

1 **ACTS Ses 2: Chapter 1: PRELUDE to POWER (57)**

2 FACTS: ACTS of Apostles part of Gospel of Luke; tied together

3 Gospel of LUKE: Complete message of work of Jesus; ACTS: Continuation of His works and what
4 happened between ***the lightening of the resurrection and thunder of Pentecost!***

5 Addressed to Theophilu (means - *Lover of GOD*): (beginning of Gospel of Luke

6 *"In as much as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been*
7 *accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were*
8 *eyewitnesses and ministers of the WORD. It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely*
9 *for some time passed, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know*
10 *the truth concerning the things of which you have been **informed.**"* (Greek=catechesis- he is a
11 catechumen).

12 . **We are the new Theophilus.** We are the lovers of God. Now, in the beginning of ACTS, he continues
13 with this theme for the second book (ACTS 1:1-2) and he says,

14 *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach.*
15 *Until the day when he was taken up after he had given commandment through the*
16 *Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.*

17 So, the clue there in ACTS 1:1-2 is that Luke is going to give us now an orderly account of all that Jesus
18 began to do and teach which we see in the Gospel of Luke, but it's implied that **he's going to continue**
19 **to show us what Jesus is beginning to do and teach, but it's through the Church.** So, we're literally
20 going to see the work of Christ continue from the gospel into the Church, out into the world through frail
21 people like you and myself, and this is the incredible thing. I mean, Jesus is incredible. But for him to fill
22 his people, his Church, with His Holy Spirit, and to send a spirit to direct their activity and change the
23 modern world at that point, that was an absolutely incredible thing for the Lord to do. So, he's implying
24 that what Jesus began to do, and Luke is going to continue to do in the ACTS of the Apostles, is through
25 his disciples in the spirit; **DISCIPLES will be the DIRECTOR and the SPIRIT will be the SOURCE for**
26 **these works.** Luke goes on to say in verse 2,

27 *Until the day when he was taken up after he had given commandment, through the Holy Spirit*
28 *to the apostles whom he had chosen to them, he presented himself alive after his passion by*
29 *many proofs appearing to them during 40 days and speaking of the kingdom of God.*

30 So, let's pause there for just a second. It says that *he presented himself alive after Easter Sunday with*
31 *many proofs.* And all you have to do is just write down the proofs that are given in the scriptures of his
32 rising from the dead, he's alive, and you have examples:

33 **John 20**

- 34 1. Tomb was empty Easter morning.
35 2. He presented himself alive to the Apostles in Luke 24:13-31. He presented himself alive to the
36 apostles.
37 3. He invited eyewitnesses to actually touch His resurrected body. Afterwards they touched his
38 body. And that's **why the gospel tells us that we bear witness to those things we've seen and**
39 **those things we touch concerning the Word of God, the living Word of God.** You can read about
40 that touching and Luke 24
41 4. He showed himself alive to over 500 people. Paul tells us this in 1 Corinthians 15:6, he appeared
42 to over 500 people.
43 5. Paul, who was one of the most strident enemies of the Church, trying to put down the Church
44 was on his way to Damascus, and was overcome by the Holy Spirit and Jesus revealed himself

45 to Paul and Paul became one of the great converts and perhaps we could say the greatest
46 evangelists to the Gentiles that the world has ever seen.

47 So, there were many proofs of his appearing. And then it goes on and it says that in verse three,
48 *To them He presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs appearing to them*
49 *during 40 days in speaking of the kingdom of God.*

50 Now this is a really important point right here, because what I mentioned earlier, we have the lightning,
51 and then we have the clap of thunder, and that lightning, the resurrection from the dead, has a period of
52 time until we see the clap of thunder of Pentecost when God fills his believers with His Spirit, and
53 empowers them to go out into the world, and we have a period of 40 days until Jesus ascendance on
54 the ascension Thursday. This period of 40 days is very important in the Bible. They're very important in
55 Church history. They're very important in the liturgical calendar, and the 40 days are very important in
56 terms of our own personal lives in our walk with Christ. This period is called in the Church **mystagogy**.
57 Mystagogy is this final period of Jesus teaching these new people about his kingdom and preparing
58 them to go out into the world and have maximum impact in the world with his power. So, it's the final
59 period of Jesus teaching and preparation, between Easter Sunday and ascension Thursday - 40 days.
60 Now, what he teaches them is not the kingdom of God. The disciples want to know if this is the time
61 when the kingdom of God will be restored, the kingdom of heaven will be restored. A kingdom will be
62 restored to Israel. But that's a little bit different than what Jesus is talking about here and we'll look at
63 that, but I want to look at the number 40 for a moment because it's so important. **40 is a number of**
64 **testing**; 40 is a number of preparation.

65 Review with me real quick, where we've been in the last two years in our Bible study together as we
66 went through the whole Bible, and we went through

- 67 • Matthew and Genesis 7, the flood; it rained 40 days and 40 Nights.
- 68 • Moses in Exodus 30 on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights, a time of testing for those below,
69 but a time of preparation for the leadership of Israel to change the world.
- 70 • Deut 8, Israel is wandering in the desert for 40 years
- 71 • Numbers 14, they sent 12 spies, up in the land for 40 days; they sent leaders up in the land for
72 40 days time of preparation, the time of testing, they came back with a negative reporting and
73 said there's no way we can take the land, so they wandered in the wilderness one day for every
74 day they were spying and that's 40 years
- 75 • Book of Judges, chapter 13, Israel's oppression by the Philistines
- 76 • 1 Kings 19, Elijah's fasting 40 days 40 nights.
- 77 • Jonah 3, and Nineveh and opportunities to repent, to the Assyrians. And then number 40 is
78 brought up again.

79 And so, you have this 40 brought up many times in the Old Testament, and here we are in the beginning
80 of the ACTS of the Apostles and there's a 40- day period of preparation. Now I got to ask you a
81 question. Who else in the Bible experienced of 40 days period of preparation before his ministry so that
82 he would go out in the power of the Spirit? Who else was prepared with the number 40? Jesus.
83 Remember earlier in Matthew's gospel, Jesus is sent out into the wilderness for 40 days, and there he's
84 tempted by the devil. And he's successful, and he's tempted in three areas, and those are the exact
85 three areas that Israel was tempted when they were in their exodus in their 40-year journey. And Jesus
86 is successful. The point I want to draw your attention to is this, and this is a gem in terms of
87 understanding the book of the ACTS of the Apostles. Remember how I said in our introduction in the Old
88 Testament, **God is raising up his firstborn Israel, and he's trying to raise them up, so they'll walk in**

89 righteousness, walk as covenant children, but they fail over and over and over? The whole story is
90 Christo-centric, it means it's focusing on Jesus. And then we come to Jesus, we studied the Gospel of
91 Matthew, and we saw that the life of Jesus was literally a recapitulation of Israel's life, or it is a reliving of
92 Israel's life. We talked about all the comparisons of the new temple, the new Moses, the new law, the
93 new covenant, something better than Solomon, something better than Jonah. We talked about the 40
94 days that he was in the wilderness, corresponding to the 40 years Israel was in the wilderness, and we
95 can go on and on and on - the first Adam, the last Adam, and he was successful. And so, the pattern of
96 the New Testament Kingdom is the Old Testament prefigures Christ. Christ comes on the scene and
97 gives us the reality of it all, and then he passes it on to his Church and the Church lives the life of Christ
98 in the world. And that's what the book of ACTS is. It's the Church living the life of Christ in the world. So,
99 here's the key, It shouldn't surprise us to find out that in the New Testament **Christians are going to**
100 **live the life of Christ** in all of their encounters and their problems, their difficulties, their joys and
101 triumphs, they're going to live the life of Christ, they're going to do what Christ did. And he's going to be
102 with them, empowering the Holy Spirit. And then the news goes on to our day today, we are going to
103 experience what Christ experienced, we're going to do the works that the Church did back then, and
104 even greater works because Jesus went to the Father. This is exciting. And we see in our **liturgical**
105 **calendar** that our whole liturgy is meant to conform us to the life of Christ and so when we come to the
106 Lenten season, we have 40 days. We enter, just like Jesus did, just like the Church did, to prepare us for
107 something. And that's preparing us for ministry to go out into the world and minister. I mean it's, it's
108 exciting. There was nothing like the Church calendar when I was a kid growing up. I don't know how
109 many of you would agree with this but I didn't have a clue what was going on but was I the only one? I
110 didn't have a clue. I went to Mass every week, my parents dragged me to feast days, confession, all
111 kinds of candles here, bow down, kiss crosses there. I didn't know what was going on. I had no clue that
112 anybody was walking me through the life of Christ. No clue. And I certainly didn't have any clue that I
113 was expected to go out and live that life. Once I was conformed to it, I didn't have any clue. Well, that's
114 the beauty of what's happening here with these 40 days of preparation. And by the way, after Easter
115 Sunday, Resurrection, pay real close attention to the readings in the Mass, because the Mass readings
116 in the Church are put there for a particular reason. They are organized in such a way that Jesus'
117 teaching about the kingdom is there for those few weeks afterwards for the new beginner. And so, after
118 Easter, I'm always excited about the readings after Easter because I think. *All right, time to get that*
119 *concentrated teaching 40 days of mystagogy and I'm ready to go,* it just come alive. Am I the only one
120 excited about this? I think it's fascinating when I got a hold of the liturgical calendar and realized what
121 was going on. I thought, WOW! And I didn't know anything about it, and I don't know how many others
122 do.
123 Well, we move on from there, and we find out that it says in verse four, *While staying with them he*
124 *charged them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father* and when you read
125 Luke's Gospel earlier in chapter 24: 49, you will see what the promise of the father, was that they were
126 to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. So, they're waiting in Jerusalem, they're charged to wait there.
127 *Don't depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father* which he said, *you heard from me.*
128 *For John baptized with water but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.* And then
129 the apostles bring up something interesting. They've been following this whole thing for a while, and they
130 come from a different perspectives than we do in hearing, hearing what they're going to say here in
131 verse six. Let me read this verse and then we'll go back into the Old Testament verse six,

132 *When they had come together, they asked him, Lord, will You at this time restore the*
133 *kingdom to Israel? And He said, It is not for you to know of times or seasons which the*
134 *Father is fixed by His own authority.*

135 So, he's not giving him that answer directly, but they're asking the Lord, *will You at this time restore the*
136 *kingdom to Israel?* You have to understand where they're coming from. In Judaism, they're expecting a
137 militant Messiah to come in to put in order what Rome has messed up; to establish the kingdom and to
138 put them on the right track. **The truth of the matter is that Israel has never really had a restored kingdom.**
139 Since the Davidic Kingdom really kind of came apart in 587 BC, (you remember back in the year 930 BC
140 the kingdom split) remember that you had Saul, David, Solomon, then the kingdom split with Rehoboam,
141 Solomon's son in 930 BC, split into two nations then Israel to the north, Judah to the south. Israel to the
142 north collapsed in 722 when the Assyrian army came and took them all the way those 10 tribes to the
143 north, did not bring them back. They're scattered to the winds. Now Paul is going to go after them later
144 on in the book of ACTS but the South, they did not listen to the prophets, and they were taken away into
145 Babylonian captivity and 587. So, in **587 this Davidic dynasty really kind of came to a ruin.** You can trace
146 it sure as they were in captivity and came back and went through the whole period with Alexander the
147 Great and the Romans coming in, but it wasn't restored and still the disciples are wondering, *is it at this*
148 *time that the Kingdom will finally be restored.* They know that it has something to do with David. They
149 want to know; will it be restored from this, and we will it be restored from this oppressive yoke of the
150 Romans? Will we rebuild the fallen kingdom of David? And the truth of the matter is that Jesus does do
151 that but it's not like they think. They think this is going to be some physical thing where *the Romans are*
152 *in trouble now. You know, Jesus is going to come, and he's got a whip and he is going to clear house.*
153 And that's not what he does; **he restores the kingdom, the spiritual dimension of the kingdom which is**
154 **the important part, and the rest will follow.** So, Jesus will restore the kingdom but in a spiritual sense.
155 And in chapter two, we see Jesus in the throne in heaven, which is a Hebraic way of saying, **the**
156 **kingdom is restored, because the king is on the throne.** So, they're asking the question, *will the kingdom*
157 *be restored at this time?* Well, you can't have a kingdom restored if there's no king on the throne. The
158 writer, God, and Luke are very specific in ACTS 2:32-36,

159 *This Jesus, God raised up, and that we are all witnesses being therefore exalted at the right*
160 *hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured*
161 *out this which you see in here.*

162 So, he says, *Therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the*
163 *promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this which you see,* and here this is after Pentecost, so
164 we're going to learn next week that **the Holy Spirit being poured out at Pentecost is from an enthroned**
165 **King, so it has the kingdom been restored,** Jesus has come to restore that kingdom in a powerful way.
166 And then he says in verse eight (this is one of my favorite verses in the whole Bible), *You shall receive*
167 *power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all*
168 *Judea and Samaria to the end of the earth.*

169 I love that verse. First of all, that verse gives us a track for the rest of our study, *you shall be My*
170 *witnesses in Jerusalem in ACTS 1-8:5. ACTS 8: 4-12, Judea and Samaria, even further out and then*
171 *from 13 on, what do we have? The rest of the world. So, it gives us our tracks, you shall receive power*
172 *when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be My witnesses,* and it gives these three, that
173 word POWER - an interesting word, it is the Greek word, **DUNAMIS** and what does the word DUNAMIS
174 sound like in our language? **Dynamite.** That's where we get our word "dynamite", explosive changing
175 power. *You shall receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses.*
176 Now people ask all the time. *Well, when does this happen to us as Catholics, because we've heard of*

177 *others and other groups where they get baptized in water?* You're going to learn more about that later
178 here, and then they get baptized in the Holy Spirit and they speak in tongues. We can see that next
179 week. Well, what about us? What about us as Catholics? Next week we're going to go into that, and
180 we're going to find out when does that happen to us, and what is the purpose of it. What we know is that
181 you're going to be my witnesses, we're going to look at a little bit more in detail next week, but we'll give
182 a little bit this week, *DUNAMIS powers, be my witnesses and the Spirit is to come upon you, you shall*
183 *be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

184 A little bit about this word. I thought about this for years, and years and years. When the Scriptures tell
185 us here, through Christ, that when you receive the Holy Spirit promised by the Father in Luke 24:49, *You*
186 *shall receive power, and you will be my witnesses.* When he says *you will be my witnesses*, that word
187 literally is the word **MARTUS**, and it is the word that we use for **MARTYR**, you shall be My witnesses.

188 **What's going to change the whole world?** Not tape series. Not a good book. These are wonderful and
189 remember they may add to changing the world but what ultimately is going to change the world? It is
190 when people become witnesses. Witnesses of the gospel. It doesn't take degrees, it doesn't take special
191 knowledge, **it takes a relationship**, and to witness, and that word witness is the same word that we
192 come up with the word **murder**, and oftentimes we imagined martyrs in an extremely limited sense,
193 when I say murder, you know what you think of someone who dies. Yeah, somebody who gives their
194 life, they're a martyr for the faith. Early Christians were martyrs. They were burned at the stake and
195 that's true. But that's an extreme example of what it means to be a martyr, of what it means to be a
196 witness. **We don't have to physically die for our belief in Christ in order to be witnesses.** We have to be

197 willing to die, ready to die. But we don't have to die to be a martyr, or to be a witness. Although we
198 should always be prepared to give our complete life. We only see that term martyr in its **ultimate**
199 **significance**. And if we only see it in its ultimate significance and that is to give my physical life then
200 we're going to miss its **true significance** to daily living, to be a witness to Christ. In order for us to truly
201 be a witness to Christ at work, more importantly at home, with our neighbors and our family and parish,
202 those that don't like us. If we're going to be true witnesses with the power of the Holy Spirit that we're
203 going to learn about next week, then we must be martyrs, we must be witnesses, and how do we do

204 that? **We can die to ourselves on a daily basis, we give up our lives, willingly and we die to**
205 **ourselves, we die to the flesh. We can die to our control over our lives, we can die to our control**
206 **over our wishes. We can die to control over our schedules, our money, our relationship**

207 **relationships, we die. He lives.** And if I have to completely die in order for him to shine through me,
208 then that's what I'll be called to do but some were just as Steven was, a martyr. He died to himself and
209 proclaimed the light, Jesus Christ. Paul was a witness, and a martyr. He lived longer, but he was a
210 martyr. John was a martyr and a witness. All of them went through this. **We can die to sin and live for**
211 **righteousness.** A few scriptures that you can write down, that you can look up on your own that are very
212 helpful is Romans 8:12 which says,

213 *So, then brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you*
214 *live according to the flesh, you will die but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the*
215 *body, you will live.*

216 So, Paul's always talking about this constant mortification of the flesh, and a dying of ourselves. I must
217 decrease, He must increase; love one another, prefer your neighbor to yourself; a constant witness,
218 constant dying to yourself, that's the life that we're called to live and there's nothing that's more beautiful
219 than to see someone who is a witness. I think of Mother Teresa. I think of Pope John Paul II, these are
220 people that constantly are witnessing what were they doing, **constantly participating in their own**
221 **martyrdom, giving their life sacrificially.** But you know, burning themselves out for the gospel, it just

222 absolutely captivates me. A couple of other ones 1 Corinthians 15:31, 1 Peter 1:24, it's a wonderful
223 chapter, particularly those who are going through suffering. It says, **He himself bore our sins in his body**
224 **on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, the witness of the early Church and the**
225 **martyrs. The witness on the on the on the stakes that were being burned in the lion's den. The witness**
226 **from the Romans was how much they loved one another and how joyful they were even though they**
227 **were burning alive, they were filled with joy, and many of the Romans, which were the soldiers actually**
228 **converted to Christianity, because of the witness of those who are sacrificing their lives.** It's the most
229 amazing story you've ever read, the life of the murders, the life of the murders is absolutely tremendous.
230 And so back to ACTS 1:8 - 9, *He shall be My witness.* Verse nine,

231 *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went the whole two men stood by them in*
232 *white robes and said Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven. This Jesus*
233 *who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.*
234 Kind of interesting, they're talking about, lifted up and a cloud took him. All of this has a lot of meaning to
235 the Jewish reader, when you talk about clouds, certain things come to your mind immediately. And
236 Jesus was a master teacher. He used the rabbinic method of teaching in the first century called REMEZ
237 as Peters will be familiar with it, Luke is familiar with that, **Remez** as **a rabbinic method of teaching**,
238 means to hint, hinting to the ending, and all you got to do is throw in clouds and everyone knows we're
239 talking messianic language here, we just started talking about clouds, **Jesus riding on a cloud, returning**
240 **on a cloud.** This is messianic language very, very powerful, **a cloud represents the presence of God**
241 **in the Old Testament.** You might remember Exodus chapter 13 talking about the cloud, the pillar of
242 cloud by day and the fire by night. God was leading the children of Israel, you have the cloud,
243 representing the presence of God, and particularly in Isaiah represents the Holy Spirit. And so, when
244 Luke writes about, *This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as*
245 *you saw Him go into heaven,* this speaks of Jesus ascension into heaven, but it also brings back
246 memories to those who are listening one of the greatest prophets of all in the Old Testament, Daniel,
247 There is a great relationship between what's happening here in ACTS 1 and Daniel. If you think long
248 enough about it, you'll get the connections between Daniel, and what's happening here. For example,
249 they ask Jesus at this time if the kingdom will be restored. We know that the Kingdom needs restoring, is
250 this time? Well, in the prophets in the Old Testament, it is when they're in Babylonian captivity after 587
251 AD, remember *Baby Blue*, they're up there in Babylonian captivity. It's at that point that Daniel is taken,
252 and he has some very significant dialogue with Gabriel about the future. And in chapter two of Daniel,
253 (Emperor) Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that's bugging him, and Daniel tells him the dream and the
254 interpretation, and the dream was that he saw a figure with a gold head, silver breast shoulders, bronze
255 thighs, midsection of iron and clay legs and feet. And (Daniel) said, *Oh great one, (Nebuchadnezzar)*
256 *this dream speaks of four kingdoms in the future. The first is you oh great one (Nebuchadnezzar) And*
257 *that which is gold is the Babylonian Empire. The second after that is silver, rust, and that is Persia. And*
258 *then the third one after that the bronze is Greece, Alexander the Great. And the fourth one, the iron, a*
259 *clay, legs and feet is Rome.* But then he says in Daniel 2, *but there's coming a fifth kingdom and that*
260 *fifth Kingdom will overtake these four, and it will be like a small stone cut without human hands, and it*
261 *will roll into a giant mountain.* So, many are aware of this plus prophecy about the future of the four
262 kingdoms and the fourth Rome. And this is why I'm give you a little key right here for all the rest of the
263 assignments, **watch Paul and his attentiveness to Rome. He wants to get to Rome, because his witness**
264 **his martyrdom will bring on the fall of the Roman Empire, and he will do it the same way Christ did it, he**
265 **will offer his life.** Peter goes to Rome. They don't want to leave Rome everyone says you're going to die
266 guys. Exactly. We're going to be witnesses. And so, I'm going to restore the Kingdom at this time, they

267 have all of this in their thinking. But when they start talking about clouds and leaving in clouds, returning,
268 Daniel 7 comes to mind. And what is the term in Daniel 7 for the Messiah? **Son of man**, remember that
269 Daniel 7:13, **I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, there came one like a Son**
270 **of man.** How did he come? *I saw the night visions to behold with the clouds of heaven, there came one*
271 *like a Son of Man, which was the highest title, and the one that Jesus used the most on himself,*
272 **concerning the Messiah. That's the title, the Son of Man, he's coming on clouds, and he was seen as a**
273 **kingdom.** He is *given dominion, and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should*
274 *serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that*
275 *shall not be destroyed.* So, they're hearing all of this. Absolutely all of it.

276 We move on and it says in verse 12, *And they return to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is*
277 *near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey (about ¾ of a mile) and verse 14, they all were in one accord.*
278 This is before the day of Pentecost, they're in one accord, they're in prayer, but look at who is there. It
279 names them in verse 13, Peter being the first, and we're going to talk next session a lot about Peter
280 because Peter has preeminence. But it gives us the listing of the apostles.

281 **MARY, as QUEEN MOTHER**

282 And then it says in verse 14, *All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer together with the*
283 *women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.* I think it's so interesting. First of all, **Jesus**
284 **didn't have physical brothers, the words that are used in the language back then are your same words**
285 **are used for cousin, the tradition from the beginning is that she was a perpetual virgin didn't have other**
286 **sons and daughters in the physical sense, but in a spiritual sense, has millions of sons and daughters,**
287 but look at who's here, **Mary, the mother of Jesus is here and this is the last place we see her.**

288 What is she doing interceded and prayed?

289 My wife told me on the way home today, she said you know I bet she even was discussing the questions
290 they had. And that she was going back over the history of Jesus, maybe even explaining some things
291 too that we don't know but it's fun to surmise what she was doing but who is she? While she is Jesus'
292 mother, who is she to these people? **She is the Queen Mother.** You might remember in the Old
293 Testament in 1 Kings 2, we have other chapters to that in old kingdom of David. There was the queen
294 mother, a position called the **Gabirah**, the queen mother. It was a position with a throne to the right of
295 the king, and you can read about it in 1 Kings 2, they went to the Queen Mother to get access to the king,
296 and please intercede, you're an advocate for us, and she did, and there's examples all throughout kings
297 of Gabirah and bad give Gabirah, the good Queen Mother and the bad Queen Mother. Of course, we
298 have the Queen Mother and what is she doing in her last sighting in the New Testament? Interceding
299 and praying for what? The Church. Beautiful, beautiful picture of our dear mother. The first time we
300 meet Mary is in John's Gospel. She's acting as a Gabirah at the wedding of Canaan, in chapter two,
301 John's gospel, and what great bookends - interceding, looking out for others, their needs, your needs,
302 your cares, your desires, your worries. And then at the end, she is doing this also.

303 **PETER (Al ha-bayit) AUTHORITY**

304 And then Peter stands up in verse 15, *In those days, Peter stood up among the brethren* (this is very
305 interesting) Peter is standing up in front of everybody, and he's the spokesman. He's the one with the
306 keys to the Kingdom (Matthew 18), He's the one that when bounding something, it's bound when it's
307 loosed and it is loosed, he's the first vicar, he's the first pope, he's the first Papa. He is that position in
308 the Old Testament called **Al ha-bayit** means over the house. ~~We were like that let him bite. Let him, let~~
309 ~~him house of bread. Oh, by the one who is over the house.~~ It's Peter and Peter stand up on this historic
310 day as a spokesman for the 12 and listen to what Luke does here. This is fascinating, verse 15, *In those*
311 *days, Peter stood up among the brethren. The company of persons was in all on 120, (why do you put*

312 that in there? Luke puts that in there for a reason and needs to be read like this), *In those days, Peter*
313 *stood up among the brethren and there was 120, and said, Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled*
314 *which the Holy Spirit spoke. Why would they do that? Why would we look and say tell us? Oh, by the*
315 *way, there's 120. Isn't that an odd thing to do? I mean he really wants us to know the details. What is the*
316 *significance of 120 in that day? **The number 120 in Jesus' day was the number needed to start a***
317 ***new community.*** 120 men typically, but here we have, men and women 124, ***in the sense, a new***
318 ***Sanhedrin, a new body of leaders, a new community going forth.*** And there's no doubt in my mind,
319 why the Lord wants us to see this before the day of Pentecost when this explosion takes place, and this
320 movement begins in a powerful way. So, he says,

321 *In those days, Peter stood up among the brethren company of persons was an all about 120 and said*
322 *brother in the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David*
323 *concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus, for he was numbered among us, and it*
324 *was a lot of his share in this ministry.*

325 **NUMBER 12:** And then he goes on and he quotes in verse 20 the Old Testament passages Psalm 69
326 and Psalm 109, and it's really interesting because Psalm 69 and Psalm 109, Psalms of David, were
327 songs that were written when the Kings *someone in authority* was attacked and the consequences of
328 attacking the King, the one in charge, and what happens to you when you do that. Many Bible scholars
329 really believe that the psalm is dealing with what happened on the attack on David by Ahithophel, you
330 remember, David's son, Absalom, formed a coup. Take the kingdom from his father, and he got a
331 Ahithophel to lead it, and it failed. The plan failed and Ahithophel went out and hung himself. Where else
332 did that happen? The plan failed with Judas, and he went out and he hung himself. So, we have these
333 parallel Psalms 69 and 109, but if you want to look at the story of Ahithophel that's 2 Samuel 11, and 2
334 Samuel 12. where you have the attack on the king, failed plot, hang yourself, response was Psalm. New
335 Testament failed plot, hang yourself, Psalm comes back, 69 or 109.

336 **So there needs to be someone to restore that number 12. That number 12 is really important here for a**
337 **number of reasons. Why does Judas, his position, his office, need to be restored. And the answer is**
338 **because Jesus is restoring the kingdom of Israel, and He's restoring the New Jerusalem, the new Israel,**
339 **and there are 12 pillars or 12 tribes, and that's why at the beginning it's important that we have 12.**

340 And so, what they do is they bring up a couple of men. And these are men who you can read about it
341 here we don't have the time to go into all the detail, **they had to be witnesses. They had to observe the**
342 **life of Christ and the death, burial and resurrection, there's only one exception to this and that's Paul.**

343 **The Paul saw Christ, met with Christ.** He didn't have the same experience together as he's the
344 exception to this, Matthias was one of them. And so, what do they do, **they cast lots.** Some of you
345 when you read this, you might be thinking to yourself, I don't like that idea of casting lots because that
346 sounds a little bit like magic. How many of you kind of thought that a little bit on the casting lots? You
347 know, I'm not sure about that, but we'll take a look at that in a moment. The key catechism article will
348 understand this, the succession is article 860 which says, *In the office of the apostles there is one*
349 *aspect that cannot be transmitted; to be the chosen witnesses of the Lord's resurrection.* And so, **the**
350 **foundation stones of the Church, but their office also has a permanent aspect. Christ promised to remain**
351 **with them always. The divine mission and trusted by Jesus to them, will continue to the end of time.**

352 Since the gospel they handed on is the lasting source of all life for the Church. Therefore, the apostles
353 took care to appoint successors. So, **one aspect they cannot transmit and that is the witness to the**
354 **resurrection they cannot transmit that from generation to generation, but they can transmit a charism, a**
355 **gift from generation to generation to preserve what Jesus has taught the authority that, that he gave.**

356 **CASTING LOTS:** And what he entrusted to them, Article 860 That's an important, important one to read
357 but back to casting lots of verse 26, it says, *And they cast lots for them, and a lot fell on Matthias, and he*
358 *was enrolled with the 11.* Once again this is not a game of chance. It's not some kind of magic that was
359 considered but a very serious means of discerning the will of the Lord and the Old Testament there are
360 three that I can give you really quickly. One of them I want to draw attention to it, to take a minute or two
361 to do it, because I think it fits perfectly with what's happening here.

- 362 1. Leviticus 16 7 -10 talks about how Aaron determined the sin offering by the casting of lots. The
363 casting of lots can be almost like dice or wood with markings on them, and they would cast them
364 in some way.
- 365 2. Proverbs 16:33 talks about the casting of lots and how the Lord determined,
- 366 3. 1 Chronicles 24: 31 - says that that lots were used, get this, to assign duties of the Levitical
367 priests in the temple. Think about that for a moment. The duties of Levitical priests in the temple.
368 What is Jesus? What has he done? He has predicted the destruction of the temple. It hasn't
369 happened yet. It will happen in 70 AD. If the temple is going to be destroyed, where will the new
370 sacrifices be? Where will the new temple be? Jesus is the new temple. Then who are the
371 priests? The 12 disciples.

372 And so, for them to cast lots to determine the Levitical priesthood in the temple of the work completely
373 corresponds with picking the priests who are going to be working in the new temple, Jesus, in His
374 Kingdom. You see that. So, they cast lots, and the lot falls to Matthias. So, restoring the number 12 is
375 extremely important in that it speaks of restoring the tribes of Israel at the beginning of the Church.
376 While there is an apostolic succession there is not a strict adherence to 12 after they die. When Judas
377 dies, they have to restore it, because we're in the early infant stages of this kingdom. Going forward,
378 later in the book of ACTS, James dies, he's a martyr. When James dies in chapter 12, they don't replace
379 his office, but they give **apostolic succession to the laying on of hands for those who are given the**
380 **responsibility to care for the flock entrusted with the truth, protected, pass it on tradition, pass it on. But**
381 **they cannot pass on that one aspect of being an apostle and that is seeing the resurrection.** What
382 a great way to start off from the Church – there were 12 and there will be witnesses, they will die to
383 themselves, and they will offer their lives as witnesses as martyrs to the message of the king. That's how
384 the Church changed the world. If we do a Bible study or we go to Mass, we don't leave with the idea that
385 we're going to be martyrs, which is what the early Church was told, *you want to be a Christian, come*
386 *along with us.* There's one thing I need to tell you, you're most likely going to die. And I would say to you
387 in the year 2000 something now. You're going to die. You're going to die. Someone's going to kill you for
388 your faith, or you're going to give your life up for Christ in daily, giving your life, you're going to be a
389 martyr, you're going to be a witness, and the world will change. People like you and me, live out this
390 gospel and we will have the power of God in our lives, to do extraordinary things, which we're going to
391 talk about next week. Next session we'll talk about the day of Pentecost, we'll talk about miracles today
392 in our lives and what is Pentecost and what sacrament corresponds to any costs.
393