

Lessons from Acts 1 – 14

Chapter 1

1. Wait for Promised Power (Acts 1:4-5)

Before starting their mission, Jesus commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the "promise of the Father"—the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- **SDA Insight:** Seventh-day Adventists emphasize that human effort alone cannot spread the gospel. Just as the early church waited for the Holy Spirit's empowerment to do kingdom work, modern believers must seek this same baptism before attempting to witness.

2. The Mission and the Empowering (Acts 1:8)

Jesus declared they would receive power to be His witnesses in "Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth".

- **SDA Insight:** This provides a clear, progressive model for the church's ministry. Witnesses are called to start where they are (home, local community) before expanding globally to fulfill the gospel commission.

3. The Certainty of the Second Coming (Acts 1:11)

After Jesus was taken up in a cloud, angels asked the disciples why they were looking into heaven, and assured them: *"this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"*.

- **SDA Insight:** This is a foundational pillar of the Adventist faith. The physical, visible, and glorious return of Jesus is the ultimate hope of the church, giving believers urgency in spreading the gospel today.

4. Patiently Leaving Times to God (Acts 1:7)

When the apostles asked if Jesus was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time, Jesus told them it was "not for you to know the times or the seasons".

- **SDA Insight:** The lesson here is submission to God's timetable. Adventists understand this as a warning against speculating on prophetic dates and "times" regarding the end of the world, focusing instead on the practical work of preparing for His return.

5. Prayer and Unity (Acts 1:14)

While waiting for the Spirit, the believers "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication".

- **SDA Insight:** Ellen G. White, a foundational figure in SDA theology, highlights that the Holy Spirit is only poured out when there is unity and harmony among believers (e.g., *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8). Prayer and putting away differences are prerequisites for receiving spiritual power.

6. Divine Guidance vs. Human Wisdom (Acts 1:23-26)

When the disciples needed to replace Judas Iscariot, they narrowed the selection down to two men, prayed for God's leading, and cast lots.

- **SDA Insight:** The disciples utilized their best judgment to select qualified candidates but ultimately placed the decision in God's hands. This demonstrates the balance of wise planning and faithful reliance on divine direction.

Chapter 2

1. The Power of Unity and Preparation (Acts 2:1)

- **The Principle:** The disciples were "with one accord in one place." In Adventist theology, the Holy Spirit is only poured out on a unified church that has laid aside personal ambition and doctrinal bickering.
- **The Lesson:** Before we can witness effectively, the church must focus on repentance, prayer, and deep study of the Word.

2. True Meaning of "Tongues" (Acts 2:4-11)

- **The Principle:** The disciples spoke in *heterais glossais*—intelligible, unlearned human languages. Devout Jews from all over the world heard them declaring the "wonderful works of God" in their native dialects.
- **The Lesson:** The gift of tongues was entirely missional. It was given to break down language barriers so the Gospel could reach the world. It was not an ecstatic, unintelligible language, but a practical tool for evangelism.

3. The "Latter Rain" Prophecy (Acts 2:16-21)

- **The Principle:** Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32, claiming the Pentecost outpouring is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
- **The Lesson:** Adventists draw a strong parallel here. Just as the "Early Rain" empowered the early church at Pentecost, God promises a "Latter Rain" of the Holy Spirit to empower the church to finish the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages before the Second Coming.

4. Christ-Centered Preaching (Acts 2:22-36)

- **The Principle:** Peter's sermon skips over politics and tradition, centering entirely on the life, death, resurrection, and present ministry of Jesus Christ.
- **The Lesson:** The primary message of the church must always be Christ and Him crucified. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts, using the Word to pierce the hearts of the hearers.

5. Repentance and Baptism (Acts 2:38-41)

- **The Principle:** When the crowd asked what they should do, Peter replied, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ."
- **The Lesson:** Salvation requires an active, individual response: recognizing personal guilt, turning away from sin, and publicly dedicating one's life to Christ through baptism.

6. The Marks of the True Church (Acts 2:42-47)

- **The Principle:** The new believers "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
- **The Lesson:** A Spirit-filled church is characterized by unity, generosity, daily worship, and a willingness to share resources so that no one goes in need.

Chapter 3

1. Christ-Centered Ministry Over Material Wealth

- **"Silver and gold have I none"** (Acts 3:6 KJV): Peter recognized that the gospel's greatest power does not lie in material wealth or human status. The SDA focus highlights that true church mission empowers believers to offer spiritual healing and restoration rather than financial aid, sharing the transformative power of Jesus Christ.

2. The Power is in the Name of Jesus

- **"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth"** (Acts 3:6 KJV): The disciples made it explicitly clear that the healing was not due to their own power or personal holiness. This underscores the fundamental Adventist belief that all miracles, spiritual awakenings, and victories over sin happen strictly through the grace and authority of the risen Savior.

3. The Call to Repentance and Conversion

- **"Repent ye therefore, and be converted"** (Acts 3:19 KJV): Peter connects the physical healing of the lame man directly to the spiritual healing available to the crowd. Adventists view this as a continuous, daily surrender to God. The call to be "converted" is the ongoing experience of having Christ's character formed in the believer, resulting in the "blotting out" of sins.

4. Continuity of Prophecy and Mission

- **"Times of restitution of all things"** (Acts 3:21 KJV): Adventists place heavy theological emphasis on the "restitution" mentioned here, linking it to the Second Coming of Jesus and the restoration of a perfect earth. The chapter shows the apostles confirming Old Testament prophecies, demonstrating that the gospel message is the ultimate fulfillment of God's enduring covenant.

5. Transition in the Early Church

- **Temple Attendance:** Although the church was newly established, Peter and John still went to the Temple during the traditional hours of prayer. Scholars, including those from the Seventh-day Adventist perspective, interpret this as evidence of the early disciples continuing their Jewish religious customs, using familiar gathering spaces to preach Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of the sacrificial system.

Chapter 4

1. Christ as the "Chief Cornerstone"

When Peter quotes **Psalm 118:22** to the Sanhedrin in **Acts 4:11**, he identifies Jesus as the foundation of the church. In SDA teachings, this underscores that true doctrine and

salvation are built on Christ alone, not on human traditions, institutional power, or legalistic rule-keeping.

2. The Nature of True Witnessing

In **Acts 4:13**, the leaders marvel at Peter and John's boldness, noting they had "been with Jesus."

- SDA commentators (such as E.G. White in *The Acts of the Apostles*) emphasize that effective witnessing does not come from formal theological training or human eloquence.
- It comes from a daily, transformative walk with God and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

3. Prayer Over Politics

When faced with threats, the church did not seek political protection or lobby the government; they prayed for **boldness** to keep preaching (**Acts 4:29**). SDA lessons highlight that the church's primary defense against opposition is a deeply united prayer life and reliance on spiritual, rather than worldly, power.

4. Radical Stewardship and Community

The description of believers having "all things common" in **Acts 4:32-34** is a model of Christian stewardship.

- SDA interpretation views this not as early, forced "communism," but as a spontaneous, Spirit-led manifestation of love and care for the poor.
- It serves as a precursor to the systemic financial stewardship and tithes/offering practices in the church today, ensuring that no one in the faith community is left in need.

5. The Threat of Counterfeits

While Acts 4 presents a beautiful picture of unity, chapter 5 immediately details the sin of Ananias and Sapphira, who faked such generosity. SDA teachings use this juxtaposition to warn against the danger of hypocrisy, emphasizing that while the church is called to be a unified, giving body, individual integrity and truthfulness to the Holy Spirit are vital.

Chapter 5

1. The Danger of Hypocrisy and Deceit

The story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11) is deeply sobering.

- **The Sin:** They were not obligated to sell their property or give all the money to the church. Their sin was lying to the Holy Spirit and seeking public praise for a false display of total sacrifice.
- **SDA Perspective:** The church teaches that God requires sincerity and integrity. Deception in the church damages the body of Christ more than outside persecution.

2. The Reality of the Great Controversy

- **Spiritual Warfare:** The text notes that Satan "filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost" (Acts 5:3).
- **SDA Perspective:** This highlights the reality of the Great Controversy. Believers are constantly influenced by evil, but they must choose whether to harbor it or reject it. Ananias and Sapphira chose to cooperate with Satan's prompting, bringing sudden divine judgment.

3. Obedience to God over Human Authority

When the religious leaders (the Sanhedrin) arrested the apostles and commanded them to stop preaching in the name of Jesus, Peter famously declared, *"We ought to obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29).

- **SDA Perspective:** This foundational principle of religious liberty guides Adventists today. When human laws or institutional mandates directly contradict God's moral law or mission, a believer's highest allegiance belongs to God.

4. Divine Providence and Protection

After the apostles were jailed, an angel of the Lord miraculously freed them and told them to return to the temple and preach (Acts 5:17–20).

- **SDA Perspective:** God's church and mission cannot be thwarted by human opposition. The Sadducees' jealousy and imprisonment could not stop the advancement of the Gospel. The counsel of Gamaliel to "let them alone" further underscores that the work of God will prevail.

5. Joy in Suffering for Christ

Even after being beaten and strictly commanded to stop sharing the Gospel, the apostles departed the council, *"rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name"* (Acts 5:41).

- **SDA Perspective:** True discipleship involves standing firm in the faith regardless of the social or physical cost. The early church provides a model of daily, unyielding evangelism both in public and "from house to house" (Acts 5:42).

Chapter 6

1. The Danger of Internal Murmuring (Verses 1)

As the church grew rapidly, friction emerged between "the Grecians" (Greek-speaking Jewish Christians) and "the Hebrews" (native Jewish Christians) because Grecian widows were being neglected in the daily aid.

- **SDA Insight:** Baptism into Christ does not automatically eliminate cultural or ethnic biases. The church must actively foster unity and intentionally ensure equity for all members. Murmuring (secret complaining) threatens church unity, making open and fair administration a spiritual necessity.

2. Delegation and Church Order (Verses 2-4)

The apostles recognized that they could not manage both the spiritual duties of preaching and the practical administration of feeding the community.

- **SDA Insight:** The church must avoid allowing temporal matters to distract spiritual leaders from their primary calling (prayer and the ministry of the Word). This passage establishes the biblical foundation for the office of the deacon, separating practical/administrative roles from pastoral/teaching roles to allow the church to function properly.

3. Qualifications for Leadership (Verses 3)

The congregation was instructed to select seven men to oversee this daily ministrations. The standards for this practical role were high: they had to be men of "honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom".

- **SDA Insight:** Even the seemingly "secular" or administrative tasks of the church—such as charity, finance, and physical maintenance—require leaders with deep spiritual maturity and heavenly wisdom.

4. The Commissioning of Leaders (Verses 5-7)

The church agreed with the plan and selected the seven men, including Stephen. The apostles then commissioned them for their task by praying and laying their hands on them.

- **SDA Insight:** Laying on of hands serves as a public recognition and divine blessing of an individual's appointment to church leadership. When proper order is established and each member works harmoniously, the result is church growth.

5. Stephen as an Example of Faithful Witness (Verses 8-15)

Despite his primary role being the serving of tables, Stephen was a man "full of faith and power" who performed "great wonders and miracles". When faced with opposition, his accusers were "not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake".

- **SDA Insight:** Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not exempt a believer from hardship or false accusations. Stephen serves as a powerful example of how a faithful witness handles opposition through grace and scriptural wisdom, eventually leading to his defense and martyrdom in Acts 7.

Chapter 7

1. **True Sanctuary and Worship:** Stephen argues that God dwells not in "temples made with hands" (Acts 7:48, KJV). For SDAs, this underscores the end of the earthly, ceremonial temple system and points to the true, heavenly sanctuary where Christ ministers as our High Priest.

2. **Resisting the Holy Spirit:** In Acts 7:51 (KJV), Stephen calls the council "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart" who "do always resist the Holy Ghost". This serves as a solemn warning in SDA theology about the danger of rejecting truth, hardening one's heart, and grieving the Spirit.

3. **Constancy of Faith in Persecution:** As Stephen was stoned, he prayed, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60, KJV). SDAs learn from Stephen the ultimate example of Christ-like forgiveness, grace, and enduring faith under intense opposition.

4. **The Providence of God:** By chronicling the stories of Joseph and Moses (Acts 7:9-36), Stephen demonstrates that God is with His people even in exile and slavery, continually preparing them for deliverance.

5. **The Unseen Realm:** Acts 7:55-56 (KJV) highlights Stephen gazing into heaven, seeing the glory of God and Jesus "standing on the right hand of God". This vision illustrates the divine comfort and strength available to believers during their darkest hours.

Chapter 8

1. The Blessing of Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)

- **Dispersion as Sowing:** The KJV notes that believers were "scattered abroad". In the original Greek, this carries the imagery of "sowing seeds." God used the wrath of Saul to fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 1:8), propelling the church into Judea and Samaria.
- **The Lesson:** God often uses trials and hardships to move us out of our comfort zones, allowing His message of truth to reach new territories.

2. Safeguarding True Faith: The Case of Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24)

- **Spurious Conversions:** Simon Magus believed and was baptized, but his later desire to "buy" the power of the Holy Spirit revealed an unregenerate heart.
- **The Lesson:** In SDA theology, true conversion is a matter of the heart, not just an outward act like baptism. The desire to purchase spiritual gifts—often termed "simony"—warns against commercializing the Gospel or trying to attain spiritual authority through money or manipulation.

3. The Role of Personal Evangelism (Acts 8:26-40)

- **Divine Appointments:** An angel directed Philip to a specific, deserted road where he encountered the Ethiopian treasurer reading the book of Isaiah. Philip demonstrated a willing spirit to guide this individual.
- **The Lesson:** God orchestrates individual encounters. Believers must be attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading to teach sound doctrine and share Christ with truth-seekers, regardless of their background.

4. The Biblical View of Baptism and Truth (Acts 8:35-38)

- **Total Immersion:** The KJV records that both Philip and the Ethiopian "went down both into the water" and came "up out of the water".
- **The Lesson:** For SDAs, this serves as strong scriptural evidence that baptism is properly administered by full immersion, symbolizing the death of the old self and a resurrection into newness of life in Christ.

5. Divine Order and Church Leadership

- **Peter and John's Ministry:** Philip preached and baptized in Samaria. However, when the apostles in Jerusalem heard about the conversions, they sent Peter and John to pray for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit.
- **The Lesson:** This highlights the importance of church order, unity, and accountability. It demonstrates that independent ministries are meant to work in harmony with the broader leadership of the church.

Chapter 9

1. God Takes the Initiative in Conversion

Saul (later Paul) was aggressively persecuting the early church, yet Jesus personally intervened on the road to Damascus.

- **The Lesson:** Salvation is entirely an act of God's grace. Jesus meets people exactly where they are—even when they are actively resisting Him—and humbles them to recognize their true spiritual condition.

2. The Power of Total Surrender

Blinded by the brilliant heavenly light, Saul asked two transformative questions: "*Who art thou, Lord?*" and "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" (Acts 9:5-6 KJV).

- **The Lesson:** True conversion involves acknowledging Jesus as Lord and immediately submitting to His will. Saul's intellectual pride and self-righteous zeal had to be broken before he could become a vessel for the Gospel.

3. The Role of the Local Church and Disciples

When Saul arrived in Damascus, God did not instruct him directly on his next steps; instead, He sent an ordinary disciple named Ananias to lay hands on him (Acts 9:10-18).

- **The Lesson:** God values the human element in ministry. Ananias demonstrated incredible faith by obeying God's command to welcome a known persecutor, highlighting the importance of mutual support and brotherhood within the church. Furthermore, Barnabas later bridged the gap by vouching for Saul when the other disciples were afraid to trust him (Acts 9:27).

4. Miracles Confirm the Gospel

The second half of the chapter recounts Peter healing Aeneas of paralysis (Acts 9:32-35) and resurrecting Dorcas (Tabitha) from the dead (Acts 9:36-43).

- **The Lesson:** As highlighted in [SDA Bible commentaries](#), these miracles reflect the character of Jesus as the Great Healer. They demonstrate that God equips His church with the Holy Spirit to bring physical and spiritual restoration to local communities.

5. Growth Through Peace and Trials

Following Saul's dramatic turnaround, the churches experienced a season of peace and multiplication across Judea, Galilee, and Samaria (Acts 9:31).

- **The Lesson:** The Holy Spirit brings comfort and spiritual stability to congregations. However, serving Christ also involves suffering; Saul himself had to flee for his life in a basket to escape angry plotters (Acts 9:25).

Chapter 10

1. The Gospel is for All Nations

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, was devout but lacked the saving knowledge of Jesus. God orchestrated a divine appointment, sending an angel to guide Cornelius to Peter.

- **The Lesson:** God is always working behind the scenes to reach receptive hearts, regardless of their cultural or religious background. Salvation is based on faith in Christ, not on heritage.

2. Overcoming Prejudice and Traditions

Strict Jewish customs forbade mingling with Gentiles, considering them unclean. Peter had to overcome centuries of ingrained cultural bias.

- **The Lesson:** Christians must actively root out prejudice and favoritism. True discipleship requires opening the church and our hearts to *all* of humanity, viewing every person as a valued child of God.

3. The True Meaning of Peter's Vision (Acts 10:9-16)

In a trance, Peter saw a great sheet descending filled with unclean animals, and was told to "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat".

- **SDA Explanation:** Seventh-day Adventists understand this vision not as a literal cancellation of biblical health laws (Leviticus 11), but as an object lesson. The vision was symbolic. As Peter later stated in Acts 10:28, God showed him that he should "not call any man common or unclean." The animals represented the Gentiles.

4. The Priority of the Holy Spirit

Before Peter finished preaching, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles.

- **The Lesson:** The outpouring of the Spirit proved that God accepts people before they are even baptized. It emphasizes that the ultimate goal of evangelism is a transformed heart and a real connection with God, rather than mere institutional compliance.

Chapter 11

1. Breaking Down Prejudices and Traditions

In the King James Version (KJV), the "circumcision party" criticizes Peter for eating with uncircumcised men.

- **The Lesson:** God often challenges our cultural or traditional boundaries. Peter's vision of the great sheet (Acts 11:5-9) was not a command to alter the biblical dietary laws of Leviticus, but rather a profound lesson that God shows no partiality. The church must be willing to let go of man-made barriers to share salvation.

2. The Sovereignty of Salvation

When Peter recounts how the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles, the Jerusalem believers conclude: "*Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life*" (Acts 11:18, KJV).

- **The SDA Perspective:** Salvation is entirely God's work, not a human achievement. God takes the initiative to draw all people to Himself. The role of the believer is not to hinder God, but to recognize His leading and cooperate with His mission.

3. The Power of Encouragement

When the Gospel reaches Antioch, the Jerusalem church sends Barnabas. Known as the "Son of Encouragement," he rejoices when he sees the grace of God and urges the new believers to "*cleave unto the Lord*" (Acts 11:23, KJV).

- **The Lesson:** Nurturing and discipling new believers is vital for church growth. Barnabas models true Christian leadership by recognizing the Holy Spirit's work and seeking out Paul (Saul) to help build up the church.

4. Practical Ministry and Relief

Prophet Agabus predicts a great famine. The believers in Antioch respond practically by determining to send relief to their brethren in Judea, "*every man according to his ability*" (Acts 11:29, KJV).

- **The Lesson:** True faith requires practical action. The early church cared for the physical and financial needs of others, and this mutual support demonstrates the unity and selflessness of the body of Christ.

5. Accountability and Church Unity

Peter patiently explains his actions to the apostles and brethren, demonstrating the importance of accountability in the church. Instead of causing a permanent schism, the church submits to God's word, glorifying Him for the Gentiles' conversion.

- **The Lesson:** Healthy churches value open communication, submission to the Holy Spirit, and maintaining unity even when navigating new and complex cultural shifts in ministry.

Chapter 12

1. The Reality of Persecution and God's Sovereignty

Herod Agrippa I persecuted the early church, executing James with the sword and later imprisoning Peter to gain political favor with the Jewish leaders.

- **The SDA Lesson:** Ellen G. White, in [*The Acts of the Apostles*](#), notes that while James was martyred, Peter was delivered because God had more work for him to do. This teaches that God's ways are higher than ours; sometimes He permits His faithful servants to face death for His name, while at other times, He works a miraculous deliverance.

2. The Power of Earnest, United Prayer

While Peter was chained between guards, the church engaged in "prayer without ceasing" (Acts 12:5).

- **The SDA Lesson:** The Seventh-day Adventist interpretation emphasizes that the church's desperate, united prayers moved heaven to action. Angels were dispatched to [protect the imprisoned apostle](#), demonstrating that corporate prayer is a formidable spiritual weapon. God honors the persistent, earnest appeals of His people.

3. God's Deliverance Over Human Obstacles

Peter was guarded by 16 soldiers and locked behind massive iron gates, yet God sent an angel to free him effortlessly.

- **The SDA Lesson:** Even when God's people find themselves in seemingly inescapable situations or bondage (whether physical, spiritual, or emotional), God possesses the power to intervene. When Peter realized he was actually free, he recognized it was the Lord who [delivered him](#).

4. The Danger of Self-Exaltation and Pride

When Herod accepted the idolatrous praise of the people who called him a god, he failed to give the glory to God.

- **The SDA Lesson:** Herod's sudden death—[eaten by worms](#)—serves as a solemn warning against human pride and the danger of usurping God's glory. It highlights that earthly rulers and persecutors will ultimately face divine justice.

5. The Unstoppable Progress of the Gospel

Despite Herod's tyranny and efforts to destroy the church, verse 24 states: *"But the word of God grew and multiplied"*.

- **The SDA Lesson:** The ultimate message of Acts 12 is that human opposition cannot hinder the spread of God's truth. The kingdom of God will continue to advance, triumphing over both external persecution and the frailty of human faith

Chapter 13

1. The Call and Sending by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-3)

- **The Mission belongs to the Spirit:** The early church at Antioch was praying and fasting when the Holy Spirit said, *"Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them"* (KJV). The SDA church emphasizes that true mission work is initiated, directed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, not by human strategy.
- **The Role of the Church:** The Holy Spirit's direction was confirmed by the local church. The congregation laid hands on Paul and Barnabas, formally commissioning and supporting them as representatives.

2. Confronting Spiritual Darkness (Acts 13:4-12)

- **Light overcoming darkness:** In Cyprus, the missionaries encountered Elymas (Bar-Jesus), a Jewish sorcerer who tried to prevent the proconsul Sergius Paulus from hearing the gospel.
- **Lesson on boldness:** Paul, led by the Holy Spirit, exposed the sorcerer's deception. This miracle demonstrated that God's power is greater than any worldly or occult opposition, resulting in the proconsul believing the word.

3. Christ as the Fulfillment of Prophecy (Acts 13:13-41)

- **An appeal to Scripture:** In the synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia, Paul gave an extensive sermon. He traced Israel's history—from the Exodus to King David—pointing out that all of it was a preparation for the promised Savior, Jesus.
- **SDA Emphasis on Justification:** SDA theology highlights Paul's core message in verses 38-39: forgiveness of sins and justification are found **only in Jesus Christ**, not through adherence to the law of Moses. The blood of Christ provides what the old covenant could not.

4. Rejection and Turning to the Gentiles (Acts 13:42-52)

- **The Gospel for everyone:** When the Jewish leaders rejected the gospel out of jealousy, Paul and Barnabas boldly declared that they would turn to the Gentiles.
- **The "shake the dust" lesson:** When rejected, they shook the dust off their feet as a testimony against them, fulfilling Jesus' instructions (Matthew 10:14). Adventists draw on this to show that faithful believers must continue spreading the gospel even when they face bitter opposition. The result was that the Gentiles rejoiced and the Word spread throughout the whole region.

Chapter 14

1. The True Creator vs. False Worship

When the people of Lystra attempted to worship Paul and Barnabas as Zeus (Jupiter) and Hermes (Mercurius), the apostles tore their clothes in distress.

- **SDA Application:** Ministers and believers must always deflect glory to God. Paul used this moment to preach **Creation theology** (Acts 14:15), emphasizing God's sovereignty over the earth, sky, and sea. This grounds the Adventist message in the worship of God as Creator.

2. The Cost of Discipleship

Paul was stoned and dragged out of Lystra by a mob, yet he miraculously survived and continued preaching. Afterward, he and Barnabas encouraged disciples that *"we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God"* (Acts 14:22 KJV).

- **SDA Application:** The remnant church can expect persecution and trials, not worldly popularity. Ellen G. White's commentary in [The Acts of the Apostles](#) notes that Christianity promises no exemption from sorrow, but urges believers to have an unshaken, trusting faith through all hardships.

3. The Pattern of Nurture and Church Organization

Rather than simply moving on to new territories, Paul and Barnabas doubled back to revisit the cities where they had faced fierce opposition. They confirmed the souls of the disciples and “*ordained them elders in every church*” (Acts 14:23 KJV).

- **SDA Application:** This demonstrates the necessity of proper church organization, discipleship, and pastoral care. The SDA Church prioritizes the shepherding of new believers through the appointment of trained elders and structured Sabbath School ministries.

4. Prayer, Fasting, and Dependence on the Holy Spirit

Before appointing elders, Paul and Barnabas "prayed with fasting" (Acts 14:23 KJV).

- **SDA Application:** Major leadership and administrative decisions in the church should never be made relying merely on human intellect. Seeking God's will through prayer and fasting demonstrates a total reliance on the **Holy Spirit** for the success of the gospel.