

Documented Harvest

A DEFINITIVE LOOK AT THE OCCURANCES OF HARVEST IN THE
BOOK OF ACTS

PREFACE

“And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” Mark 1:17

*“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”
Matthew 9:37-38*

*Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
(James 5:7)*

When Jesus stepped into Peter’s boat and requested him to push out a little from shore, Peter had no idea that he was embarking into destiny. As Jesus finished teaching the multitudes He then turned to Peter and commanded him to thrust out into deeper waters. Peter, who had been fishing all night, was tired, but in his tiredness he could not deny the fire burning in his heart as Jesus spake. He had never heard words like this man spoke. Peter obeyed and thrust the boat out further. Once into deeper water Jesus speaks words again that bring conflict between Peter’s natural intellect and the burning sensation in his heart. Jesus commands again, *“throw out your nets for a catch”*. With natural tiredness from fishing all night mixed with the reality of the foolishness of the request, Peter submits and obeys stating, *“at your word I will let down the net”*. Once the net was brought in, teeming full of fish - almost sinking the boat, Peter falls down at Jesus’ feet and repents, requesting Jesus to depart from him. Jesus then speaks new words to Peter, *“fear not, from here on you will catch men!”* These words not only charted the course of Peter’s destiny, but the book of Acts as well. The book of Acts is a book of harvest; the harvest of all nations.

HARVEST

A CLOSER LOOK

Reference	Description of Harvest
(Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria)	
1. Acts 2:41	About 3000
2. Acts 2:47	The Lord added daily
3. Acts 4:4	5000 men
4. Acts 5:14	Multitude
5. Acts 6:7	Disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem
6. Acts 6:7	Great number of priests
7. Acts 8:13-14	Samaria
8. Acts 8:37	Ethiopian
9. Acts 9:18	Saul who became Paul
10. Acts 9:31	Multiplied
11. Acts 9:35	All Sharon and Lydda
12. Acts 9:42	Many in Joppa
13. Acts 10:44-48	Cornelius, his family, and friends
14. Acts 11:21	Great number
15. Acts 11:24	Many people
16. Acts 12:24	Grew and multiplied
(To the uttermost parts of the earth)	
17. Acts 13:12	The deputy, Sergius Paulas
18. Acts 13:43	Many Jews and religious proselytes
19. Acts 13:48	Many
20. Acts 14:1	A great multitude of Jews and Greeks
21. Acts 16:5	Increased in number daily
22. Acts 16:15	Lydia and her household
23. Acts 16:31-33	Keeper of the jail and his house
24. Acts 17:4	Some Jews,
25. Acts 17:4	Great multitude of Greeks
26. Acts 17:4	Chief women
27. Acts 17:12	Many Jews
28. Acts 17:12	Elite Greek women and men – not a few
29. Acts 17:34	Dionysius, Damarus, and others
30. Acts 18:8	Crispus, his house,
31. Acts 18:8	Many Corinthians.
32. Acts 19:5	12 of John's disciples in Ephesus
33. Acts 19:18	Many
34. Acts 28:24	Some believed
35. Acts 28:28	Gentiles

(Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria)

1. ABOUT 3000 SOULS

Acts 2:41(KJV)

⁴¹ “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Note: Jesus shocked His disciples one day when He declared that He was returning to His Father and that the result would be an empowering of His disciples to do even greater works than He had done. The disciples had grown accustomed to hearing Jesus speak words that they didn't understand. This was another such case, in that they had watched Jesus give sight to the blind, caused cripples to walk, and raised the dead, regardless of how long they had been dead. Those two words, “greater works” must have totally gone over their heads. But standing before the multitudes on the day of Pentecost, Peter was entering into a type of ministry that Jesus had never demonstrated during His earthly ministry. As Peter preached to the multitudes gathered there, something began to happen in their hearts. As the crowd called out to Peter, “what must we do?” Peter proceeded to give the first altar call for men to be saved by faith in the name of Jesus. On that first day of the church, 3000 souls were born again. Peter watched the power of the Holy Spirit change men from death to life, from darkness to light. As Peter stood there under the weight of the glory of that operation of “greater works” he must have thought back to his first fishing experience with Jesus. “Cast your net out” was a phrase that Peter had never forgotten. That day with Jesus launched Peter into his destiny to be a fisher of men. Like that day in the boat, when Peter asked Jesus to depart from him, Jesus had done it again with another boat sinking load of fish – the human-kind. Was Peter alone in this operation of harvest? No. There were three recorded manifestations of the Holy Spirit that released the power of God for this harvest of souls. John the Baptist declared that Jesus would baptize the church in the Holy Spirit. This operation of “double blessing” comes by the gift of faith. As God's power was energizing through faith, the disciples began to speak in other tongues as a sign gift to the nations present. As the smoke began to settle, Peter then declares that this operation was to all, even those far off, and as many as the Lord our God shall call. The word of wisdom spoken forth to the crowd released revelation of their acceptance into this blessing of power.

2. THE LORD ADDED DAILY

Acts 2:43,47(KJV)

⁴³ “And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Note: Salvation is not a work of man, though we are commanded to preach the gospel. We are empowered to plant and to water, but the increase is always from the Lord. Paul, in writing to the Corinthians tells them that it is the Lord who sets the members in the church. As the apostles preached, the Lord confirmed His word with signs, wonders and miracles. Though no specific gift of the working of miracles or gifts of healings are listed, it does confirm that the power of God was manifesting through the ministry of the apostles. The question is, would that harvest had been the same without the gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation?

3. 5000 MEN (*not counting women and children*)

Acts 4:4(KJV)

⁴ *“Many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.”*

Note: Everyone who went to the temple knew of this man. This miracle catapulted the church into the forefront of Jewish society through the demonstration of the name of Jesus! This dramatic healing gave Peter the platform to preach to the Jews that there is only one name under Heaven given to men whereby man can be saved. Once again, it is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit breaking open the spiritual atmosphere for the preaching of the gospel for souls to be saved.

4. MULTITUDES OF MEN AND WOMEN

Acts 5:12, 14(KJV)

¹² *“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch.*

¹⁴ *And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)”*

Note: The judgment upon Ananias and Saphira brought the fear of the Lord upon all who heard the story. The operations of the Holy Spirit in this judgment had a definite effect upon the people (both believers and non-believers). This judgment manifested the spirit of the fear of the Lord in Jerusalem. This spirit of the fear of the Lord was evident in the life of Jesus and now it was manifesting in the life of the church. It is clear by scripture that the church has access to all 7 eyes of the Lord that go forth into the earth, looking to show Himself strong on behalf of those who love and fear Him. It would seem that the church without this particular spirit of the fear of the Lord in their midst would be handicapped from certain aspects of the harvest they are called to reap within the culture where they are located. The Apostles, through the laying on of their hands, were actively working in the power of God in the midst of the people. Therefore, in my opinion the

Gift of Faith was not in operation in this example. Such power, such harvest!

5. DISCIPLES GREATLY MULTIPLIED IN JERUSALEM.

Acts 6:7(KJV)

⁷ “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

Note: The Bible does not list a specific example of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation in this harvest. What we do see is that when the Church made necessary adjustments to how it was operating structurally, that a corresponding flow of grace was released into the harvest. It may also be correct that Stephen’s miracles were a part of this harvest. This passage does not specifically reveal how long Stephen’s ministry lasted before his death. It would be correct in saying that “*how*” the church thinks and operates affects the flow of the Holy Ghost out into the harvest.

6. A GREAT COMPANY OF PRIESTS

Acts 6:7(KJV)

⁷ “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

Note: The adjustments made by the Jerusalem church, by appointing Holy Spirit filled deacons, not only affected multitudes of people, but it also had a direct effect on the priesthood. When the priests witnessed ordinary men working in the power of God, and not just the apostles, it convinced them of the power in the gospel of Christ. A new tier of miracle workers was a sign and wonder as well as a threat to the religious and pagan world of their day. They had tried to stop the apostles, and now, through increase, gospel power was flowing through the “non” apostles. Though the gifts of the Holy Spirit were constantly manifesting, I attribute this harvest to the adjustments made by church leadership.

7. SAMARIA BROKEN OPEN BY THE POWER OF GOD

Acts 8:5-7, 14 (KJV)

⁵ “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. ⁶ And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, -- hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:”

Note: The Lord was working with Philip confirming the Word preached with signs and wonders. The signs and wonders done by Philip were called “miracles” in a general sense. We know that the gifts of healings were in operation because of the various illnesses listed that were cured. The key gifts that operate in the ministry of the evangelist are gifts of healings and the working of miracles. Though healings and miracles do differ, they can both be labeled as miraculous in a general sense.

8. AN ETHIOPIAN

Acts 8:38(KJV)

³⁸ ***“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”***

Note: God saw the heart of a man that was hungering for righteousness and truth. When the poor and the needy seek for water and there is none, God has declared that He hears them and that He will open a river in the middle of a desert in order to satisfy them (Isa.41:15-20). These gifts of the Holy Spirit, manifested in Philip’s ministry, opened a river of the Holy Spirit that not only satisfied the Eunuch but watered Ethiopia as well. Without the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit directing Philip, this man, being from a foreign nation, would never have been saved. This passage of scripture deserves much time in study and prayer. Without the manifestations of the power of God, is the church truly fulfilling the great commission.

9. SAUL WHO BECAME PAUL

Acts 9:18(KJV)

¹⁸ ***“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”***

Note: There are multiple operations of the Holy Spirit at work in Paul’s conversion. It is important to note that the Lord Himself oversees ministry and ministers. Jesus was going after Paul, and the Holy Spirit, who administrates the gifts, was working seamlessly together with the Lord, for Paul’s salvation and calling. The power of God manifested in Paul’s salvation was soon to be manifested through Paul - shaking the world through the gospel that he preached.

10. MULTIPLIED

Acts 9:31(KJV)

³¹ ***“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”***

Note: This harvest was the result of Paul’s conversion. The operations of the Holy Spirit at work in Paul’s turning to the Lord were responsible for the

harvest listed here. It is also correct to note that salvation comes through the preaching of the Word. It is obvious that these disciples were preaching the Word of God in order for the harvest to be multiplied. People had witnessed how the church had been treated, and still, in the midst of such persecution, they had an undeniable rest about them. This tangible comfort caused the church to multiply.

11. ALL OF SARON AND LYDDA

Acts 9:35(KJV)

³⁵ *“And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.”*

Note: One operation of the Gifts of Healings caused two villages to turn to the Lord.

12. MANY IN JOPPA

Acts 9:42(KJV)

⁴² *“it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.”*

Note: The harvest in Joppa resulted from three operations of the Holy Spirit raising Dorcas back to life. The working of miracles drove the spirit of death out of her body. The gift of faith transported Dorcas from Heaven back into her body, which is the opposite of how the rapture of the church will occur. The gifts of healing healed her body of the original disease that killed her. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, and she obviously had some wonderful stories to tell about Heaven.

13. THE ROMAN CENTURION CORNELIUS, HIS FAMILY AND NEAR FRIENDS.

Acts 10:44-48(KJV)

⁴⁴ *“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

⁴⁶*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,*

⁴⁷*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”*

Note: In this harvest of Cornelius’ house we see nine operations of the Holy Spirit. Without these supernatural operations of God, Jewish Peter and Roman Cornelius would never have come together for this harvest. Not only was Cornelius and his household saved, but the door to the gentiles had been opened, and it stayed open.

14. A GREAT NUMBER.

Acts 11:21(YLT)

²¹ “the hand of the Lord was with them, a great number also, having believed, did turn unto the Lord.”

Note: The phrase, “the hand of the Lord” always refers to supernatural operations of the Holy Spirit. Because the hand of the Lord in this passage is associated with people coming to faith, I would credit both evangelistic power gifts of healings and miracles to be the ones breaking open the spiritual atmosphere, rendering the strongman bound, so that a harvest could come forth.

15. A GREAT MULTITUDE WAS ADDED.

Acts 11:24(KJV)

²⁴ “For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much (many) people was (were) added unto the Lord.”

Note: Being full of the Holy Spirit and faith is the key to fruitful evangelism. The secret to this fullness was the strength of a church given to prayer. The New Testament Acts church fervently prayed that the Lord would stretch out His hand to heal, performing signs and wonders. They believed that the future of Christianity depended on evangelistic prayer mixed with the preaching of the gospel.

16. GREW AND MULTIPLIED

Acts 12:24

²⁴ “But the word of God grew and multiplied.”

Note: Though there are no specific gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation in this account of harvest, it is undeniable that the miraculous judgment delivered by the angel was critical to the church having peace. It could be said that the Working of Miracles, through the angel, had a direct result on this harvest. Angels, like men, are also servants of the Lord. In the book of Daniel (chapter 4), we see the introduction of a class of angels called, “watchers”. These angels are seen administrating judgments and declaring the changes in times and seasons. The book of Revelation shows this type of angelic class bringing judgments from the throne of God against the wickedness of man and nations as well as bringing judgment against the demonic powers. With the judgment upon Herod, the church, once again, had peace. In conclusion, it was the strong corporate praying of the church that brings the authority of the throne of God into the affairs of society.

(To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth)

17. DEPUTY SERGIUS PAULAS

Act 13:12 (KJV)

¹² “Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

Note: Witchcraft is no match for the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas were confronted by Elymas who sought to turn the deputy away from the gospel. In this passage we are introduced to one aspect of the doctrine of the Lord – which is judgment. The sorcerer no doubt was full of demonic power, but Paul, on the other hand, was full of the Holy Ghost. What would have been the outcome if Paul had not been full of the Holy Ghost? What would have been the outcome if Paul had not allowed the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate? In the day we live in, ministry leaders and Christians do this all the time. Because of Paul’s life of communion with the Lord, the deputy, witnessing a spiritual battle before him, came to Christ. He saw God’s power in operation, and it changed him.

18. MANY JEWS AND RELIGIOUS PROSELYTES

Acts 13:43 (KJV)

⁴³ “Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.”

Note: It was Paul’s preaching that was convincing many to follow Christ. Signs and wonders have their place in bringing in the harvest of the nations, but there is still nothing more powerful than the preaching of the Word of God, which never returns void (Isaiah 55:11).

19. MANY

Act 13:48 (KJV)

“And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”

Note: When the gentiles heard Paul declare the Word of God concerning his calling to preach to them, they were filled with joy. This direct word from the Lord, not only directed the course of his life and ministry, but it was also used to bring great joy into the hearts of those originally thought to be outside the boundaries of salvation.

20. A GREAT MULTITUDE OF JEWS AND GREEKS

Act 14:1 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.”

Note: This harvest in Iconium came to the Lord through Paul's preaching. No signs and wonders were documented as being needed to convince the listeners. The voice of the Lord is mighty upon the waters (Psa. 29:3).

21. INCREASED IN NUMBER DAILY

Act 16:5 (KJV)

“And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

Summary: The spirit of faith (2 Corinthians 4:13) must be the dominating spirit on the local church. A church established in faith, which pleases God, has the potential to increase in number daily.

*“But without faith it is impossible to please God”
Hebrews 11:6*

22. LYDIA AND HER HOUSEHOLD

Act 16:15 (KJV)

“And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”

Note: Reference 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. Prophecy has the ability to bring a conviction upon those who are “unlearned” or “unbelieving”. Though the purpose of prophecy is to exhort, edify, and to comfort the church (1 Cor. 14:3), it also has another very powerful component in it that effects every listener, which is the voice of the Lord. It is the voice of the Lord that opens hearts and brings revealing judgment. As Lydia listened to Paul speak, there must have been prophetic utterances that ministered to her. Something powerful had happened that caused a lady to invite men she did not know to stay in her house. Also, it is important to note that earlier in the chapter Paul was endeavoring to preach in Asia. The Holy Spirit, through revelation, kept impeding him from that direction. Then, Paul has the vision of the man from Macedonia calling him to come - a completely new direction. It could be said that these operations of the Holy Spirit were needed to get Paul to Lydia and to her house. Lydia was a worshipper of God that needed to be born again through faith in Christ. The work of God in Lydia's heart was so powerful that her house became the temporary base of Christian operation in that region.

23. KEEPER OF THE JAIL AND HIS HOUSEHOLD

Acts 16:31-34 (KJV)

³¹ ***“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be***

saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”

Note: As Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises, the operation of God’s faith, full of power, released such energy into that jail house – shaking it to its core. Those two missionaries simply received God’s power delivering them. In this occurrence, though the shackles fell off and the doors opened, no one escaped. Most likely, their fellow prisoners sat paralyzed in their dark cells, too afraid to move. This operation of God’s faith-power was for a sign and wonder, both to the jailor and every prisoner. Through the word of knowledge, Paul cries out to the jailor, “don’t kill yourself”. This further astounded the jailor, who was kept from self-destruction. The operation of the gift of faith upon that prison positioned all therein to hear the preaching of the Gospel. The result of this gift of power was household salvation for the jailor.

24. SOME JEWS

Acts 17:4 (KJV)

⁴ “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

Note: Though there is no demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit in this harvest, we do see the power in preaching Christ as resurrected lord. It seems that Paul preached from the Prophets who, through the word of wisdom (speaking of future events), spoke of Christ’s suffering. With this, he most likely preached from the Psalms concerning Christ’s resurrection. The result of his preaching was, “some” of the Jews believed, but not all.

25. GREAT MULTITUDE OF GREEKS

Acts 17:4 (KJV)

⁴ “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

Note: The result of his preaching was a great multitude of Greeks believed, in contrast to “some” Jews.

26. CHIEF WOMEN

Acts 17:4 (KJV)

⁴ “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

Note: The result of his preaching affected every level of society. Here we see the “chief” women of Thessalonica come to Christ. In this one verse we

see how different groups within society are touched by the power of the gospel.

27. MANY JEWS IN BEREIA

Acts 17:12 (KJV)

¹² ***“Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”***

Note: Because of the persecution that arose in Thessalonica, the disciples sent Paul to Berea. The Bereans were noble and searched the scriptures to prove what Paul was preaching. Paul preached from the Old Testament prophets, line upon line, and proved Jesus was Christ. The result was “many” Jews believed.

28. HONORABLE GREEK WOMEN AND MEN, NOT A FEW!

Acts 17:12 (KJV)

¹² ***“Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”***

Note: Paul preached from the Old Testament prophets, line upon line, and proved Jesus was the Christ. Not only was there a harvest of his own countrymen, but honorable Greek women and men came to the Lord. The term “honorable” refers to those who were educated, wealthy and of a higher social status. The Gospel was reaching people in every culture and every level of societal order. Later in the Epistle of James, the Holy Spirit addresses the equality of every member of the body of Christ and rebukes favoritism based on social status and wealth. (James 2:1-6)

29. DIONYSIUS, DAMARUS, AND OTHERS

Acts 17:34 (KJV)

³⁴ ***“Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”***

Note: In Athens, Paul is given the opportunity to declare the resurrection of Jesus right into the heart of Greek humanism “the Areopagus”. It would seem that Paul had not originally planned to go to Athens, but due to the persecution in Berea, the disciples sent him away, yet again, in order to save him. In Athens, while waiting for Timothy and Silas, Paul’s spirit was stirred in him. It must have been very grieving for Paul to be living and walking in the light of Christ, while discerning such darkness that the world called “light”. Paul was moved in his spirit, by the greater one – the Holy Spirit, to preach to them. Though it may have seemed like preaching into a brick wall, the power of the Holy Spirit was still saving those appointed unto eternal life. Though not many came to Christ, a few did, and that is why Paul’s spirit was stirred. The Lord, the great shepherd, will leave the

ninety-nine to find the one. That one, in turning to Christ, causes the angels in heaven to rejoice.

30. CRISPUS, HIS HOUSE

Acts 18:8

⁸ “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Note: In Corinth, Paul reasoned with the Jews through scripture. The Jews blasphemed, causing Paul to shake his garments and declare, “from now on, I will go to the Gentiles”. Though the majority of the Jews there rejected, there were those who received the Lord such as Crispus and his household.

31. MANY CORINTHIANS

Acts 18:8 (KJV)

⁸ “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Note: Though the majority of the Jews rejected, many Corinthians accepted. This acceptance by the Gentiles provoked the Jews to greater envy and hatred of Paul. Reference Deut. 32:21 where the Lord declares that He will drive the Jewish nation to jealousy by a people that are not a nation. The religious Jews envied Jesus and they also envied the fullness of the blessing (the double blessing) of Abraham upon the Church.

32. TWELVE OF JOHNS DISCIPLES IN EPHESUS

Acts 19:5-7 (KJV)

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. ⁷ And all the men were about twelve.”

Note: Paul brings 12 disciples of John into a complete understanding of salvation. After baptizing the men, they then received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying. In this passage the gifts of the Holy Spirit occur after Paul baptizes the men in the Holy Spirit. It is important to note that both the saving power of God and the filling of the Holy Spirit were being demonstrated, starting in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and now to the ends of the earth.

33. MANY

Acts 19:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ “And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.”

Note: Paul had revelation concerning the healing power of God that saturated the garments of Jesus. Perhaps while spending time with Peter, James, and John in Jerusalem, they told these unique stories about Jesus. With faith, operating on the same principle, Paul prayed over cloths. The tangible anointing of Jesus' healing ministry was so strong upon Paul's body that the handkerchiefs absorbed the healing power of Jesus. Many, through this special operation, were healed and delivered from demonic influences. This demonstration of power so shook Ephesus that vagabond Jews decided to adopt similar methods of ministry. The sons of Sceva attempted to deal with demons in the name of Jesus whom Paul preached. This went terribly wrong for these "want to be" exorcists. When the demonic powers overcame the sons of Sceva, it again shook Ephesus. Through Paul's preaching, heaven had descended upon that pagan city, and it was being turned upside down. The Bible says that the fear of the Lord fell upon all those that heard of these events. The power of God mixed with the spirit of the fear of the Lord, caused many to turn from witchcraft and to clean out of their houses everything that was unclean. It was true revival. Miracles don't always release the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, but when they work together, society is changed.

34. SOME BELIEVED

Acts 28:24 (KJV)

²⁴ "And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not."

Note: The book of Acts closes with Paul in Rome speaking to the Jews who came to hear him. He used the law of Moses and the prophets to convince them that Jesus is the Christ. The result was "some" believed. Others, by an act of their will, choose not to believe.

35. GENTILES

Acts 28:28 (KJV)

²⁸ "Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it."

Note: This by far is my favorite recorded harvest in the book of Acts, because it includes you and me. Looking into the future, through a word of wisdom, the Holy Spirit reveals that the gentile nations will not turn a deaf ear to the gospel. With Paul, a captive in Rome, we have experienced roughly 30 years of church history. From the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem to Paul living in Rome, the final harvest is spoken by a word of wisdom, "the gentiles will hear!" After chapter 28 a road of church history began that has encircled the globe. From tyrannical kings and governments that have sought to destroy Christianity to stories of great revivals that turned nations to Christ, truly Christianity is built on a rock and the gates of hell have not prevailed.

¹⁸ *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (small stone), and upon this rock (massive rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*
Matthew 16:18