

# CHURCH

The Bible is a bunch of smaller stories that point to one, big, true story: The story of God and His rescue plan through Jesus.



CREATION PATRIARCHS EXODUS CONQUEST JUDGES KINGDOM EXILE RETURN SILENCE GOSPEL CHURCH MISSIONS FUTURE

## Let's summarize the CHURCH era:

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He promised to send His followers a gift: the Holy Spirit. The Spirit came as promised and gave Jesus' followers, also known as the church, what they needed to do the work God had for them. Not everyone liked the church and their message. Persecution drove many of Jesus' followers out of Jerusalem and into Judea and Samaria.

## Where is it found?

Acts 1-12

## Names to know:

Peter  
John  
Stephen  
Saul

## What are the major stories?

**(Acts 2)** The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers in Jerusalem on Pentecost. He helped Peter share the good news of Jesus that day with a diverse crowd of Jews. Over 3,000 people believed. The church started to meet together for fellowship, teaching, and worshipping God.

**(Acts 7)** Stephen, one of Jesus' followers, was arrested by the religious leaders. He showed them how the Old Testament pointed to Jesus, but they stoned him to death. This began the persecution of the church.

**(Acts 9)** A Pharisee named Saul hated Christians, but Jesus met him on the road to Damascus and changed his heart. Saul, also known as Paul, went from persecuting to proclaiming Jesus wherever he went.

**(Acts 10)** God gave Peter a dream so Peter would know that His rescue plan was for both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). God sent Peter to the home of a Roman officer so his whole family could hear and believe.

## How does the CHURCH era point to Jesus?

The church, all people who have been saved by faith in Jesus, began in Jerusalem and started to spread into Judea and Samaria. Jesus had promised His disciples that they would have trouble in this world. The world would hate the church just as it had hated Him. But Jesus also promised He would not leave them alone. He would send them a Helper who would always be with them. The church did face hardship and persecution, but the Holy Spirit also came as promised. God Himself was living inside of every believer offering joy, peace, and everything they needed to do the work He had for them. Even today, the same Spirit lives inside all people who accept God's free gift of salvation.