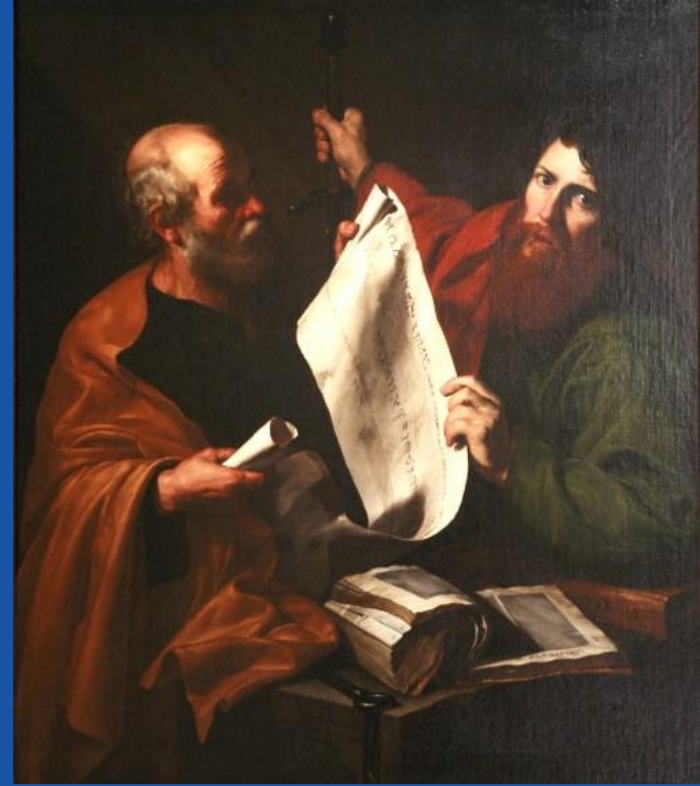


# ACTS CHAPTER 1

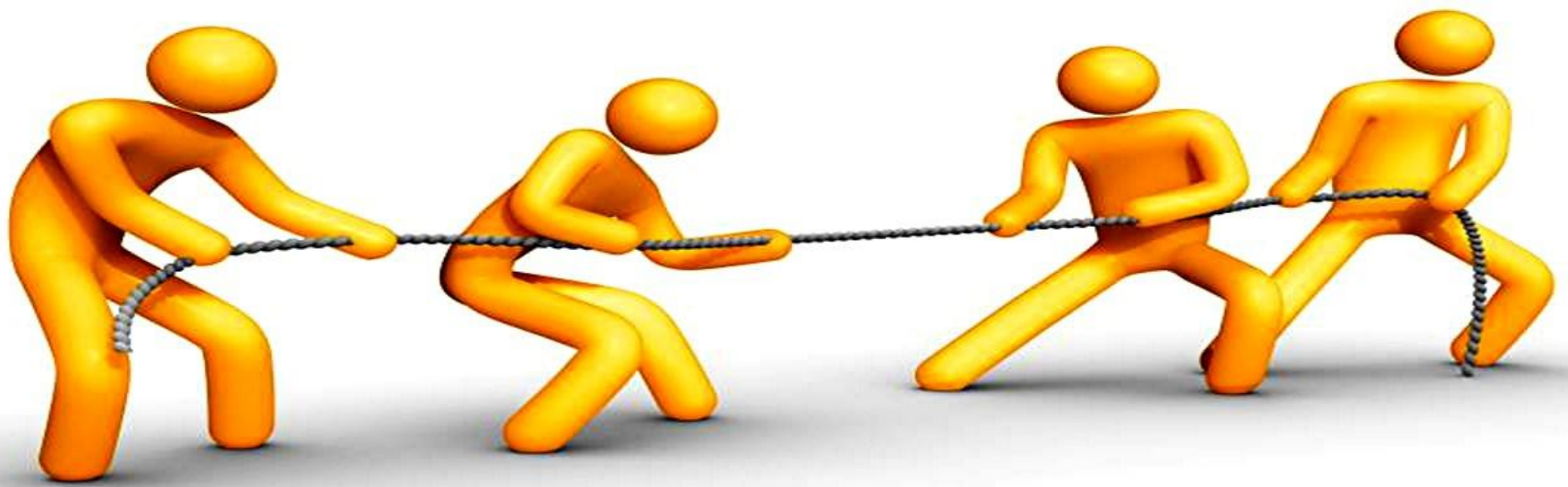
- Paul's Epistles are the greatest influence on the doctrines of the modern Christian Church
- Peter: Paul is "hard to understand"
- No doubt the same issue led to the Jerusalem Council of 49 A.D., led by James
- Peter learned at Yeshua's feet; Paul was a new-comer
- Apparently things Paul said didn't fully square with what Peter heard Christ say



# PAUL: A JEWISH RABBI

- The problem isn't with Paul, it's mostly with us
- Until Christianity takes Paul in his Jewish cultural and religious context, he'll be misunderstood
- Paul spoke naturally, reflexively, within his Jewish context
- Yet indeed Paul DOES say things that at times seem contradictory, even double-minded, or at odds with what Christ said
- The Book of Acts is where we find out WHO Paul is, and why he structures his sentences and chooses terms as he does



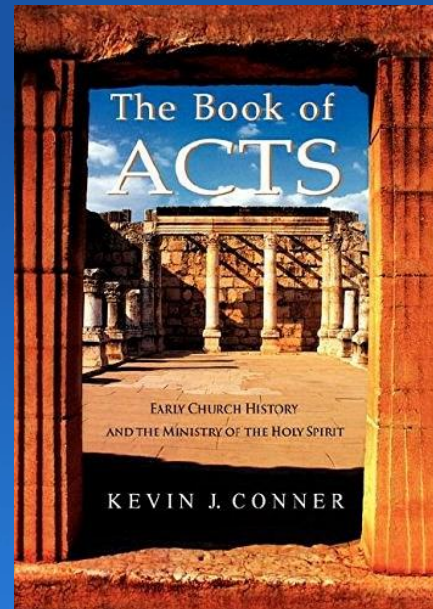
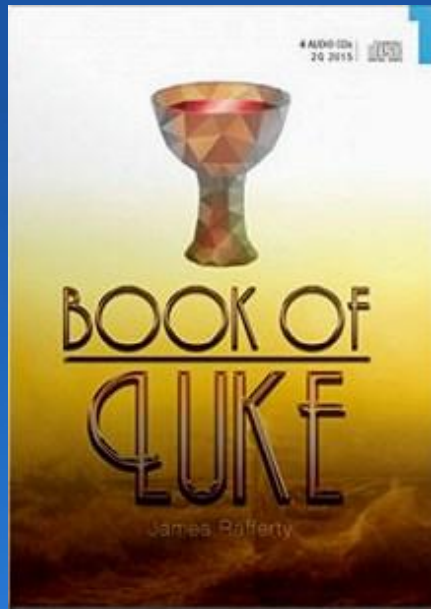


- After the death of Christ and the Apostles, Church fought over how much Jewishness should follow into Christianity
- Marcion (140's A.D.) decided that NO Jewishness should enter into Christianity
- Marcion fought against the Book of Acts as having any place in a Christian Bible canon
- Modern Bible scholars rarely refer to comments by the earliest Church Fathers
- Francis Martin, translated and collated comments by early Church Fathers on the Book of Acts

# JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

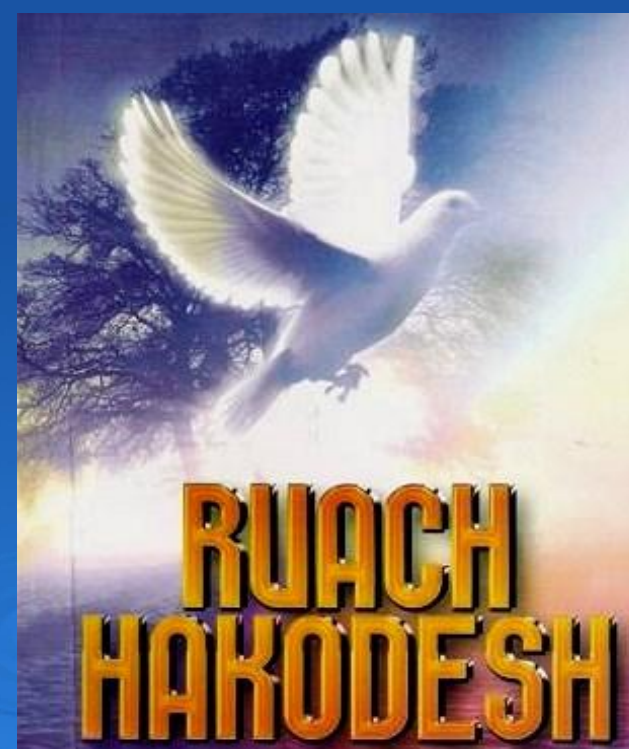


- Commentary from 400 A.D.
- *“To many people this book....is so little known that they are not even aware it exists....”*
- Luke’s “History of Christian Origins” divided into two books: the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles
- Acts presented a much too Jewish Paul, so it was “hidden”
- Church had recast Paul as nearly a gentile!
- Bishops kept Luke and Acts separated by inserting the Gospel of John in between, thus losing continuity

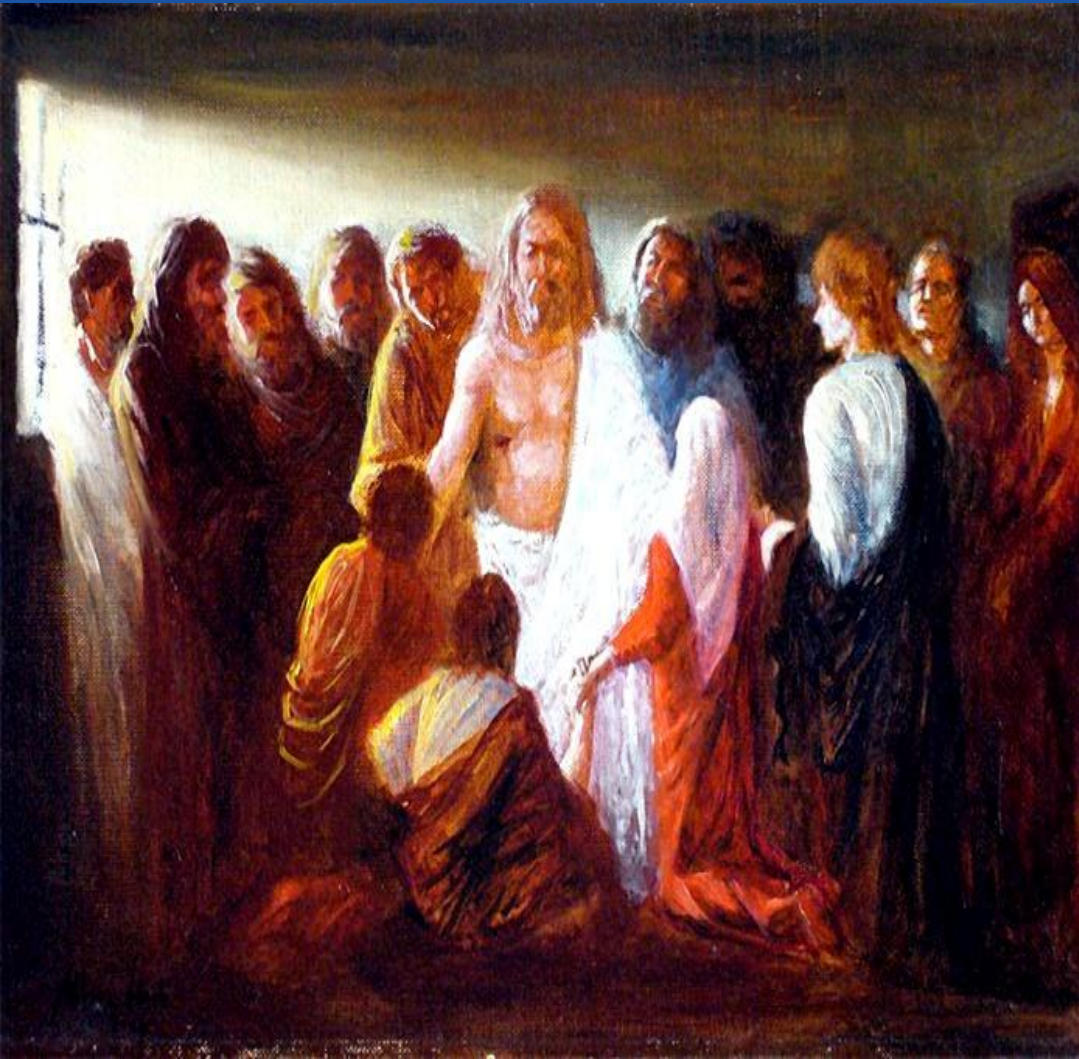


# HOLY SPIRIT IS CENTRAL

- Theophilos = friend of God
- Some scholars say this is not a person, but rather a general greeting to all Believers
- ***Ruach HaKodesh*** = Holy Spirit
- Book of Acts contains almost half of all mentions of the Holy Spirit in the entire NT
- Luke makes a strong connection between YHWH, Yeshua, and the Ruach HaKodesh



# YESHUA LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS ALIVE !!



- The risen Christ presented Himself to many of His followers
- Mat. 28:8 -10, 16 –20
- Yeshua stayed for 40 days after rising from the tomb and taught
- Moses was instructed by God for 40 days
- 40 = trial or transition
- 7 days after Christ ascended to Heaven, the Holy Spirit arrived

# BAPTISM



- Disciples were not to leave Jerusalem just yet
- ***Yochanon*** (John) baptized in water, but the disciples would be baptized in the Holy Spirit
- Since disciples' culture was 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Judaism, baptism had a meaning to them in that context
- ***Baptizeim*** = baptism = immersion

# RITUAL CLEANSING

- Purpose of immersion was to regain lost purity
- Preferred place was a Mikveh
- A river or spring-fed Lake was OK
- Ritually clean = suitable for use by God
- Ritually Unclean = NOT suitable for use by God
- Immersion symbolizes a change in status
- Believer's baptism is laying down our will, and submitting to God's will







- Immersion in the Holy Spirit brings forth **POWER** !
- There is only one Holy Spirit
- Yeshua “shared” His spirit with the disciples
- Patterned after Moses
- Num. 11:24 - 26

# BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

- Immersion is commanded by Yeshua...it is not optional
- A public profession of faith
- Water won't change you, but the Holy Spirit will
- Issue is obedience





# YES..... BUT LATER

- “Lord, are you going to restore self-rule to Israel?”
- All Judaism was waiting for a Messiah / Warrior
- Yeshua was of the royal line of David, qualified to sit on the throne
- Disciples still didn't get it that Yeshua came to die as a ransom for sins
- Acts 1:7-8
- The Millennial Kingdom

# FROM JERUSALEM, TO SAMARIA, TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



- We should not focus our lives on the End Times
- False prophets constantly predicting calamities that don't happen
- Jerusalem is the epicenter of the Gospel
- A Witness has power and knowledge
- Disciples probably felt Yeshua was talking about taking the Good News to the Diaspora Jews
- That the Gospel would also go to gentiles was a BIG surprise, and not particularly welcome news !