

## Revelation 21

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

## Romans 2

<sup>3</sup>Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup>But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

# ACTS

## THE SPREADING FLAME



The book of Acts is the second part of Luke's two-volume work (originally Luke-Acts) in which the Scripture highlights all Jesus continued to do and teach after his ascension. Here we find the historical birth of the Holy Spirit empowered church and enduring teaching about the acting of God in history through his Spirit in his people.

What does Acts mean for us in 2024? First, this is our spiritual family. Second, this is the story into which we have been plunged, just a little farther down the stream of history. Third, we inherit the same mission as outlined in the book of Acts. Finally, this is the same God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who is active in our lives and world today. Here we learn of him and are invited to walk faithfully as we practically learn of his Lordship and are filled with his Spirit.

## Act 5:1-16

[Acts 4 <sup>39</sup>... and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus...<sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul...<sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them...<sup>36</sup> Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,<sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**Acts 5** <sup>1</sup>But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, <sup>2</sup> and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." <sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. **And great fear came upon all who heard of it.** <sup>6</sup> The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

<sup>7</sup> After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." <sup>9</sup> But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." <sup>10</sup> Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **<sup>11</sup> And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.**

<sup>12</sup> Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles...

# Rejoice and Tremble

May 12, 2024 | Acts 5:1-16 | Pastor Roger Williams

## The gospel empowers authentic fear of the Lord.

*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.*

- Acts 9:31-

The fear of the Lord brings clarity.

The fear of the Lord brings safety.

The fear of the Lord brings relationship.

The fear of the Lord brings patience.

The fear of the Lord brings joy.

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The Fear of God is the soul of godliness...the fear of God in which godliness consists is the fear which constrains adoration and love. It is the fear which consists in awe, reverence, honor, and worship, and all of these on the highest level of exercise. It is the reflex in our consciousness of the transcendent majesty and holiness of God.

- John Murray, *Principles of Conduct*, 229, 236-7.