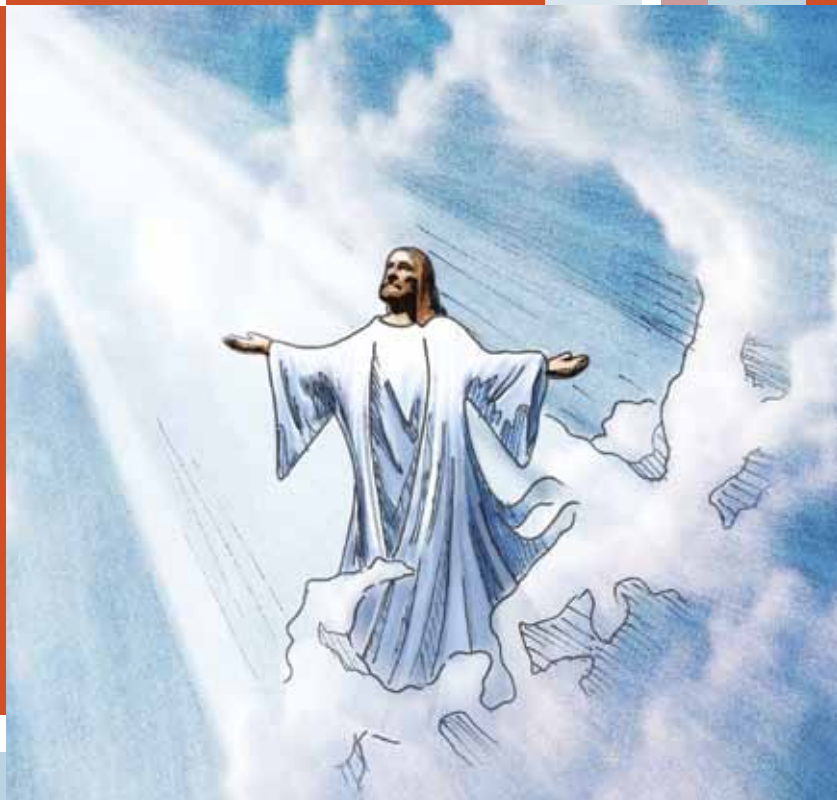


● Lesson 13

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

If you heard the same story from five eyewitnesses, would that be enough evidence to convince you that the story was true? How about 15 witnesses, or 50, or even 500? More than 500 people were eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection. That is convincing evidence that Jesus truly did rise from the dead!

The four Gospels are eyewitness accounts recording the "good news" of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Acts is the New Testament book that follows the Gospels. Beginning with Jesus' ascension, it tells the story of many eyewitnesses as they proclaimed the good news.



THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

1. How many people saw Jesus after His resurrection? I Corinthians 15:4-8 _____

2. After Jesus had risen from the dead, how long did He stay on earth? Acts 1:3 _____

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He commanded His followers to wait in Jerusalem for what the Father had promised—the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). Read Jesus' last words to His followers in Acts 1:8.

3. What happened when Jesus **ascended** to heaven? Acts 1:9-10 _____

4. What did the angels tell them? Acts 1:11
"This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into _____, will come in just the same _____ as you have watched Him go into heaven."

After Jesus was gone from their presence, the apostles returned to Jerusalem and remained there together in prayer with other followers of Jesus

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

What Jesus had promised in Acts 1:8 was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when His followers received the gift of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem.

5. Describe what happened in Acts 2:1-4 as the followers of Jesus waited and prayed together that day.

6. Why were the Jews amazed at what they heard being spoken? Acts 2:6-12 _____

Memory Verse

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."

John 16:7

7. List the regions from which these people came (vv.5, 9-11). Find some of them on the map.

These Jewish people had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost and would be returning to their own countries.

8. Read Acts 2:13-16. When the people heard their own languages and the sounds of many other languages, what did some of them think the group had been doing? v.13

Fast Fact: Pentecost



- In the Greek language, “Pentecost” means “fiftieth day.”
- Fifty days after Passover, the Jews traveled to Jerusalem to give thanks to God for the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-23). In the Old Testament, this festival was called the Feast of Weeks and came to be known as “Pentecost.”
- In the New Testament, God sent His Holy Spirit during the time the Jews were in Jerusalem celebrating Pentecost (Acts 2:1-5).
- Today Christians celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) 50 days after Easter.

9. When Peter heard this, he stood with the 11 other apostles and boldly declared to the people it was by the power of the _____ that they were able to speak in the different languages (v.17). This was a fulfillment of the prophecy in Joel 2:28.

Peter told them about Jesus, the Son of God whom they had crucified (Acts 2:23). When they heard Peter, they were “pierced to the heart” (v.37).

10. What do you think that means? _____

Peter preached the Gospel about Jesus the Messiah to the crowd so they could be forgiven of their sins (vv.38-39).

11. How many people believed his message and were baptized that day? v.41 _____

12. Do you know when and where you were baptized?

13. Why is baptism important? _____

PERSECUTION AND GROWTH

While gathering for worship in the temple had been and continued to be of great importance to the new believers in Acts 2, that practice would soon change.

These early Christians faced opposition and persecution from unbelievers in the cities where they lived. Sometimes they were tortured for their faith. Because of this, studying the Scriptures and having fellowship together was very important to the early Christians. This gathering

Four common meanings of the word “church” are

- a building: “We are going to the meeting at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.”
- a congregation: “Our church gathers for worship each Sunday at 10 A.M.”
- a denomination: “The Lutheran Church teaches salvation by grace through faith.”
- the universal body of believers: “All who trust in Christ as Savior are part of the Christian Church.”

May 33 A.D.

36 A.D.

38 A.D.

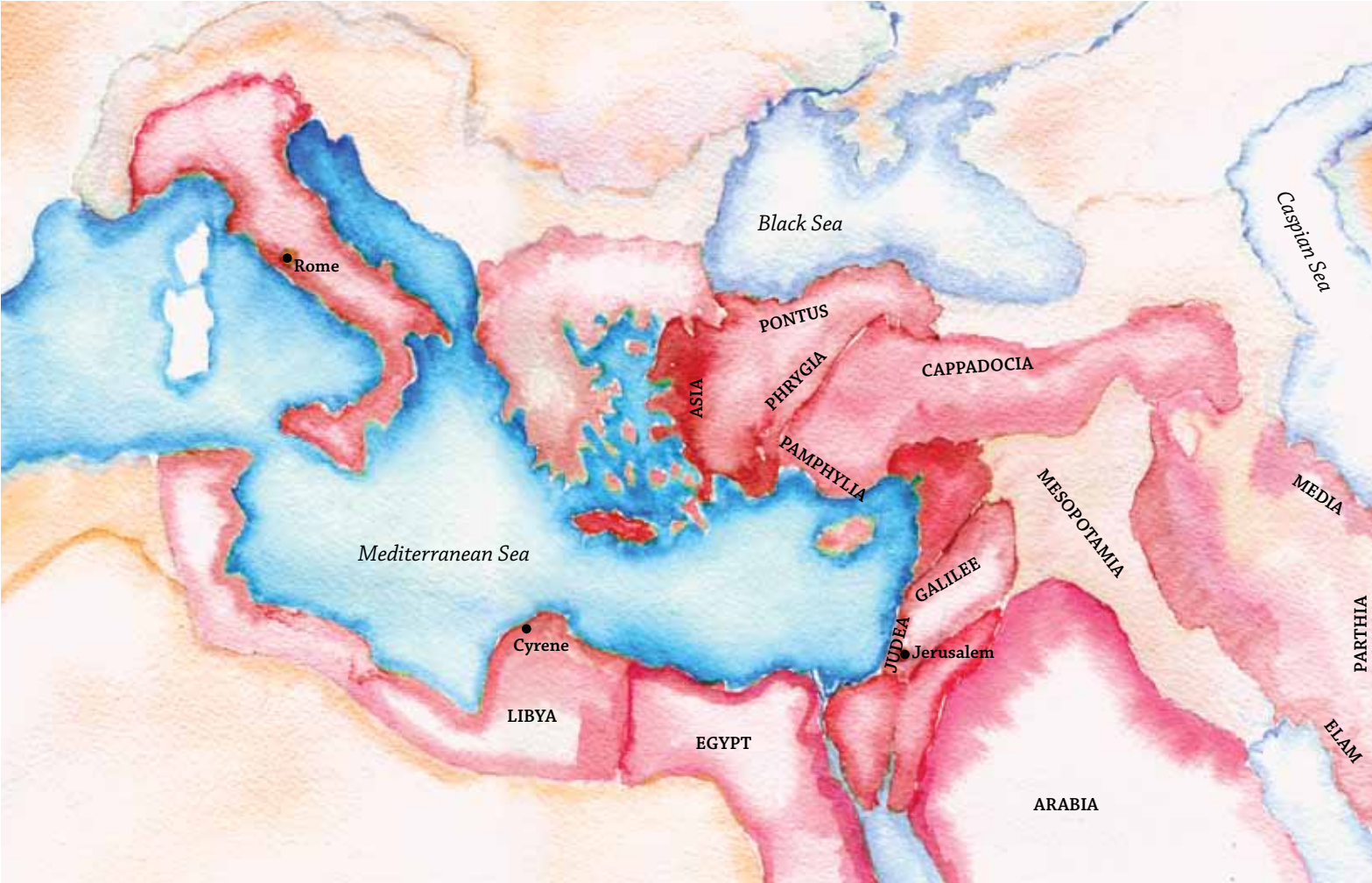
39 A.D.

.....Pentecost

Paul converted.....

Paul in Jerusalem.....

.....Conversion of Cornelius



together helped to strengthen their faith and encouraged them when facing **persecution**.

In spite of the persecution, believers continued to worship in the temple, and Peter and John continued to preach. But then the persecution of Christians increased. Peter and John were arrested in Acts 4, Stephen was stoned in Acts 7, and Saul began to persecute the Christians for their belief in Jesus in Acts 8. As a result, Christian congregations also began to worship in private homes and other places.

14. According to the following verses, where were some of the places they gathered?

Acts 12:12 _____

Acts 16:40 _____

I Corinthians 16:19 _____

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” (Acts 5:42).

The persecution of Christians that was meant to discourage and **disband** them had the opposite effect. As they banded together, their courage and faith were strengthened, and the Church continued to grow in number.

Catechism Corner

1. What is the holy Christian Church? (Q. 237)

The holy Christian Church is the congregation of saints or true believers, where the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered according to the ordinance of God.

2. Where is the holy Christian church found on earth? (Q. 243)

In the congregation, which in the Scriptures is called “the body of Jesus Christ” and “the house of God.”

3. Since the congregation is where we receive God’s Word and the sacraments, do you think it is important for Christians to regularly go to church (for worship, Sunday school, etc.)? Explain your answer. _____

