



LOVE THE 'VILLE

Spotlight.

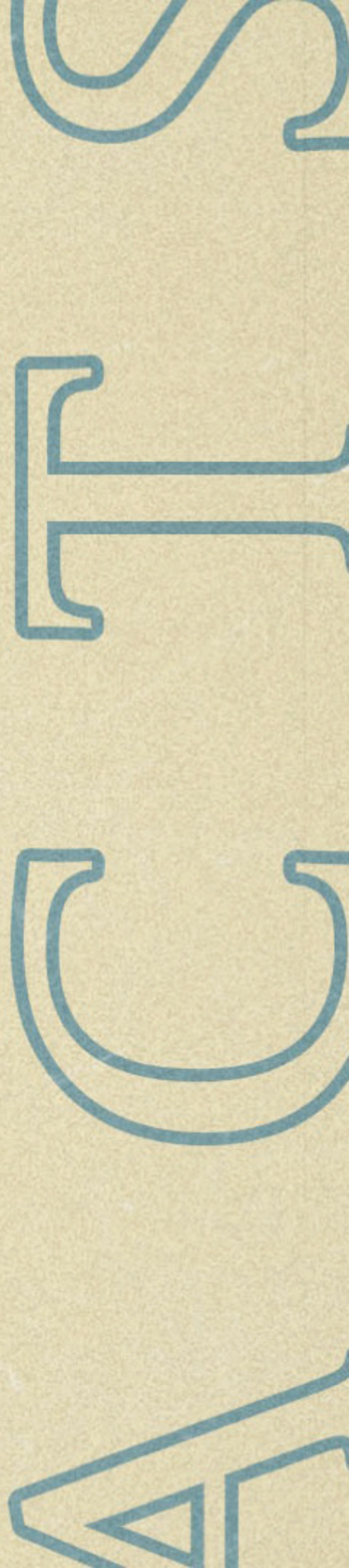
A monthly newsletter that shines a light on opportunities to unleash the love of Jesus everyday, everybody, everywhere.

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acts

— **VERSE BY VERSE**



**ANCIENT
CHURCH**

**MODERN
ISSUES**

ACTS 1:1-5
+
LUKE 1:1-4

**CAN I
TRUST THE
CHRISTIAN
SCRIPTURES**



ACTS 1:6-11

**IS
"DIVERSITY"
CHRISTIAN?**

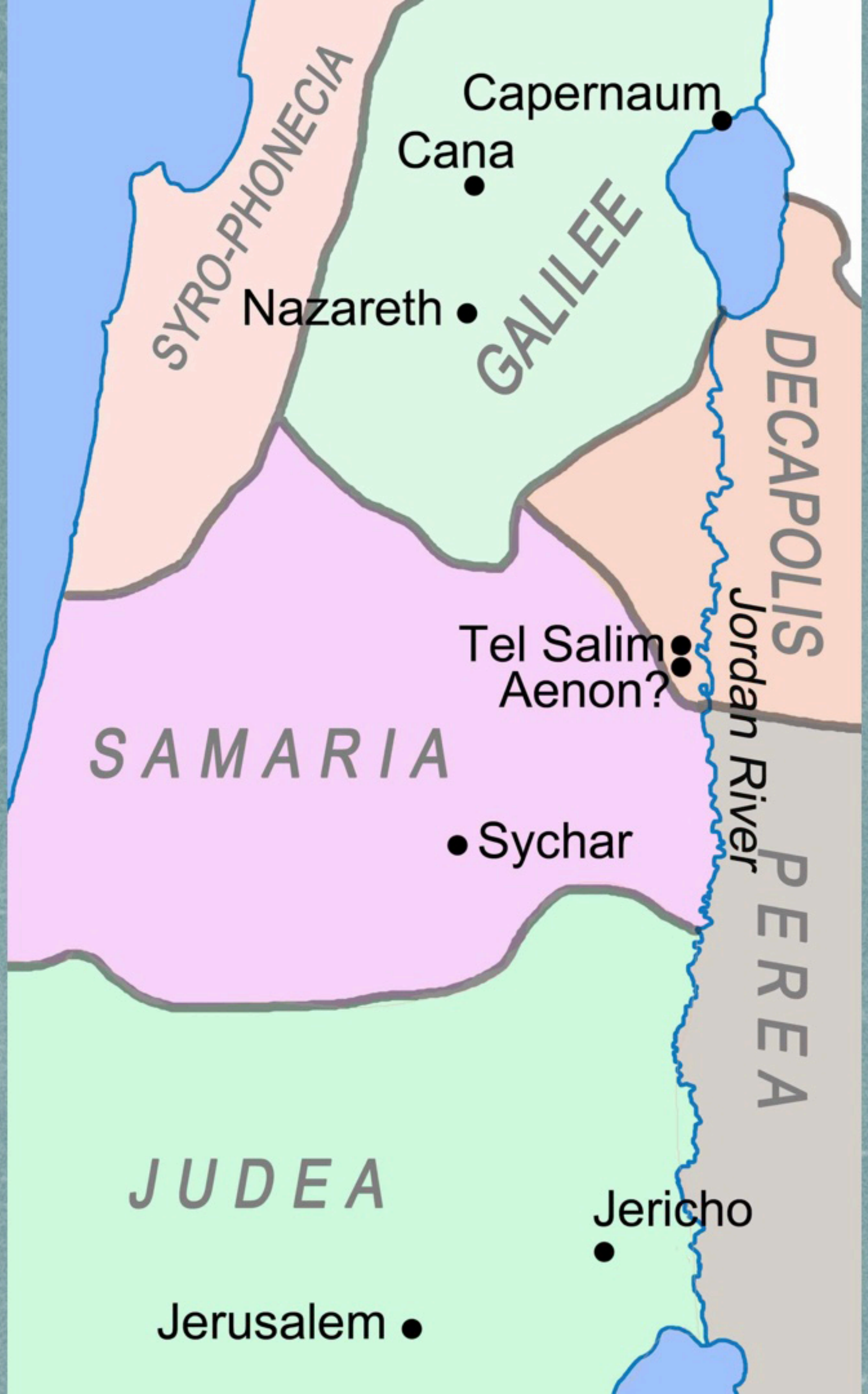
Acts 1:6-11

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me **everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After saying this, He was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see Him. As they strained to see Him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!”

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS



VERSE BY VERSE

“Stop talking about race and just preach the gospel!”

Not possible. Jesus does not separate multi-ethnic diversity from the gospel. One of the essential goals of our “witness” (Acts 1:8) is to bring diverse people together.

Luke 10:25-30

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking Him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say?

How do you read it?” The man answered, “ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied with a story:

Acts 1 - The Commission to Multi-Ethnic Witness

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me *everywhere*—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 2 – Multi-Ethnic Birth of the Church at Pentecost

Acts 2:5-12 – At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!”

Acts 2 – Multi-Ethnic Birth of the Church at Pentecost

Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

Acts 6 – The Need for Diverse Leadership

Acts 6:1 – The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

Acts 8 – God Sends Christianity to Samaria & Africa

Acts 8:26-27 - As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia...

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Acts 9 – Paul is Saved for the Gentiles

Acts 9:15-16 – But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to **take my message to the Gentiles** and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

Acts 10 – Peter is Commanded in a Vision to Diversify

Acts 10:34-36, 44 - Peter began to speak to them:

“I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. You know the message He sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all... While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.”

Acts 10 – Peter is Commanded in a Vision to Diversify

Acts 11:1-3 – Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God. But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him. “You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!” they said.

Acts 11,13 – Paul Sent on 1st Church Planting Trip

Acts 13:2-3 – One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.”
So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

Acts 15 – The First Church Council Rules On Gentile Inclusion

Acts 15:9 – James the brother of Jesus said, “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

Acts 15 – Paul and Baranbas split of John Mark's prejudice?

Acts 16 – Paul goes on 2nd Church Planting Trip

Acts 16 - Timothy's Circumcision Controversy

Acts 16 - Paul's vision to go to Macedonia

Acts 16 - Diverse Church Planted in Philippi

Acts 17 - Paul preaches to philosophers of Athens

Acts 19 - Paul goes on last Church Planting Trip

Acts 21 - Paul is arrested over Gentile inclusion

Acts 21:28 - “Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who preaches against our people everywhere and tells everybody to disobey the Jewish laws. He speaks against the Temple—and even defiles this holy place by bringing in Gentiles.”

Acts 23 - Paul receives a vision that he will take
Jesus to Rome!

Acts 23:11 - That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said,
“Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness
to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the
Good News in Rome as well.”

Acts 25 - Paul appeals to take
Jesus to Caesar

Acts 27-28 - Paul witnesses to
Gentiles in Malta

*Acts 29** - The Multi-Ethnic
expansion never stops!

“Stop talking about race and just preach the gospel!”

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