

Acts Acrostic

Acts _____ (fill in reference)



As you read the Scripture and study the lesson, note **A**ctions of the Holy Spirit (those things that are directly attributed to Him in the passage), **C**hurch Facts, **T**ransitional Details, and **S**upernatural Events.

A

C

T

S

(Make 13 copies for this study.)

Israel and Surrounding Areas in Acts



The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament

- (1) The Spirit of God came upon certain people in order to accomplish something He wanted them to do. Upon whom did the Spirit come in the following passages?

Judges 6:34 _____

Judges 14:6 _____

1 Samuel 10:6 _____

1 Samuel 16:13 _____

2 Chronicles 15:1 _____

2 Chronicles 24:20 _____

Ezekiel 11:5 _____

- (2) The Spirit of the Lord could also depart from a person. From whom did the Spirit depart in these two passages?

1 Samuel 16:14 _____

Judges 16:20 _____

- (3) Read Psalm 51:11. David prayed that the Spirit would _____ from him. This is not a prayer for believers today!

In the New Testament

- (4) Read these verses: Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; John 14:16. What happens the moment a person trusts Christ as Savior? The Holy Spirit _____ that person. This is *permanent* indwelling.

- (5) Read 2 Corinthians 1:21 and 22 and Ephesians 1:13. At the same time a believer is indwelt by the Spirit, she is also _____ by the Spirit. Sealing is the “proof” that we belong to Christ.

- (6) Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. At the same time a believer is indwelt and sealed, she is also _____ into the Body of Christ. We are never instructed to pray for the baptism of the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit attaches us to the Body of Christ and is not to be repeated.

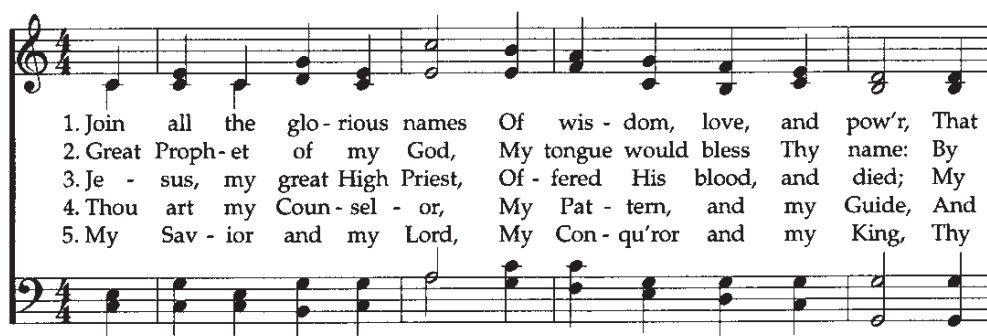
- (7) The Spirit also gives _____ (1 Corinthians 12:4–7), and He _____ submissive believers (Ephesians 5:18).

- (8) While a true believer never “loses” the Holy Spirit, it is possible to _____ the Spirit (1 Thesalonians 5:19) and to _____ the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).

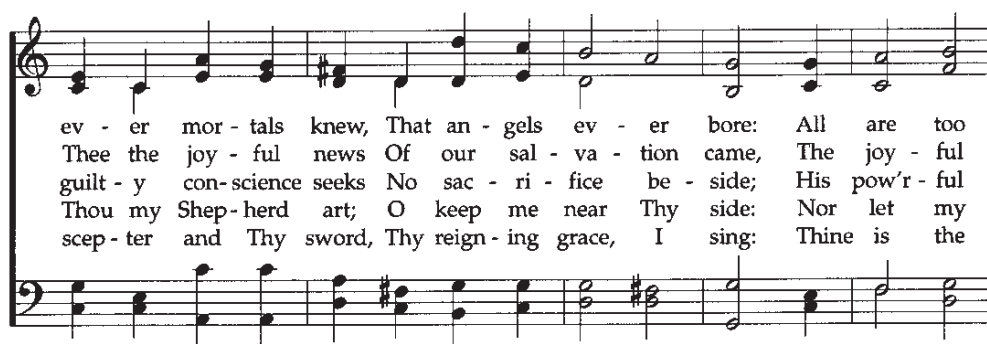
Resource 4

Join All the Glorious Names

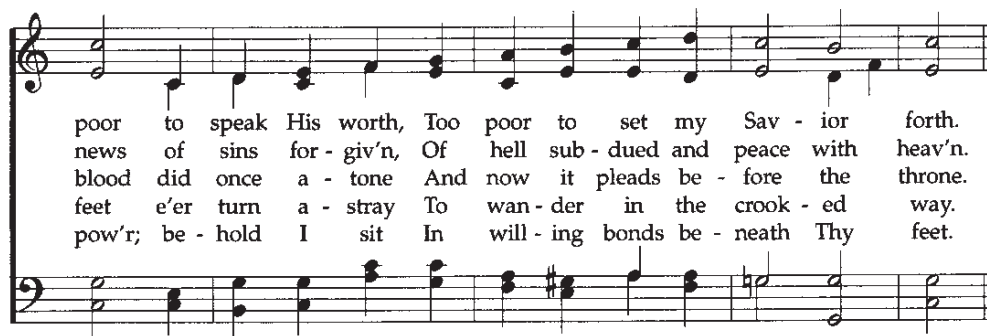
WORDS: Isaac Watts. MUSIC: John Darwall



1. Join all the glo-ri-ous names Of wis-dom, love, and pow'r, That
2. Great Proph-et of my God, My tongue would bless Thy name: By
3. Je - sus, my great High Priest, Of - fered His blood, and died; My
4. Thou art my Coun-sel - or, My Pat - tern, and my Guide, And
5. My Sav - ior and my Lord, My Con - qu'ror and my King, Thy



ev - er mor - tals knew, That an - gels ev - er bore: All are too
Thee the joy - ful news Of our sal - va - tion came, The joy - ful
guilt - y con - science seeks No sac - ri - fice be - side; His pow'r - ful
Thou my Shep - herd art; O keep me near Thy side: Nor let my
scep - ter and Thy sword, Thy reign - ing grace, I sing: Thine is the



poor to speak His worth, Too poor to set my Sav - ior forth.
news of sins for - giv'n, Of hell sub - dued and peace with heav'n.
blood did once a - tone And now it pleads be - fore the throne.
feet e'er turn a - stray To wan - der in the crook - ed way.
pow'r; be - hold I sit In will - ing bonds be - neath Thy feet.

Jewish Religious Groups in Acts

A. Pharisees

After the Captivity, priests and scribes were virtually identical in Israel. The Pharisees eventually came from the ranks of the scribes. The characteristic feature of Pharisees was their legal tendency. They were known as separatists.

The Pharisees believed in the afterlife, angels, and spirits.

The Pharisees were a religious group, not political, and their main goal was strict adherence to the law, including the oral traditions of the Law. They stressed outward conformity to the law.

- (1) Read Matthew 23:13–34. Describe Jesus' overall impression of the Pharisees.
- (2) To what did Jesus compare the Pharisees in verse 27?
- (3) What was the apostle Paul's religious background? See Philippians 3:5.

B. Sadducees

The Sadducees came from the ranks of the priests. The characteristic feature of Sadducees was their social position. They accepted the law (the books of Moses) as the final authority, placing it above the Prophets and Writings. The Sadducean high priests were the leaders of the Sanhedrin.

- (1) Read Mark 12:18 and Acts 23:8. In what did the Sadducees not believe?
- (2) The Pharisees and Sadducees are often mentioned together in the Gospels. Neither group was ready to accept Jesus as Messiah. Read Matthew 16:1. Rather than following Christ, what did these religious groups do?

C. The Sanhedrin

The word "Sanhedrin" means "council," or "assembly." The head of the Sanhedrin was the high priest. The council was formed of high priests (i.e., the acting high priest, those who had been high priests, and members of the privileged family from which the high priests were taken), elders and scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. The Sanhedrin had seventy members, plus the high priest. It appears that membership was for life. The Sanhedrin was the final court of appeals for all issues regarding the Mosaic law. It

acted as the supreme court of the land. It could impose punishment, but it could not execute offenders. The land of Israel was under the domination of Rome, but Roman authorities allowed the Sanhedrin to maintain authority for religious matters.

(1) The word “council” is frequently used of this group in Acts. Read, for instance, Acts 4:15; 5:21; 23:1.

(2) Who was the high priest and head of the Sanhedrin in Jesus’ time? (See Matthew 26:3 and 57.)

(3) Who was the high priest and head of the Sanhedrin in Paul’s time? (See Acts 23:2; 24:1.)

(4) At least one member of the Sanhedrin became a believer in the time of Christ. Who was he (John 3:1)? Luke 23:50–52 seems to indicate that Joseph of Arimathea was also a member of the Sanhedrin and a follower of Jesus.

Stephen's Sermon before the Sanhedrin

Acts 7:2–52

I. Jewish History (Acts 7:2–50)

A. Abraham (vv. 2–7)

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B. Isaac, Jacob, Jacob's twelve sons (v. 8)

C. Joseph (vv. 9–16)

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D. Moses (vv. 17–44)

1. First forty years (vv. 20–29)

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2. Second forty years (vv. 30–35)

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3. Third forty years (vv. 36–44)

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E. Joshua (v. 45)

F. David (vv. 45, 46)

G. Solomon and the temple (vv. 47–50)

II. Jewish Responsibility (Acts 7:51–54)

A. Verse 51—

B. Verse 52—

C. Verse 52—

D. Verse 54—

The Herodian Family

