

Overview of the Seven Days in Acts
by, Rev. Eric Alan Greene

1. The “day” of Christ ascension (1:2) 1:1-2:47
The “day” of the Spirit’s descent: light represented in tongues of fire (2:1)

2. *Forming* of a Firmament-Barrier (Persecution) between Jerusalem Temple and Apostles 3:1-8:2
 - i. Threaten Apostles *speech*
 - ii. Beat / Imprisoned Apostles *prison*
 - iii. Murder Stephen *killing*

3. Filling of God’s kingdom with *individuals*: 8:3-11:18
(First-fruits of what will come in “Day 5” section)
 - i. God’s kingdom spreads to Samaria
 - ii. Peter’s conflict with Simon the sorcerer
 - a. Ethiopian believes - Gentile Ethiopia (**south** of Mediterranean Sea)
 - b. Saul believes - Pharisee
 - a’ Cornelius believes - Gentile Caesarea (**east** of Mediterranean Sea)
 - Vision given to Cornelius, to send men for Peter’s help.

4. God’s people identified with the new heavenly ruler: “Christian” – followers of Christ 11:19-12:24
Herod, the earthly ruler, is killed. He is cast down from his star-like position.

5. Filling of God’s kingdom with *churches* and *epistles*: 12:25-18:28
 - i. God’s kingdom begins to go to the ends of the earth
 - ii. Paul’s conflict with Elymas the sorcerer
 - a. Paul’s 1st Mission - Gentile Galatian Territory Asia Minor (**north** of Mediterranean Sea)
 - b. Jerusalem Council - Pharisees cause problems (epistles also begin to fill churches)
 - a. Paul’s 2nd Mission - Gentile Greece Territory Greece (**westward** of Mediterranean Sea)
 - Vision given to Paul, of a Macedonian man asking for help.
(Four compass directions emphasize filling of the land around the sea on Day 3 & Day 5.)

6. *Forming* of civil protection from Jews – Paul’s 3rd Journey 19:1-24:27
(Husband-protector made on Day 6)
 - i. City Clerk of Ephesus defends Paul *speech*
 - ii. Lysais, Commander of Roman garrison, imprisons Paul – protecting him *prison*
 - iii. Felix, Roman Governor, imprisons Paul – doing Jews a “favor” *“favor” – no death*
(The good work of the Metal Man with “iron legs” of Dan.2. Iron legs = Rome)

7. “Sabbath” landing of the crew on Paul’ ship and arrival in Rome – Paul’s 4th Journey 25:1-28:31
Paul is bite by a serpent and survives, contrary to Adam and Eve’s experience with serpent on Day 7
Paul preaches without persecution. (Restful ending like Day 7)

Details of The Seven Days in Acts

DAY 1 – *Ascension and Descent of God’s Light*: Inauguration of God’s kingdom
Correspondence with the seven days of creation in chapters 1-2 is in *italics*

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| 1. Light of Christ’s life till “ <i>the day</i> ” of his ascension | 1:1-3 |
| 2. Apostolic kingdom: <i>Forming</i> no earthly boundaries, for Christ is above the firmament | 1:4-11 |
| 3. Apostolic office: <i>Filled</i> with Matthias. Judas’ <i>land</i> was filled with his own blood | 1:12-26 |
| 4. Tongues of fire : descent (1-3), observation (5-13), explanation (14-21) “ <i>sun</i> ” dark, “ <i>moon</i> ” blood | 2:1-21 |
| 5. Jesus’ resurrection: <i>Filling</i> of joy and life. Christ is “ <i>full</i> of joy in Your presence” | 2:22-28 |
| 6. i. Jesus’ ascension: <i>Forming</i> of New Lord – <i>husband</i> : “this Jesus is Lord and Christ” | 2:29-36 |
| ii. Israel’s response: <i>Forming</i> of New Israel – <i>bride</i> : “they were cut to the heart”, “baptized” | 2:37-39 |
| 7. Sabbath fullness: 3,000 added, fellowship, broke bread, signs and wonders, giving with gladness | 2:41-47 |

Comparison with creation and Day 1:

1. These seven sections reflect the themes of the entire seven days of creation. The inauguration of God’s apostolic kingdom is a new creation, with the central theme focus the descent of God’s light – the tongues of fire.
2. The tongues of fire represent the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.
3. The Spirit of God hovering over the waters on Day 1 was the source of that original light, for it was before the sun, moon, and stars were created.

DAY 2 – *As the firmament separated the upper waters from the lower waters, even so persecution separates the Jewish Temple from the Apostolic Church*

1. <i>Temple Rulers Threaten Apostles</i>		threaten
a. Peter heals lame man at the “Beautiful Gate” of temple	3:1-10	
b. Peter preaches in “Solomon’s Porch” of temple	3:11-26	
c. Temple leaders arrest Peter & John	4:1-4	
b’ Temple leaders question the “power” or “name” authorizing Peter & John	4:5-12	
a’ Temple leaders can not deny the healed man; <u>threaten</u> Apostles	4:13-22	
2. <i>Temple Rulers Beat & Imprison Apostles</i>		beaten
a. Apostles pray for strength to “preach” and “heal”	4:23-31	
b. Apostles’ “feet” is where church is united, and purged of evil	4:32-5:11	
c. Apostles performs signs and wonder in “Solomon’s Porch”	5:12-16	
d. Temple leaders arrest Apostles / Angel frees Apostles	5:17-21	
c’ Temple leaders interrogate Apostles about teaching in Jesus’ “name”	5:22-32	
b’ Temple leader, Gamaliel, warns about opposing Apostles & God	5:33-42	
a’ Temple council <u>beat</u> and forbid Apostles to preach	5:40-42	
3. <i>Temple Rulers Kill Stephen</i>		killed
a. Apostles pray over 7 deacons: Stephen is “full of faith and the Holy Spirit”	6:1-7	
b. Stephen accused before the “Freedmen” Council	6:8-15	
c. High Priest hears Stephen’s sermon on Temple Apostasy	7:2-53	
b’ Stephen <u>killed</u> by temple leaders, united at Saul’s “feet”	7:54-60	
a’ Apostles stay in Jerusalem: Church scattered, Stephen buried	8:1-2	

Comparison with Day 2:

1. Unlike any other day of creation, there are only three verbs describing God’s work on Day 2. Concerning the works of God on Day 2 – God “said”, God “made”, and God “called”. Likewise, in this section of Acts there are three actions of the temple leaders – threatening, beating, and killing.
2. The firmament was a barrier, dividing the upper and lower waters. In this section, God’s providence works to harden and divide the Jewish temple from the Apostolic church.
3. At the end of this section the firmament-heavens open up allowing Stephen to see Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
4. The temple with its veil and Holy Place was an earthly representation of the firmament. By rejecting the Apostles, the temple leaders held on to all that was symbolized by the temple’s veil. That veil had been ripped in two. The old covenant was over. The Jewish leaders hardened and separated themselves from the new creation, which is the reunion of heaven and earth being inaugurated through the gospel.

DAY 3 – Filling the kingdom with three individual firstfruits: Ethiopian, Saul, and Cornelius

- a. Church is persecuted and scatters 8:3
 - b. Philip preaches and heals, then baptizes Simon the sorcerer 8:4-13
 - c. Peter confronts the sorcerer, and escapes God’s judgment 8:14-25
 - d. Philip baptizes the Ethiopian eunuch 8:26-40
 - e. Saul leaves for Damascus 1) **Christ speaks to Saul** 9:1-9
 - d’ Ananias baptizes Saul 2) **Christ speaks to Ananias** 9:10-19
 - c’ Saul confronts the Jews, and escapes their plot 9:20-25
 - b’ Saul joins the Apostles in Jerusalem (a good convert versus Simon) 9:26-30
 - a’ Church has peace and multiplied 9:26-31
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- a. Peter tells Aeneas that Jesus heals 9:32-35
 - b. Peter tells Tabitha to “*arise*”: she is alive [Peter enters Joppa] 9:36-43
 - c. Cornelius sends 3 men to Peter 10:1-8
 - d. Peter’s 3-fold vision 3) **Christ speaks to Peter** 10:9-16
 - c’ Peter summoned by the 3 men 10:17-23
 - b’ Peter tells Cornelius to “*arise*”: he is clean [Peter in Caesarea] 10:24-33
 - a’ i. Peter tells Cornelius that Jesus saves, God-fearer is baptized 10:34-48
 - ii. Peter tells Jerusalem church about Cornelius 11:1-18

Comparison with Day 3:

1. On Day 3 God caused the dry land to appear and named it “earth”. The dry land earth was representative of, and named after, the entire cosmic earth region. God’s work of maturing and developing the dry land earth with firstfruits was representative of God filling and maturing the entire cosmic earth region. What God does with a representative portion, he will do with the whole. Likewise, this section of Acts is representative of the greater fullness that Paul will bring into the kingdom through his missionary journeys. Notice how the representative individuals of this Day 3 section compare with the fullness of the Day 5 section.
2. There is a significant repetition of *three*’s in this section:
 - i. Christ speaks three times – to Saul, Ananias, and Peter
 - ii. Cornelius send three men to Peter
 - iii. Peter’s vision occurs to him three times.
 - iv. In Peter’s message, he tells Cornelius that God raised Christ “on the third day” (10:40).
 - v. Three significant people are saved (if we excluded Simon the Sorcerer)
Ethiopian, Saul, Cornelius

DAY 4 – God’s people identified with the new heavenly Ruler: “Christian”
Herod, an earthly ruler, is struck down

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| a. i. | Persecution initiated with Stephen’s death | 11:19 |
| ii. | “Hand of the Lord” moves, strengthens, and adds to the church | 11:20-21 |
| b. | Barnabas encourages church in Antioch | 11:22-24 |
| c. | Saul & Barnabas come to Antioch: The name “Christian” is given | 11:25-26 |
| b’ | Barnabas & Saul relieve church in Jerusalem | 11:27-30 |
| a’ i. | Persecution initiated with James’ death | 12:1-4 |
| ii. | “Angel of the Lord” frees Peter and kills Herod | 12:5-24 |

Comparison with Day 4:

1. On Day 4 God made the stars, sun, and moon to rule the day and night. Thus throughout the Bible earthly rulers are compared with the stars and moon.
2. The term Christian is first used, identifying God’s new covenant people with the heavenly ruler Jesus Christ.
3. The earthly ruler, Herod, is cast down from his lofty position, for playing a type of Lucifer who receives the praise of a god. Herod falls from his star-like position, the Christians are the new rulers even in their persecutions by encouraging and relieving churches.

DAY 5 – Filling the kingdom with churches and epistles: 1st mission, Epistle contra Pharisees, 2nd mission

Paul's 1st mission journey to Gentile territory:

- a. Saul & Barnabas return to Antioch. They are sent out from the church in Antioch 12:25 - 13:3
- b. Traveled to Seleucia and sailed away 13:4
- c. “preached the word of God” in synagogue 13:5
- d. Jewish false prophet blinded (Bar-Jesus / Elymas) 13:6-12
- e. John Mark departs for Jerusalem, a disciple leaves 13:13
- f. Jews (in Antioch) ask Paul to preach in synagogue 13:14-41
- g. Gentiles “begged” for more and many Jews follow Paul 13:42-43
- h. “whole city” comes to hear Paul in synagogue 13:44
- i. Jews filled with envy and persecute 13:45-52
- j. Paul preaches in synagogue: **“multitude of Jews & Greeks believe”** 14:1
- i’ Jews poison minds of Gentiles 14:2-3
- h’ “multitude of the city” is divided between Jews and Apostles 14:4-5
- g’ Gentile priest attempt to worship Paul after healing a cripple 14:6-18
- f’ Jews (from Antioch & Icon.) persuade multitudes and stone Paul 14:19-20a
- e’ Paul “made many disciples” 14:20b-21
- d’ Elders appointed in every church 14:21-23
- c’ “preached the word” in Perga 14:24-25
- b’ Sailed to Antioch 14:26a
- a’ Paul and his men report to the church in Antioch 14:26b-28

Church's epistle against the Pharisee' doctrine

- a. Paul and Barnabas *argue & unite* against the Pharisees' doctrine 15:1-5
- b. Peter and James speak the Gospel 15:6-21
- c. **Jerusalem council writes an epistle against heresy** 15:22-29
- b’ Paul and Barnabas read the epistle and preach the Gospel 15:30-35
- a’ Paul and Barnabas *argue & divide* over Mark 15:36-41

Paul's 2nd mission journey to Gentile territory:

- A. Timothy helps Paul; is circumcised because “his father was Greek”. Churches strengthened 16:1-5
- B. Paul goes through Phrygia & Galatia, enters Macedonia to “help” 16:6-10
- C. Helping Philippi:
 - a. Lydia believes. They stay with Lydia 16:11-15
 - b. Roman *citizens accuse* Paul, then beaten and imprisoned 16:16-24
 - c. **Paul and Silas freed; Roman jailor and his house believe** 16:25-34
 - b’ Roman *rulers ashamed* for beating and imprisoning 16:35-39
 - a’ They enter the house of Lydia 16:40
- C’ Helping Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, & Ephesus:
 - a. Paul preaches in synagogue 3x’s; Greeks and “leading women” believe 17:1-4
 - b. Jews accuse Jason of *treason*. Accusation: “acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar” 17:5-9
 - c. Paul preaches in synagogue: many believe 17:10-12
 - d. Jewish persecution; Paul goes “to the sea”, to Athens 17:13-15
 - e. Paul preaches in synagogue: awaiting Timothy & Silas 17:16-17
 - f. **Paul preaches to Greek philosophers** 17:18-34
 - e’ Paul preaches in synagogue: arrival of Timothy & Silas 18:1-5
 - d’ Jewish opposition; Paul goes “to Gentiles” 18:6
 - c’ Paul stays near a synagogue: ruler of synagogue believes 18:7-11
 - b’ Jews accuse Paul of *heresy*. Accusation: “worship God contrary to the law” 18:12-17
 - a’ Paul preaches in synagogue; Paul did not stay when asked 18:18-21
- B’ Paul goes to Antioch, then went “strengthening” all disciples in Phrygia & Galatia 18:22-23
- A’ Apollos “helped” churches in Achaia, he was “born at Alexandria”. Churches strengthened 18:24-28

Comparison with Day 5:

1. On Day 5 God filled the earth with birds and fish. Likewise at greater filling of God's kingdom comes through the 1st and 2nd mission journey of Paul.
2. This is also the era in which Paul will write most of his epistles to local churches. As the church in Jerusalem will write a letter condemning the heresy of the Pharisees, Paul will do likewise in his epistle.

DAY 6 – Forming of civil protection: Civil magistrates serve as a protective husband for Paul

Paul's 3rd journey – to old Judaism and into Roman protection

a. Holy Spirit baptizes twelve men (a type of new Israel)		19:1-10
b. Demon beats up seven Jews; 50,000 magic books burned		19:11-20
c. City Clerk of Ephesus <i>protects</i> Paul from riot	City Clerk	19:21-41
d. Young boy raised to life by Paul		20:1-12
e. Ephesians are warned heretics and falsehood devouring God's flock		20:13-38
f. Paul warned of being "bound"		21:1-14
g. Paul identified with Jews	Lysais	21:15-26
h. Romans protect Paul from Jews and "bound" him		21:27-36
g' Paul spoke Hebrew to Jews		21:37 - 22:21
f' Paul <i>protected</i> by being "bound", but not beaten		22:22-30
e' Paul declares the resurrection dividing the Sanhedrin, Romans <i>protect</i> him		22:30 - 23:10
d' Young boy saves Paul, Jews are "bound" in wicked oath		23:11-22
c' Roman commander (Lysais) <i>protects</i> Paul from mob		23:23-35
b' Jews (like demons) falsely accuse Paul		24:1-9
a' Felix left Paul "bound" (a protection from old Israel)	Felix	24:10-27

Comparison with Day 6:

1. God made man and woman on Day 6, and the man was supposed to protect his bride. Here the Roman magistrates function as a protective husband for Paul. When Roman officers bind Paul in prison it is a protection from the Jews who seek to kill him.
2. The iron legs of Daniel 2 is representative of Rome. Here that serve a godly and husband-like role of protecting Paul.
3. A type of new Israel is baptized, being a total of twelve men. Paul makes a journey into old Jerusalem, yet they persecute him. Old Jerusalem was then a false bride of God and a persecutor of God's true bride, His new covenant and apostolic Israel.

DAY 7 – Safe landing for those on the ship
Paul’s freedom to preach in Rome

Paul’s 4th journey – to Rome

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| a. Jews try to ambush Paul. Paul appeals to Caesar | 25:1-12 |
| b. Paul’s witness before Herod Agrippa. Paul is bound for Caesar | 25:13 – 26:32 |
| c. Shipwreck on Malta 14 th night at midnight / passover imagery | 27 |
| b’ Paul’s witness to Gentile sailors and islanders | 28:1-10 |
| a’ Paul in Rome waits for Caesar and preaching with “ <i>no one forbidding him</i> ” | 28:11-31 |

Comparisons with Day 7:

1. Early on Day 7, Adam and Eve fell into sin, being tempted by a serpent. In this section, Paul is bitten by a serpent and yet he survives. The fall came through a serpent, Paul defeats it.
2. There is a Sabbath rest and ending to the book of Acts. Paul is able to preach without any persecution.