLES KEEP ON DOING THE WORK THAT GOD GIVES THEM TO DO, AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE KEEPS GROWING. SO MANY PEOPLE WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS THAT THE DISCIPLES DECIDE TO CHOOSE OTHERS TO HELP LEAD THE WORK. THEY CHOOSE SEVEN DEACONS TO HELP CARE FOR THE PEOPLE.

ONE OF THEM, STEPHEN, SOON SHOWS THAT HE IS AN OUTSTANDING SPEAKER.



SOME JEWISH LEADERS BEGIN TO DEBATE WITH STEPHEN. TO THEIR EMBARRASSMENT, THEY FIND THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR STEPHEN'S WISDOM AND ABILITY TO DEFEND HIS FAITH. SECRETLY THEY PLOT THEIR REVENGE ...

WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO TURN THE PEOPLE AGAINST US.

RIGHT, BUT PERHAPS WE CAN STIR UP THE PEOPLE AGAINST STEPHEN LIKE WE DID WITH JESUS!





# The Stoning

BASED ON ACTS 6:8-8:1

STEPHEN IS FULL OF GOD'S POWER AND DOES MIRACLES AMONG THE PEOPLE. HIS PREACHING IS SO PERSUASIVE THAT MANY PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM DECIDE TO FOLLOW JESUS. BUT THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE AN OLD TRICK UP THEIR SLEEVE ...

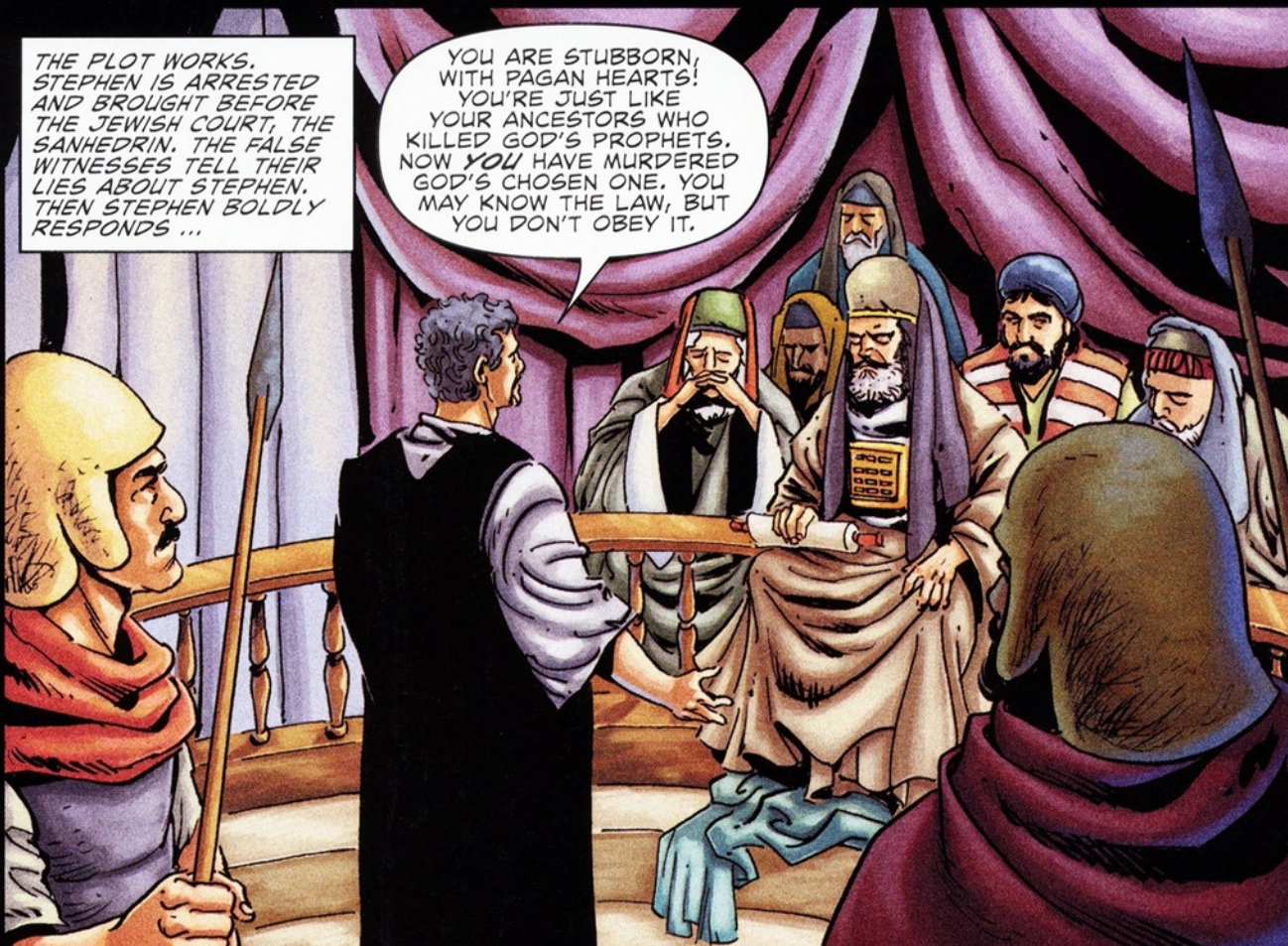
SPREAD THE WORD AROUND JERUSALEM THAT STEPHEN IS PREACHING AGAINST THE LAW THAT GOD GAVE TO MOSES.

WHEN THE PEOPLE HEAR THAT, THEY WILL TURN AGAINST HIM.



THE PLOT WORKS. STEPHEN IS ARRESTED AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE JEWISH COURT, THE SANHEDRIN. THE FALSE WITNESSES TELL THEIR LIES ABOUT STEPHEN. THEN STEPHEN BOLDLY RESPONDS ...

YOU ARE STUBBORN, WITH PAGAN HEARTS! YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR ANCESTORS WHO KILLED GOD'S PROPHETS. NOW **YOU** HAVE MURDERED GOD'S CHOSEN ONE. YOU MAY KNOW THE LAW, BUT YOU DON'T OBEY IT.





THE COURT RISES UP IN FURY, BUT STEPHEN CONTINUES, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I CAN SEE HEAVEN! LOOK! THE SON OF MAN IS STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.



STEPHEN'S WORDS ARE TOO MUCH FOR THE COURT. LIKE A PACK OF SAVAGE BEASTS, THEY SEIZE STEPHEN AND DRAG HIM OUTSIDE THE CITY, WHERE THEY THROW ROCKS AT HIM. AS THE STONES BATTER HIS BODY, STEPHEN CONTINUES TO PRAY ...

LORD, DON'T HOLD THIS AGAINST THEM!

FINALLY, STEPHEN TAKES HIS LAST BREATH AND DIES, SAYING, "JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT."



A YOUNG MAN NAMED SAUL\* WATCHES THE STONING. (AND KEEPS AN EYE ON THE COATS.) HE IS PLEASED AT THE DEATH OF A FOLLOWER OF JESUS.



\* HIS STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 686.



# Stranger on the Gaza Road

BASED ON ACTS 8:1-4, 26-40

FOLLOWING STEPHEN'S DEATH, MANY ATTACKS BREAK OUT AGAINST BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM. OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THOUSANDS OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS FLEE THE CITY, MOVING THROUGHOUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND TAKING GOD'S GOOD NEWS WITH THEM. THE JEWISH LEADERS HAVE UNINTENTIONALLY HELPED TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL. PHILIP, A DEACON, GOES NORTH TO SAMARIA.

ONE NIGHT AN ANGEL TELLS PHILIP: "GO DOWN TOWARD GAZA." PHILIP QUICKLY OBEYS ...



AT THAT MOMENT, GOD'S SPIRIT TELLS PHILIP TO STAY CLOSE TO THE CHARIOT, SO HE DOES. HE HEARS A MAN READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES.

GOD HAS SENT ME ALL THIS WAY TO MEET THE PERSON IN THAT CHARIOT. WHO COULD HE BE?



"HE WAS LED LIKE A SHEEP TO BE KILLED."

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PROPHET ISAIAH IS SAYING?

THE MAN IS AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL FROM ETHIOPIA, TREASURER TO THE QUEEN.

HOW CAN I, UNLESS SOMEONE EXPLAINS IT TO ME? DO YOU KNOW, IS THE PROPHET TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE?

HE'S TALKING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD. HIS ENEMIES CRUCIFIED HIM, BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.





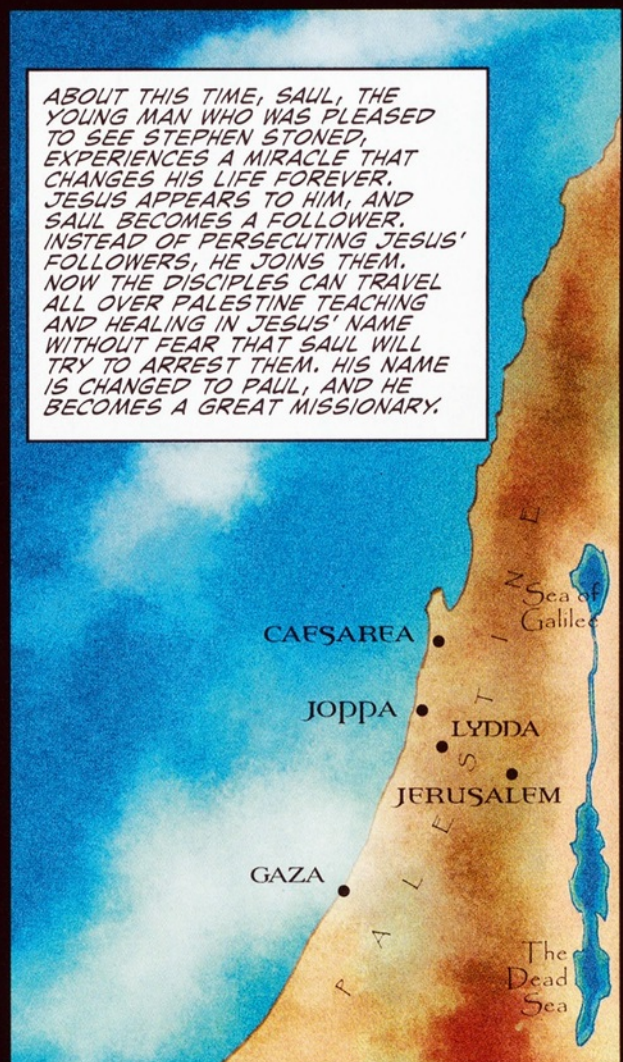
AS THEY RIDE ALONG, PHILIP EXPLAINS THAT GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE SENT HIS SON, JESUS, TO DIE FOR OUR SINS. WHOEVER TRUSTS IN JESUS WILL LIVE FOREVER WITH GOD.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS, AND I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WRONG. WHY SHOULDN'T I BE BAPTIZED RIGHT HERE AND BECOME A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT GOD SENT ME TO DO.

SO PHILIP BAPTIZES THE MAN FROM ETHIOPIA. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WHISKS PHILIP AWAY. HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE NORTH, WHERE HE PREACHES IN TOWNS ALONG THE RIM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. EVENTUALLY, HE SETTLES DOWN IN CAESAREA, THE ROMAN CAPITAL OF PALESTINE.

ABOUT THIS TIME, SAUL, THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS PLEASED TO SEE STEPHEN STONED, EXPERIENCES A MIRACLE THAT CHANGES HIS LIFE FOREVER. JESUS APPEARS TO HIM, AND SAUL BECOMES A FOLLOWER. INSTEAD OF PERSECUTING JESUS' FOLLOWERS, HE JOINS THEM. NOW THE DISCIPLES CAN TRAVEL ALL OVER PALESTINE TEACHING AND HEALING IN JESUS' NAME WITHOUT FEAR THAT SAUL WILL TRY TO ARREST THEM. HIS NAME IS CHANGED TO PAUL, AND HE BECOMES A GREAT MISSIONARY.





MEANWHILE,  
PETER IS  
PREACHING IN  
LYDDA. THERE  
HE MEETS A MAN  
NAMED AENEAS.

# More Miracles

BASED ON ACTS 9:32-10:2



I HAVEN'T  
BEEN ABLE TO  
GET OUT OF BED  
FOR EIGHT  
YEARS.


JESUS  
CHRIST HEALS  
YOU.  
GET UP!

WHEN THE PEOPLE OF LYDDA SEE THAT AENEAS  
IS WELL, THEY BELIEVE IN JESUS TOO. PETER  
CONTINUES PREACHING IN LYDDA, UNTIL ONE  
DAY TWO MEN FROM JOPPA ARRIVE ...



WHERE'S  
PETER? WE  
HAVE TO FIND HIM  
IMMEDIATELY.





TWO MEN FROM JOPPA HAVE AN URGENT REQUEST FOR PETER. TABITHA, A FOLLOWER OF JESUS, HAS DIED. "YOU HEALED AENEAS. CAN YOU HELP TABITHA?" IMMEDIATELY, PETER GOES WITH THEM TO JOPPA. WHEN THEY ARRIVE ...

HER BODY HAS BEEN WASHED AND PLACED IN THE ROOM UPSTAIRS.



PETER FINDS TABITHA'S HOUSE FILLED WITH WEeping FRIENDS.

SHE WAS THE KINDEST PERSON I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

SEE THIS COAT? SHE MADE IT FOR ME.

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVED HER. NOW, IF YOU WILL PLEASE GO OUTSIDE ...



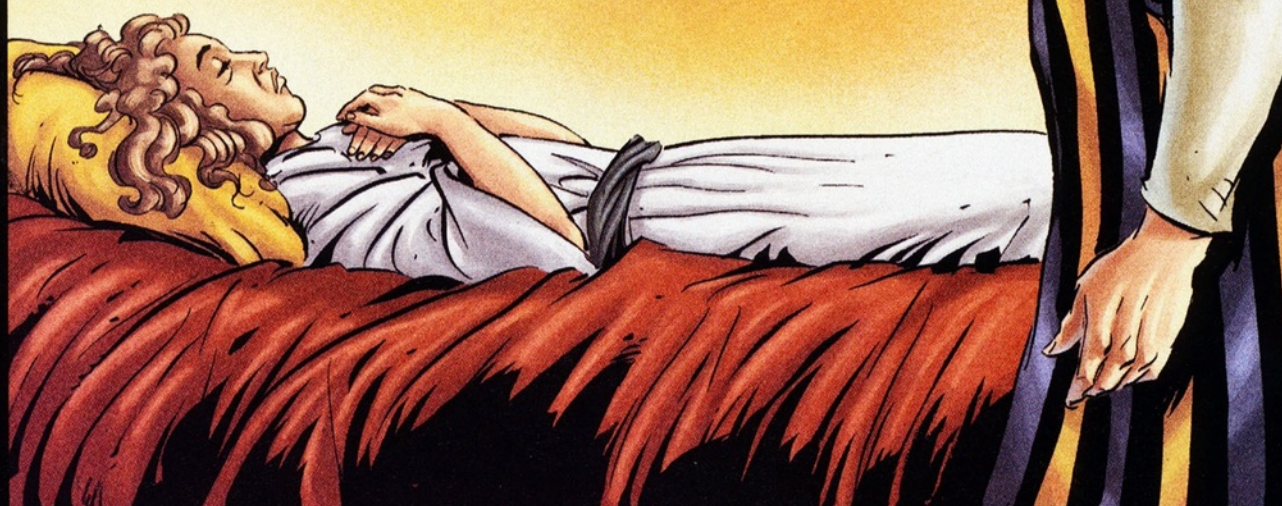
ALONE, PETER KNEELS DOWN AND PRAYS.

LORD, ONLY YOUR POWER CAN BRING TABITHA BACK TO LIFE.



AS HE RISES, HE TURNS TOWARD THE BODY OF THE DEAD WOMAN.

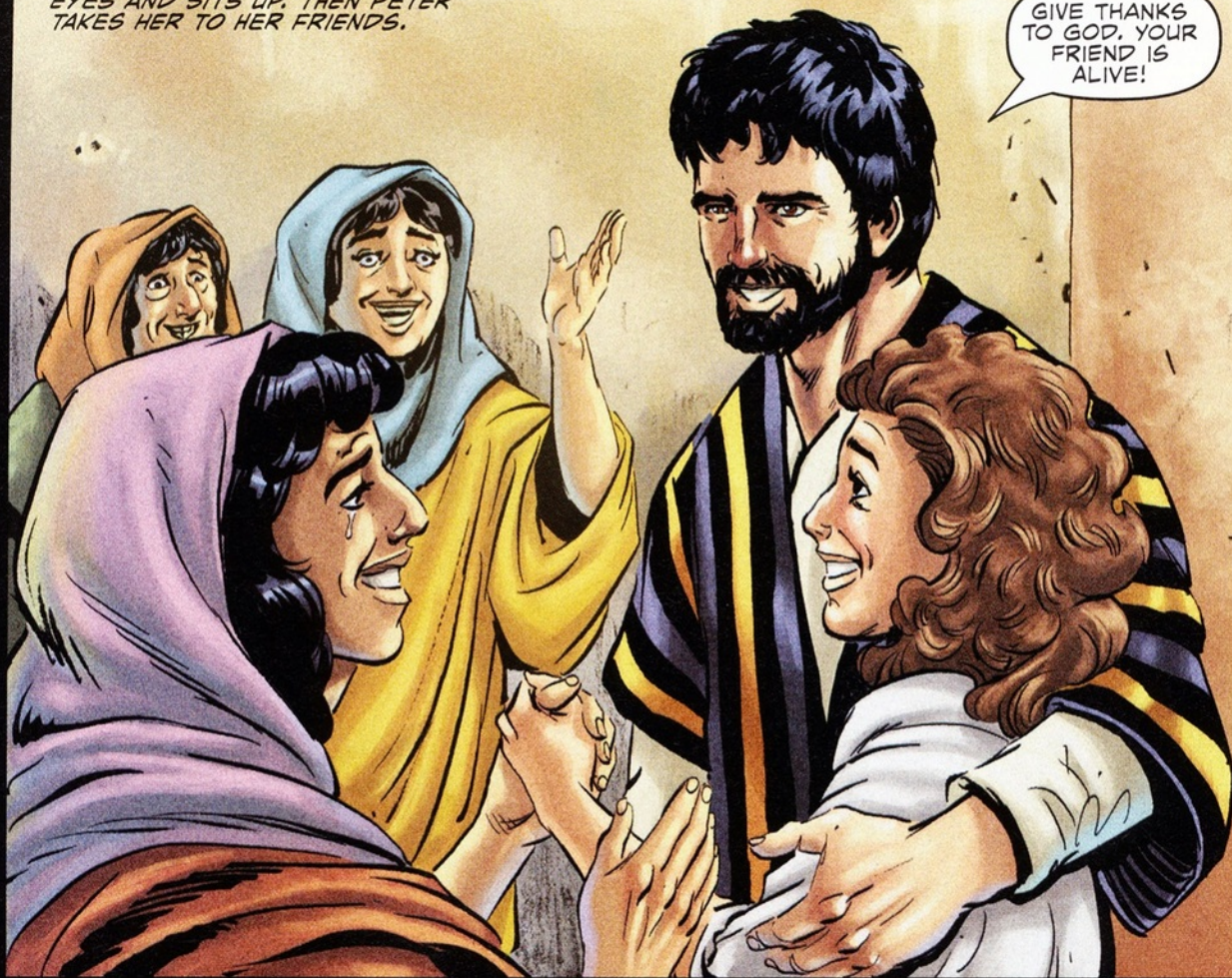
TABITHA! GET UP!





INSTANTLY, TABITHA OPENS HER EYES AND SITS UP. THEN PETER TAKES HER TO HER FRIENDS.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD. YOUR FRIEND IS ALIVE!



THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT TABITHA SPREADS THROUGH THE WHOLE CITY OF JOPPA, MAKING MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS. PETER STAYS TO PREACH IN JOPPA.

TABITHA IS ALIVE! PETER HEALED HER IN JESUS' NAME!



ONE DAY A STRANGE THING HAPPENS IN THE HOME OF CORNELIUS, A ROMAN CENTURION. HE LIVES IN THE SEACOAST CITY OF CAESAREA, 30 MILES NORTH OF JOPPA. IT IS THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON. CORNELIUS, WHO HAS LEARNED TO WORSHIP GOD, KNEELS TO PRAY ...





# A New Menu

BASED ON ACTS 10:1-11:18

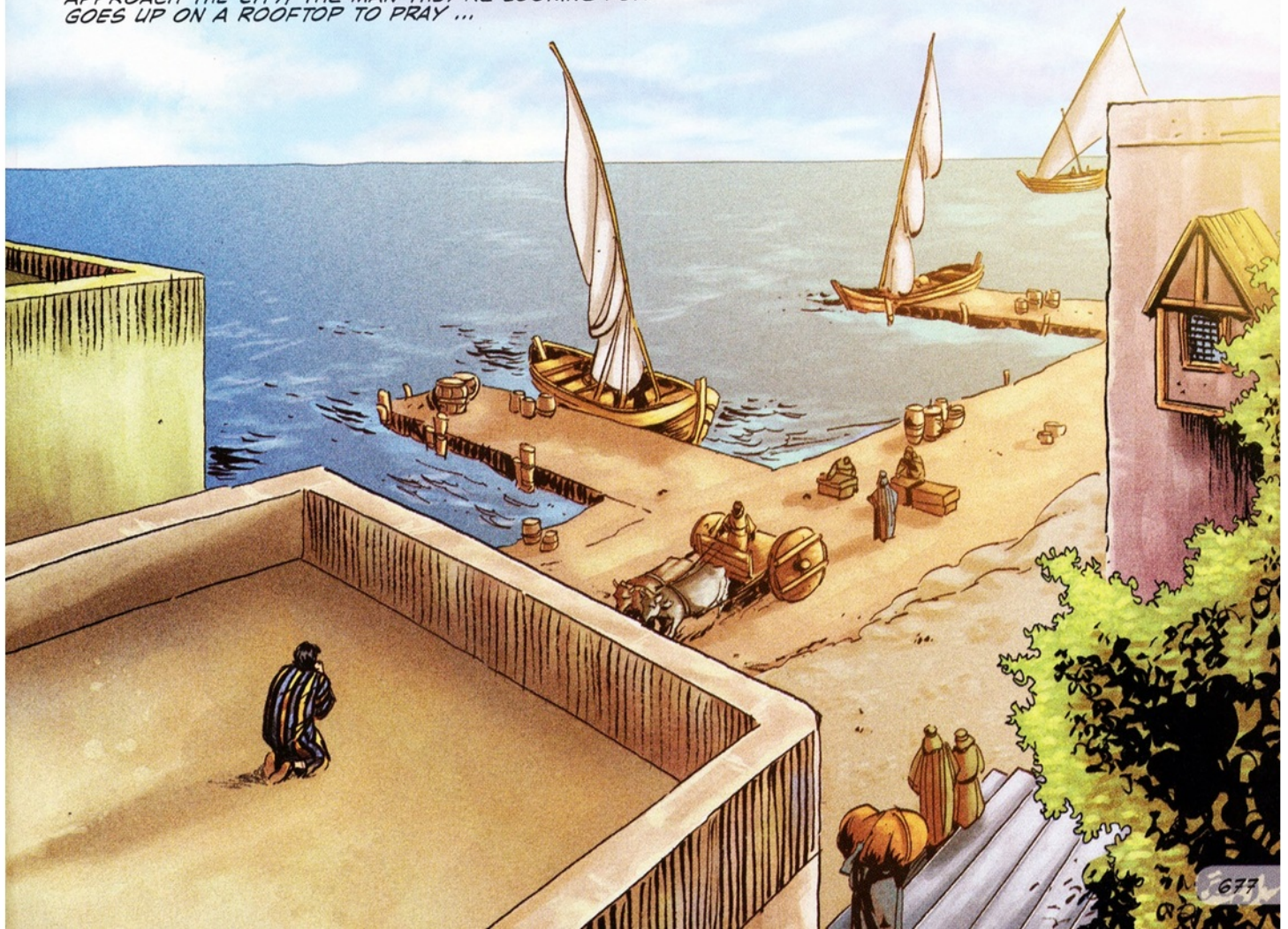
AS CORNELIUS, AN OFFICER OF THE ROMAN ARMY, KNEELS TO PRAY, HE HAS A VISION—AN ANGEL OF GOD APPEARS AND CALLS HIM BY NAME.



WHAT IS IT?

GOD HAS HEARD YOUR PRAYERS. HE CHERISHES YOUR GIFTS TO POOR PEOPLE. NOW, SEND SOME MEN TO JOPPA TO LOOK FOR A MAN NAMED PETER. HE IS STAYING WITH SIMON THE LEATHER-WORKER, IN A HOUSE BY THE SEA.

AFTER THE ANGEL LEAVES, CORNELIUS SENDS THREE OF HIS MOST TRUSTED MEN TO JOPPA. AS THEY APPROACH THE CITY, THE MAN THEY'RE LOOKING FOR GOES UP ON A ROOFTOP TO PRAY ...





ON THE ROOF, PETER HAS A VISION. A VOICE COMMANDS HIM:  
"GET UP, PETER. KILL AND EAT."

NEVER, LORD.  
IN ALL MY LIFE,  
I HAVE NEVER EATEN  
ANYTHING THAT THE  
JEWISH LAW CALLS  
UNCLEAN.

DON'T SAY  
SOMETHING IS NOT  
PURE THAT I HAVE  
CALLED CLEAN. NOW  
GO DOWNSTAIRS!  
THREE MEN ARE  
LOOKING FOR YOU.  
GO WITH THEM,  
BECAUSE I HAVE  
SENT THEM  
TO YOU.

PETER HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS AND  
FINDS THREE MEN AT THE GATE.

I'M THE ONE  
YOU'RE LOOKING  
FOR. WHY HAVE  
YOU COME?

CORNELIUS  
THE CENTURION  
SENT US. HE  
WORSHIPS GOD,  
AND AN ANGEL  
TOLD HIM TO  
SEND FOR YOU.

THE NEXT DAY, PETER AND SOME OF HIS  
FRIENDS SET OUT FOR CAESAREA. WHEN  
THEY REACH THE HOME OF CORNELIUS,  
THE ROMAN OFFICER FALLS ON HIS  
KNEES TO WORSHIP PETER.

NO! I'M  
ONLY A MAN  
LIKE YOU!



PETER ENTERS THE HOUSE AND FINDS IT CROWDED WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF CORNELIUS. EVERYONE IS ANXIOUS TO MEET HIM.



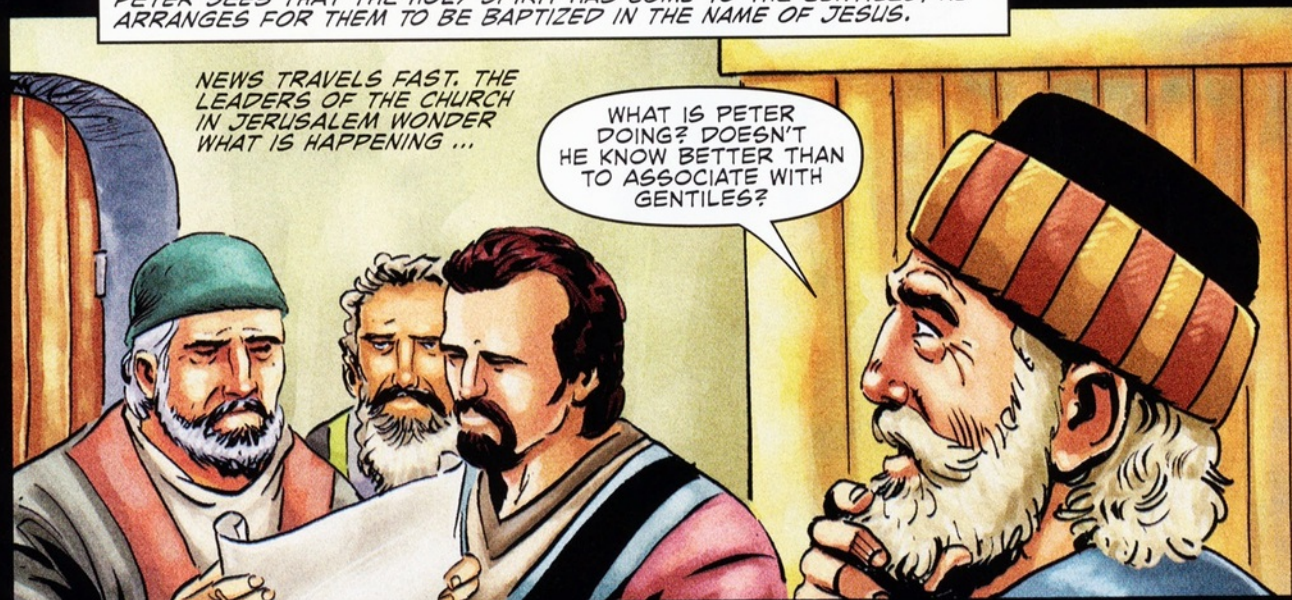
ACCORDING TO JEWISH LAWS, PEOPLE FROM OTHER NATIONS ARE UNCLEAN. AS A JEW, I AM FORBIDDEN TO ASSOCIATE WITH GENTILES LIKE YOU. BUT GOD TOLD ME IN A VISION NOT TO CALL ANYONE UNCLEAN. WHY HAVE YOU ASKED ME TO COME?

AN ANGEL OF GOD TOLD ME TO SEND FOR YOU. WE ARE WAITING TO LEARN WHAT THE LORD TOLD YOU TO TELL US.



I SEE NOW THAT ANY PERSON, JEW OR GENTILE, WHO LOVES GOD AND DOES WHAT IS RIGHT IS ACCEPTED BY GOD.

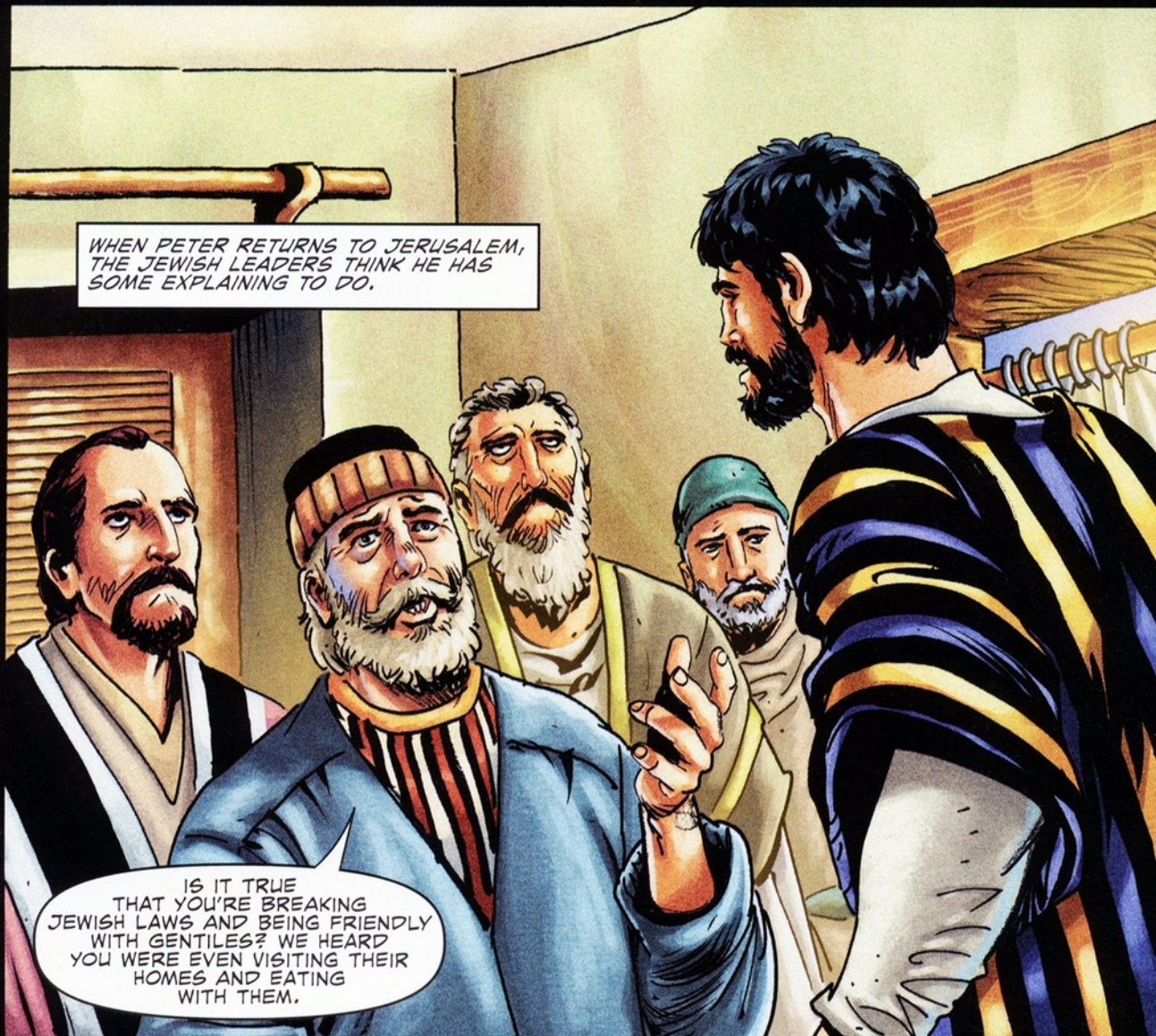
THEN PETER TELLS THEM THAT JESUS WAS THE SAVIOR SENT FROM GOD TO BRING ETERNAL LIFE TO ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM. WHEN PETER SEES THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME TO THE GENTILES, HE ARRANGES FOR THEM TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS.



NEWS TRAVELS FAST. THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM WONDER WHAT IS HAPPENING ...

WHAT IS PETER DOING? DOESN'T HE KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASSOCIATE WITH GENTILES?





WHEN PETER RETURNS TO JERUSALEM, THE JEWISH LEADERS THINK HE HAS SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE BREAKING JEWISH LAWS AND BEING FRIENDLY WITH GENTILES? WE HEARD YOU WERE EVEN VISITING THEIR HOMES AND EATING WITH THEM.

GOD TOLD A ROMAN CENTURION TO SEND FOR ME, AND GOD TOLD ME TO GO TO HIM.

WHILE I WAS TELLING THE GENTILES ABOUT JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THEM—THE SAME WAY THE SPIRIT CAME TO US ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST!

IF GOD GAVE THEM THE SAME GIFTS HE GAVE US, WHO WAS I TO STAND IN THE WAY?

THE CHURCH LEADERS AGREE WITH PETER AND PRAISE GOD FOR GIVING ETERNAL LIFE TO THE GENTILES. THE CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW ...





# Death to the Tyrant

BASED ON ACTS 12

A NEW HEROD COMES TO POWER. HEROD AGRIPPA WANTS TO PLEASE JEWISH LEADERS, SO HE BEGINS TO PERSECUTE JESUS' FOLLOWERS.

ARREST THE DISCIPLE CALLED JAMES. CHARGE HIM WITH STIRRING UP TROUBLE AND PUT HIM TO DEATH IMMEDIATELY!

SO JAMES, ONE OF THE FOUR FISHERMEN WHO LEFT THEIR NETS TO FOLLOW JESUS, IS KILLED TO SATISFY A WICKED KING'S STRUGGLE FOR POWER.

WHEN HEROD SEES THAT THE DEATH OF JAMES PLEASES THE JEWISH LEADERS, HE HAS PETER ARRESTED AS WELL. HE PLANS TO EXECUTE PETER AFTER THE PASSOVER FEAST.

CHAIN EACH HAND TO A GUARD. KEEP FOUR SOLDIERS ON WATCH AT ALL TIMES. THIS PRISONER MUST NOT ESCAPE!






ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HEROD PLANS TO BRING PETER TO TRIAL, AN ANGEL ENTERS THE PRISON CELL ...

QUICK! GET UP! PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES AND SANDALS. FOLLOW ME.

PETER OBEYS, AND THE CHAINS FALL FROM HIS WRISTS. THE ANGEL LEADS PETER OUT OF THE PRISON CELL.

THE ANGEL TAKES PETER PAST TWO SETS OF GUARDS—WHO DON'T SEE THEM! AS THEY APPROACH THE IRON GATE IN THE PRISON WALL, IT OPENS! THEY WALK OUT INTO THE CITY STREETS—AND SUDDENLY THE ANGEL VANISHES!

SCARCELY BELIEVING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, PETER HURRIES TO THE HOME OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF HIS YOUNG FRIEND MARK, WHERE HIS FRIENDS ARE PRAYING FOR HIM. RHODA, A SERVANT GIRL, ANSWERS.



IT'S ME!

BUT INSTEAD OF LETTING PETER IN, RHODA TURNS AND RUNS BACK INTO THE HOUSE ...





THE GIRL INSISTS.  
FINALLY SOMEONE  
GOES TO OPEN  
THE DOOR.

IF YOU KNEW  
IT WAS PETER, WHY  
DIDN'T YOU LET  
HIM IN?

I WAS SO  
EXCITED TO TELL  
YOU THAT I FORGOT  
TO OPEN THE  
GATE!







CAUTIOUSLY THEY  
OPEN THE DOOR ...

PETER!  
IT'S REALLY  
YOU!

DID  
HEROD  
RELEASE  
YOU?



NO, BUT  
GOD DID. AN  
ANGEL WOKE ME  
AND TOLD ME TO  
FOLLOW. I DID—  
AND THE PRISON  
GATES  
OPENED.

THE ANGEL  
DISAPPEARED IN THE  
STREET. TELL THE OTHERS  
I AM FREE. NOW I HAVE TO  
GET OUT OF JERUSALEM  
BEFORE HEROD FINDS OUT  
WHAT HAPPENED.



THE NEXT MORNING, HEROD DISCOVERS  
THAT THE PRISONER IS GONE.

YOU SAY HE  
WAS CHAINED TO TWO  
GUARDS AND OTHERS WERE  
GUARDING THE DOOR, YET YOU  
EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT  
HE JUST DISAPPEARED? SEARCH  
THE CITY! FIND PETER, OR  
THOSE GUARDS WILL PAY  
WITH THEIR LIVES.

BUT THE SEARCH FAILS.  
PETER IS SAFE.



A FEW DAYS LATER, HEROD APPEARS AT A PUBLIC CELEBRATION IN CAESAREA. WEARING DAZZLING SILVER ROYAL ROBES, HE SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE. TO FLATTER HIM, THEY SHOUT:

HE HAS THE VOICE OF A GOD, NOT A MAN.

HEROD ACCEPTS THE PRAISE OF THE PEOPLE, WHICH SHOULD ONLY BE GIVEN TO GOD. IMMEDIATELY, GOD STRIKES HIM DOWN. HEROD LIES SICK FOR DAYS WHILE HE IS EATEN BY WORMS FROM THE INSIDE OUT. WITHIN THE WEEK, HE DIES.

WITH THE DEATH OF HEROD, THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH STOPS FOR A TIME. THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST CONTINUES TO SPREAD THROUGH THE LAND OF THE JEWS ...