

Analysis

Q: Is water baptism necessary for salvation? The Boston Church of Christ says 'yes' based on passages in Acts. Other groups argue that case as well. The Boston Church of Christ also goes by the name 'United Churches of Christ' and 'Restoration Movement.'

A: One issue here is with their reasoning process.

- If, in a narrative book, something occurs once, it is almost never grounds for us as readers of the text to conclude that it will happen that way every time.
- If, in a narrative book, something occurs every single time in the same way, it is firmer ground for us as readers to conclude that it would happen that way, because we are looking at a very consistent pattern.
- If, however, something occurs frequently but not with consistency, i.e. irregularly, then we are generally not on solid grounds to say that it is that way all the time, because the text shows us already that it doesn't happen that way all the time. That is the major difficulty with their approach. One cannot make a pattern by simply ignoring exceptions or variations of that experience already provided in the text of Scripture.

Regarding water baptism, it is true that in Luke-Acts that water baptism and Spirit baptism/salvation are often mentioned together. However, the pattern is not consistent, and it appears to me that Luke does so in order to *prevent* us from making a strict correlation between the two. In Luke-Acts primarily, water baptism is an outward symbol of Spirit-baptism. The two are distinguished by John the Baptist in Lk.3:16. Water baptism is practiced by John the Baptist in Luke 3. Jesus undergoes water baptism, and then is anointed by the Spirit. We can also assume that Jesus' disciples had been water baptized. Jesus, like John the Baptist, distinguishes between water baptism and Spirit baptism in Acts 1:5. The disciples are 'baptized by the Spirit' at Pentecost in Acts 2. Peter tells people to be baptized in water, receive forgiveness of sins, and receive the Spirit in Acts 2:38. They do so in Acts 2:41. Again, if that were the only text we had about the matter, we might feel more compelled to make a strict correlation. However, the pattern is reversed in the next incident. Philip preaches in Samaria, leads people to faith in Jesus, and baptizes them in Acts 8:12 – 16. However, because Jesus had wanted the apostles to demarcate the official expansion of the mission into Samaria and the ends of the earth, the Spirit did not come upon the Samaritans until the apostles got there and validated their faith, doctrine, and life. So again, water baptism and Spirit baptism are separate things. Water baptism represents Spirit baptism, but the two are not absolutely synonymous.

The incident with Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10:44 – 48 is decisive. While Peter was still speaking, the Spirit fell on Cornelius and his household because they believed in Jesus. Only afterwards does Peter talk about water baptism. Again, water baptism and Spirit baptism are linked, but not strictly. There, Spirit baptism (and hence, new life in Christ) preceded water baptism. So it can happen before and without water baptism. The criminal on the cross in Luke 23:43 also demonstrates that you can be saved without being baptized in water, since Jesus promised him 'paradise,' and the criminal certainly did not have the luxury of getting off his cross to get baptized with water.

So because we have incidents where people are clearly saved without being baptized in water, we can safely conclude that water baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is a public declaration of faith that we are commanded to do as part of our witness to others, but our salvation does not ride on it.

The process of reasoning through historical narrative material is important. They cannot simply choose to ignore the other passages in Luke-Acts. But if she insists that her methodology is consistent, and is a stable foundation on which to build vital points like this, then ask her about this: Can you expect God to bust you out of jail if you get thrown in jail for preaching the gospel. It happens to the apostles in Acts 5:18 – 20 and then to Peter in Acts 12, and then to Paul in Philippi in Acts 16:22 – 26. According to their methodology, we can conclude that God will *always* bust us out of jail if we land in one for preaching. Unfortunately, there are also incidences of John the Baptist, Jesus, and the disciples going to jail/being tried and not getting out. But, again, on the basis of her handling the texts, it seems like we can just ignore those and make our own point.

Or money. In Acts 2:44 – 45 and in Acts 4:31 – 37, the disciples do not have anything they called their own. They held things in common and sold property to care for the poor. How then does she justify having anything of her own, and especially the affluence that American Christians enjoy at the expense of Christians in poor parts of the world? For we have here in Acts 2 and 4 two incidents which we can make into a pattern. Never mind that some Christians still had private property in Acts 5 and 6. Can't we just ignore those passages and then place them in a double bind of having to now live up to that? For that is the way that she is treating the passages involving water

baptism that don't fit her pattern. They just ignore them to make their own point. They claim to see a pattern and then ignore what doesn't fit the pattern.

A parallel issue comes up with the gift of tongues. Tongues come up three times in Acts: Acts 2, 10, and 19. If those three instances were the only times that the Holy Spirit came on people, and they spoke with tongues, then we would be on more solid ground if we wanted to argue the case that the Holy Spirit comes and causes people to speak in tongues. However, those are not the only times that the Holy Spirit comes on people. Because the Holy Spirit comes on people in Luke-Acts and they don't speak in tongues – in Luke 3 – 4 with Jesus, in Acts 8 with the Samaritans, and in Acts 9 with Saul – we have very significant cases where that pattern is not maintained. In point of fact, whenever the Holy Spirit is mentioned as coming upon someone or 'filling' them, they speak, prophecy, proclaim, evangelize, teach, and/or speak in tongues. The point is more general: the Spirit inspires speech of all kinds, not just tongues. This is consistent with the Old Testament pattern starting with Genesis that when God's Spirit hovers, He speaks and brings forth life.

Those questions, hopefully, will give them something to chew on. I'd like to hear how they explain their positions with any consistency.

The Gospel of Luke

^{3:1} Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, ² in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. ³ And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a **baptism** of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every ravine will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; the crooked will become straight, and the rough roads smooth; ⁶ and all flesh will see the salvation of God.' ⁷ So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' ¹⁰ And the crowds were questioning him, saying, 'Then what shall we do?' ¹¹ And he would answer and say to them, 'The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.' ¹² And some tax collectors also came to be **baptized**, and they said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' ¹³ And he said to them, 'Collect no more than what you have been ordered to.' ¹⁴ Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, 'And what about us, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages.' ¹⁵ Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered and said to them all, 'As for me, I **baptize** you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of his sandals; he will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people. ¹⁹ But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done, ²⁰ Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison. ²¹ Now when all the people were **baptized**, Jesus was also **baptized**, and while he was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in you I am well-pleased.' ²³ When he began his ministry, Jesus himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph...

^{7:27} This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ²⁸ I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.' ²⁹ When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been **baptized** with the **baptism** of John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been **baptized** by John.

^{12:49} I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a **baptism** to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!

^{20:1} On one of the days while he was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted him, ² and they spoke, saying to him, 'Tell us by what authority you are doing these things, or who is the one who gave you this authority?' ³ Jesus answered and said to them, 'I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: ⁴ Was the **baptism** of John from heaven or from men?' ⁵ They reasoned among themselves, saying, 'If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' ⁶ But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.' ⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸ And Jesus said to them, 'Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things.'

The Acts of the Apostles

^{1:1} The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after he had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To these he also presented himself alive after his suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty

days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴ Gathering them together, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' he said, 'you heard of from me; ⁵ for John **baptized** with water, but you will be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking him, saying, 'Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.'

^{2:1} When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. ⁵ Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.' ¹² And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others were mocking and saying, 'They are full of sweet wine.' ¹⁴ But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: 'Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. ¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. ²¹ And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' ²² Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- ²³ this man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put him to death. ²⁴ But God raised him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says of him, 'I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will live in hope; ²⁷ because you will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.' ²⁹ Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ 'And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God has sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh suffer decay. ³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified.' ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' ³⁸ Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.' ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation!' ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were **baptized**; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

^{8:1} Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. ³ But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. ⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. ⁶ The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷ For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much rejoicing in that city. ⁹ Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰ and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, 'This man is what is called the Great Power of God.' ¹¹ And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being **baptized**, men and women alike. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed; and after being **baptized**, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, 'Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' ²⁰ But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.' ²⁴ But Simon answered and said, 'Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.' ²⁵ So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. ²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot.' ³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ And he said, 'Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: 'He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearers is silent, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In humiliation his judgment was taken away; who will relate his generation? For his life is removed from the earth.' ³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, 'Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being **baptized**?' ³⁷ [And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.')] ³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he **baptized** him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

^{9:1} Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' ⁵ And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, ⁶ but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.' ⁷ The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.’ ¹³ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to your saints at Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.’ ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.’ ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was **baptized**; ¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ ²¹ All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, ‘Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?’ ²² But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ. ²³ When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, ²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; ²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket. ²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that he had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. ³⁰ But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus. ³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase. ³² Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. ³⁴ Peter said to him, ‘Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.’ Immediately he got up. ³⁵ And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. ³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, ‘Do not delay in coming to us.’ ³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, ‘Tabitha, arise.’ And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

^{10:1} Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, ‘Cornelius!’ ⁴ And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said to him, ‘Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.’ ⁵ ‘Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; ⁶ he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.’ ⁷ When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, ⁸ and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. ⁹ On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; ¹¹ and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹² and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³ A voice came to him, ‘Get up, Peter, kill and eat!’ ¹⁴ But Peter said, ‘By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.’ ¹⁵ Again a voice came to him a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’ ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the

sky.¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate;¹⁸ and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.¹⁹ While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you.'²⁰ 'But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.'²¹ Peter went down to the men and said, 'Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?'²² They said, 'Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.'²³ So he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him.²⁶ But Peter raised him up, saying, 'Stand up; I too am just a man.'²⁷ As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled.²⁸ And he said to them, 'You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.'²⁹ 'That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me.'³⁰ Cornelius said, 'Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,³¹ and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.'³² 'Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.'³³ 'So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.'³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said: 'I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.'³⁶ 'The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all)--³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the **baptism** which John proclaimed.'³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'³⁹ We are witnesses of all the things he did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put him to death by hanging him on a cross.⁴⁰ God raised him up on the third day and granted that he become visible,⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he arose from the dead.⁴² And he ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.'⁴³ Of him all the prophets bear witness that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.'⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,⁴⁷ 'Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be **baptized** who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?'⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

^{11:1} Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.² And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him,³ saying, 'You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.'⁴ But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying,⁵ 'I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me,⁶ and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.'⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'⁹ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.'¹⁰ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.'¹¹ And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea.'¹² The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house.'¹³ And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;¹⁴ and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning.'¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he used to say, 'John **baptized** with water, but you will be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit.'¹⁷ Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?'¹⁸ When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, 'Well then, God has granted to

the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.’¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.²⁵ And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.²⁷ Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.²⁹ And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.³⁰ And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

Acts 13¹ Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.⁵ When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.⁹ But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him,¹⁰ and said, ‘You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?’¹¹ Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.’ And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.¹³ Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem.¹⁴ But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.¹⁵ After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, ‘Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it.’¹⁶ Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, ‘Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:’¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.¹⁸ For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.¹⁹ When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance--all of which took about four hundred and fifty years.²⁰ After these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.²² After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.’²³ From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,²⁴ after John had proclaimed before his coming a **baptism** of repentance to all the people of Israel.²⁵ And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’²⁶ Brethren, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him.²⁸ And though they found no ground for putting him to death, they asked Pilate that he be executed.²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written concerning him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb.³⁰ But God raised him from the dead;³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now his witnesses to the people.³² And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,³³ that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘You are My Son; today I have begotten you.’³⁴ As for the fact that He raised him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’³⁵

Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'You will not allow Your holy one to undergo decay.'³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;³⁷ but he whom God raised did not undergo decay.³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,³⁹ and through him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.⁴⁰ Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you:⁴¹ 'Behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish; for I am accomplishing a work in your days, a work which you will never believe, though someone should describe it to you.'

^{16:1} Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek,² and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.³ Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.⁴ Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe.⁵ So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.⁶ They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;⁷ and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.¹¹ So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis;¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.¹⁵ And when she and her household had been **baptized**, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.' And she prevailed upon us.¹⁶ It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.¹⁷ Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, 'These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.'¹⁸ She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!' And it came out at that very moment.¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,²⁰ and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, 'These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews,²¹ and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.'²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods.²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!'²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'³¹ They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was **baptized**, he and all his household.³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.³⁵ Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, 'Release those men.'³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, 'The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace.'³⁷ But Paul said to them, 'They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.'³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.⁴⁰ They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

^{18:1} After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, ³ and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. ⁴ And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵ But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.' ⁷ Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being **baptized**. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.' ¹¹ And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. ¹² But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³ saying, 'This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.' ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; ¹⁵ but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.' ¹⁶ And he drove them away from the judgment seat. ¹⁷ And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things. ¹⁸ Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. ¹⁹ They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, ²¹ but taking leave of them and saying, 'I will return to you again if God wills,' he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch. ²³ And having spent some time there, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the **baptism** of John; ²⁶ and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, ²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

^{19:1} It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. ² He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said to him, 'No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' ³ And he said, 'Into what then were you **baptized**?' And they said, 'Into John's baptism.' ⁴ Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' ⁵ 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 Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were in all about twelve men. ⁸ And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

^{22:1} 'Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you.' ² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet; and he said, ³ 'I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. ⁴ 'I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, ⁵ as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. ⁶ But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, ⁷ and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' ⁸ And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene,

whom you are persecuting.’⁹ And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.’¹¹ But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.¹² A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,¹³ came to me, and standing near said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very time I looked up at him.¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from his mouth.’¹⁵ For you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard.¹⁶ Now why do you delay? Get up and be **baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’¹⁷ It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance,¹⁸ and I saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in you.’²⁰ And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him.’²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’²² They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, ‘Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!’²³ And as they were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air,²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, stating that he should be examined by scourging so that he might find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way.²⁵ But when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, ‘Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?’²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and told him, saying, ‘What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman.’²⁷ The commander came and said to him, ‘Tell me, are you a Roman?’ And he said, ‘Yes.’²⁸ The commander answered, ‘I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money.’ And Paul said, ‘But I was actually born a citizen.’²⁹ Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.³⁰ But on the next day, wishing to know for certain why he had been accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Council to assemble, and brought Paul down and set him before them.