

<http://HouseofDavidFellowship.com>

Lee@HouseofDavidFellowship.com

Richmond, Virginia USA

I counsel thee to
buy of me gold
tried in the fire...
Revelation 3:18





Acts

A Fair Hearing

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<http://hodf.org>

What Does the Text Say

T.O.C.

- Primary Finds
- Points of Interest
- Part of our Foundational Teaching Series
- What does it take to give the text a fair hearing?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- During the lifetime of Yeshua, he and his disciples lived **the faith** that God gave to the Israelites through Moses.
- We know these instructions as the Torah **Perfect Instruction Manual**

Acts – Fair Hearing

- You've heard it said:



Acts – Fair Hearing

- You've heard it said: All prophecies are now spiritual and only for the church
- Acts 1:6 So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- The disciples still believed that the kingdom would be restored but that prophecy required repentance and obedience to the Torah

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:6 ->
- Leviticus 26:3 If you walk in My statutes, and guard My commandments, and do them, then...

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Leviticus 26:14 But if you will not listen to Me, and will not do **all** these commandments;
- 15 And if you shall despise My statutes, or if your soul loathe My judgments, so that you will not do **all** My commandments, *but* that you break My covenant...

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Leviticus 26:18,21,24,28
- Punishment for not obeying the terms of the covenant will be multiplied by a factor of **seven**.
- Am I understanding this correctly?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:6 So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- What do you think the disciples were thinking?

Tangent?

- English word “martyr”
- Old English “martir
- Greek “martur”

Tangent?

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- μαρτυρ

Acts – Fair Hearing

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Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my μαρτυρ ες (GNT) Friberg
- As a witness to ascertainable facts; who declares them directly, **even though it results in his being killed for it.**
- LXX 21 forms, 304 occurrences in 281 verses

Acts – Fair Hearing

- What are we **called** to do?
- Make the earth a better place?
- Improve human life?
- Training ground for ethics?
- Bring Peace to warring people?
- Establish a human-improvement league?
- Go out in a blaze of glory?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Witness to Yeshua - martyr
- Die daily since this world hates me (John 15:19)
- Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death.
- ...and you shall be witnesses...

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Am I out of bounds on this? Acts 4:1-29
- Preached Yeshua and the resurrection of the dead.
- Nabbed and put in prison overnight
- Trial
- Peter testifies (witnesses)
- Authorities restricted them from teaching in Yeshua's name

Acts – Fair Hearing

- What does 4:29 say?
- And now Lord, look upon their threats and squash them like a bug.
- And now Lord, we pray that you bind the adversary in the name of...
- Grant to your servants, that with all boldness, they may speak your word!

Acts – Fair Hearing

- What just happened?
- They ask to be given courage and confidence to go right on doing what He wants them to do

Acts – Fair Hearing

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Acts – Fair Hearing

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- They ask to be given courage and confidence to go right on doing what He wants them to do
in spite of assured reprisals
- What is this called? **Freedom of Speech**
- **To speak the truth of God regardless of the outcome**

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
- in Jerusalem

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
- in Jerusalem and in all Judea

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
- in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria,

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
- Where my closest neighbors live

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
- Where my closest neighbors live
- My community

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
- Where my closest neighbors live
- My community
- My enemies
- Judas – Poured into by Yeshua

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Evangelism Upside Down
- Not about me getting as many people as possible through the pearly gates...
- It's about the change that has to come to me so my heart also weeps over the state of things
- If there's anyone who needs to see God's power of a changed life in action: **Enemies**

Acts – Fair Hearing

- You've heard it said:



Acts – Fair Hearing

- You've heard it said: The Sabbath was done away with
- Acts 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, which is from Jerusalem a **Sabbath day's journey**.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, which is from Jerusalem a **Sabbath day's journey**.
- When Luke wrote the book of Acts for his **gentile** audience (63-70), he was still measuring distances according to the traditional Sabbath commandments

Acts – Fair Hearing

- You've heard it said:



Acts – Fair Hearing

- You've heard it said: The festivals, new moons, and Sabbaths **were** a shadow of things to come...
- Acts 2:1 When the day of **Pentecost** came, they were all together in one place.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Pentecost (Greek for 50), is the celebration of the Appointed Time known as Sha'vuot (Leviticus 23), having been established during creation week (Genesis 1:14).
- It is celebrated 50 days after the wave sheaf offering and is a commemoration of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Interestingly, Jeremiah 31 talks about the new covenant that God will make with the House of Israel in which He says that He will put His Torah (His instructions) in their minds and write it upon their hearts.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Ezekiel 36 builds on that by saying “I (God) will cleanse you, provide you a new heart and I will put a new spirit within you, **causing** you to walk in My statutes and My judgments.”
- The Torah is referred to as the Statutes and the Judgments.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- So here, the disciples are still keeping the Biblical feast of Pentecost (Sha'vuot) according to the **Biblical calendar**, and experiencing the start of the **literal fulfillment of the prophecies** of both Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Looking back at the death of Yeshua on the 14th day of the first month of the Biblical calendar, this was a partial fulfillment of the Feast of Passover
- (Yeshua says that there is still a future literal fulfillment to take place in the Kingdom of God. Luke 22:16)

Acts – Fair Hearing

- So, we are 10 days past the ascension of Yeshua and we have already seen at least a partial fulfillment of Passover and a starting fulfillment of the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
- These are great examples of what the appointed times bring to the table: A foreshadowing of things to come...

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 2:2 Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 And tongues as of fire, being distributed, appeared to them, and it sat on each of them.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Proverbs 25:22 For you will heap coals of **fire upon his head**, and Yahweh shall reward you.
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Be witnesses | Die Daily | Many are called
- Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Romans 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says Yahweh.”
- **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Romans 12:20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap **burning coals on his head.**”
- 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- The spirit was poured out on that day but why was it pictured as tongues of fire on each individual?
- Proverbs and Romans seem to picture fire on the head as a blessing
- Genesis 30:13 And Leah said, “Happy am I, for the daughters will call me **blessed**: and she called his name **Asher**. (KJV) בְּאִשְׁרֵי

Acts – Fair Hearing

- 17 times 15 verses Asher. אֲשֶׁרִי including Proverbs 31:28 “her children rise up and call her blessed...”
- In Paleo Hebrew, the image of a man’s **head** with a **strong devourer** - ?
- Fire on the head (a FOS for blessing?)
- Would the early disciples have come to that conclusion?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 2:5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem **God-fearing Jews** εὐλαβεῖς from every nation under heaven.
- Were these non-believers?
- Jews who were already Torah Observant
- Luke, why are you telling me this?
- The day when “men of Israel” had their eyes open to the rest of the story.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 2:5 Peter steps forward and gives a message about what has happened and what these God-fearing Jews need to do.
- They need to repent and be baptized and receive the spirit.
- Peter says “The promise is for you and your children, and to others that are not here.”

Acts – Fair Hearing

- They gladly receive his word and there were added about 3,000 souls.
- Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine...
- So far, what can we make of the Apostles doctrine?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Notice what Peter has not said...
- Comment: While I try to avoid **arguments from silence** like the plague, sometimes I will take note of opportunities where certain things could have been said or where certain actions could have taken place but didn't.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Notice what Peter has not said...
- In this case, Peter's message does not mention that Yeshua has done away with these feasts, or that they have already **all** been fulfilled. If this were the case, **what a great time** to let them know that they would not need to waste their time or resources any more on coming to Jerusalem for the Appointed Times.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple courts, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God,
- 47 And **having favour with all the people.** And the Lord added to their number daily such as should be saved.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Notice the phrase: **having favour with all the people – if not keeping the law...**



Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into **the temple courts** at the hour of prayer, *being the ninth hour (3:00 PM)*.
- The time of the evening sacrifice

Acts – Fair Hearing

- I find it interesting that the new believers did not remove themselves from the Temple area where the regular Temple worship took place and the animal sacrifices took place. – **Just taking note...**
- And it's not like Peter does not demonstrate a pattern of telling the Jewish authorities when they are doing wrong.

Acts 4:19

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Is this a valid Q... If the Torah had been done away with at this time, why would they choose to meet in an area where the Torah is obeyed (including the sacrificial system) and not say something to attempt to correct the situation?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 3:20 And He shall send Yeshua the Messiah, which before was preached unto you:
- 21 Who must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to begin to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets.
- What is this?

Acts – Fair Hearing

- This points to another prophecy that is looking for a literal fulfillment, that is, that all that can be fulfilled has not been fulfilled yet.
- Others include Yeshua's second coming, the establishment of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom, the Great White Throne Judgment, The New Heavens and the New Earth, etc.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- After the Ananias and Sapphira event in chapter 5, at v 11, great fear came upon the believers and those who heard what had happened.
- 5:12 In Solomon's porch in the Temple area, they continued to work signs and wonders.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 5:13 ...they were highly regarded by the people.
- Once again, they were meeting in the Temple area where the Jewish worshippers were present and animal sacrifices were taking place but no corrective word came forth from any believer to stop these things

Acts – Fair Hearing

- 5:18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.
- 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.
- 20 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people **the full message** of this new life.”

Acts – Fair Hearing

- If the Torah had been done away with, this certainly would be a part of “**the full message**” of this new life.
- And once again, nothing is mentioned in the text by Luke that this was done. Not even a hint.
- But it gets even clearer with Stephen in chapter 6

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 5:34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.
- 38 Therefore, in the present case, I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 5:39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.
- 40 And to him they agreed...

Acts – Fair Hearing

- Acts 5:39 By this time, the apostles were known in Jerusalem and it is difficult to believe that this argument used by Gamaliel (“**but if this be of God; fighting against God**”) would have been effective in the Sanhedrin if the apostles had been teaching that the law had been done away with.

Our Challenge

- What does it take to give the text a fair hearing?
- All have Skills & Perspectives + Community
- Do you **desire** to know what the text says?
- If you are looking for someone to study with, someone who has a **desire** to know what the text says, would you study with **YOU?**

