

FAITH OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

'Empowered to Witness' – **Book of Acts**



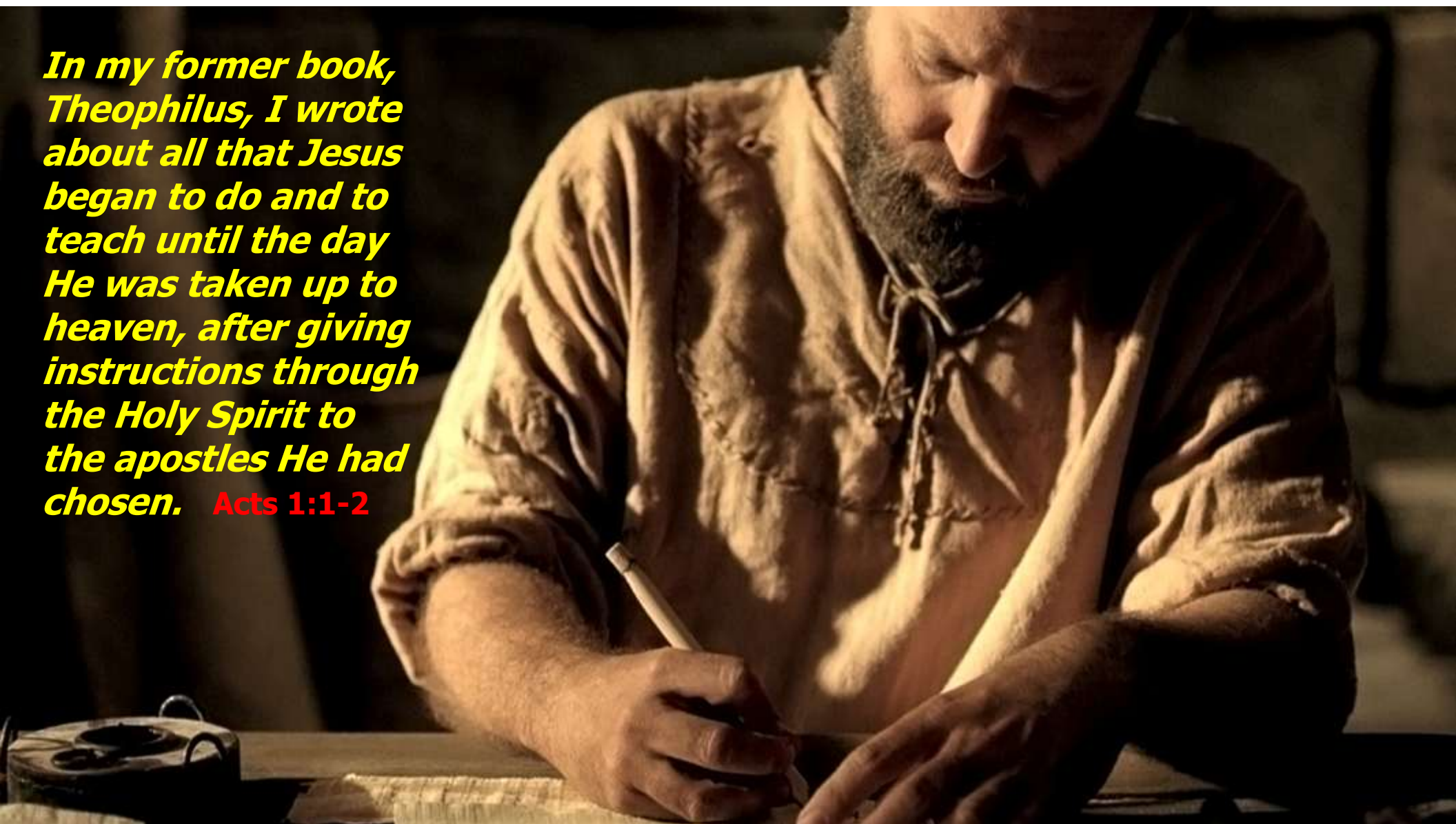


Would you suffer and die for a hoax?

Acts of the Apostles



***In my former book,
Theophilus, I wrote
about all that Jesus
began to do and to
teach until the day
He was taken up to
heaven, after giving
instructions through
the Holy Spirit to
the apostles He had
chosen. Acts 1:1-2***

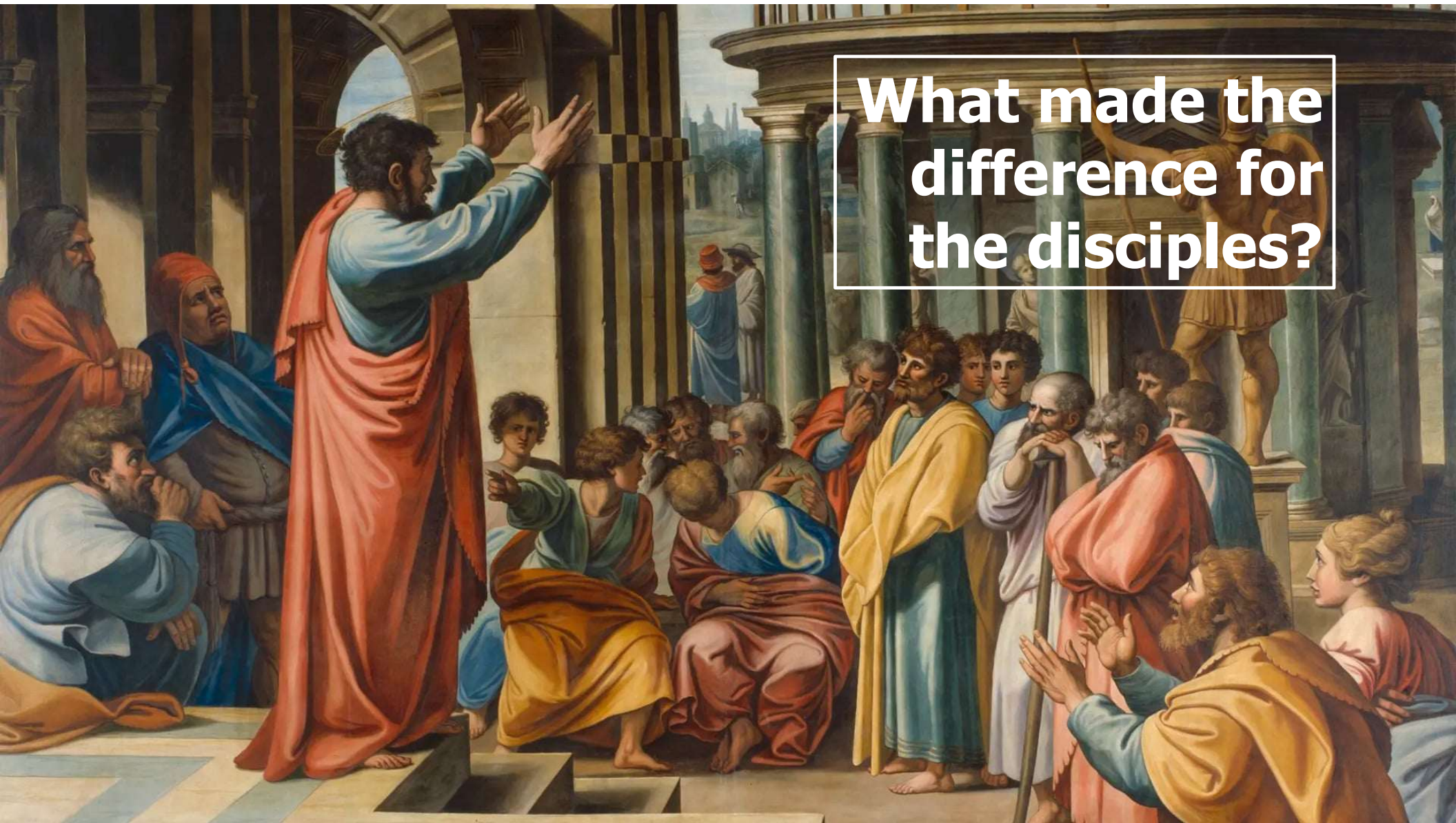


PART ONE: THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO
LUKE



PART TWO: **ACTS**
OF THE
APOSTLES

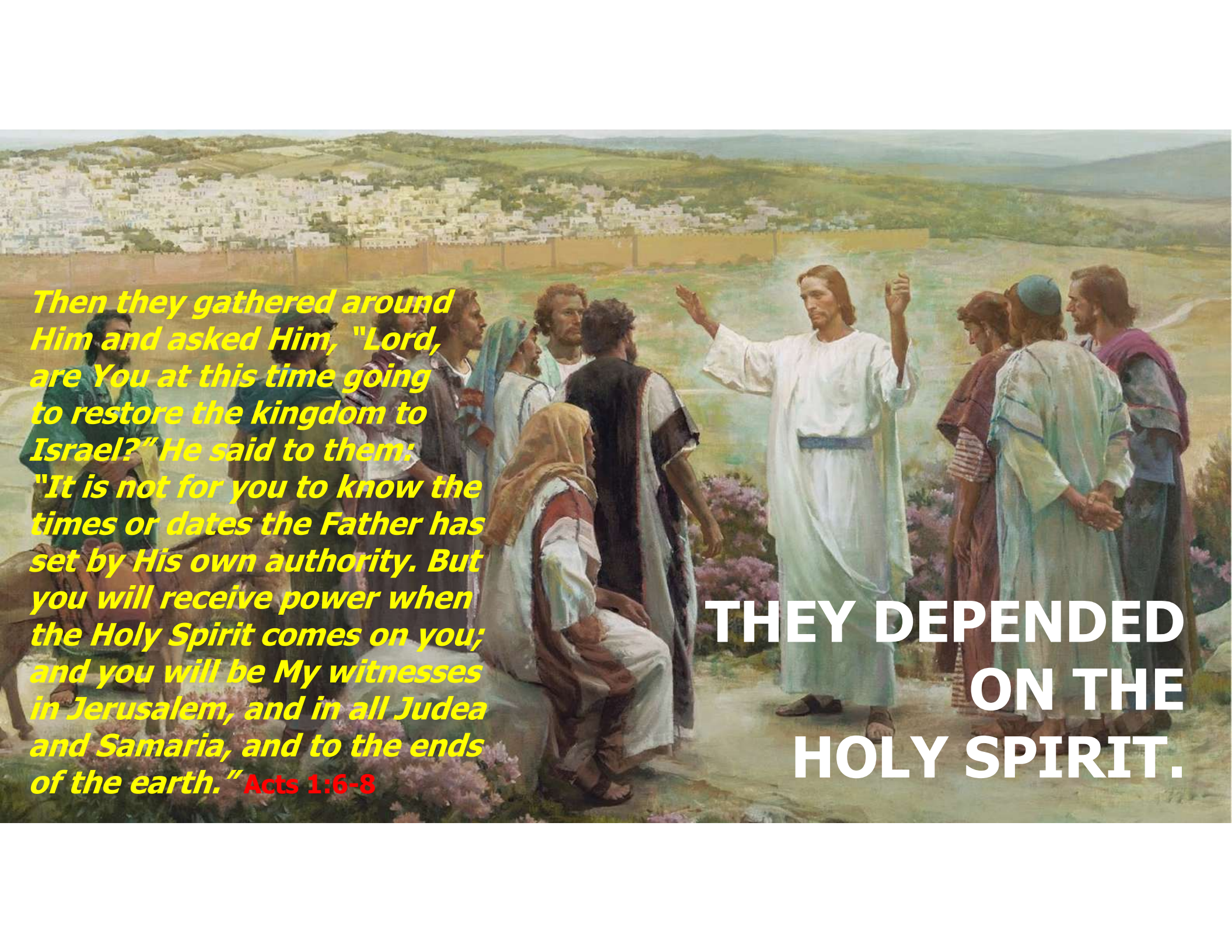
How should we study Luke/Acts?



**What made the
difference for
the disciples?**

THEY BELIEVED IN THE RISEN CHRIST.

After His suffering, [Jesus] presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:3-5



Then they gathered around Him and asked Him, "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6-8

**THEY DEPENDED
ON THE
HOLY SPIRIT.**

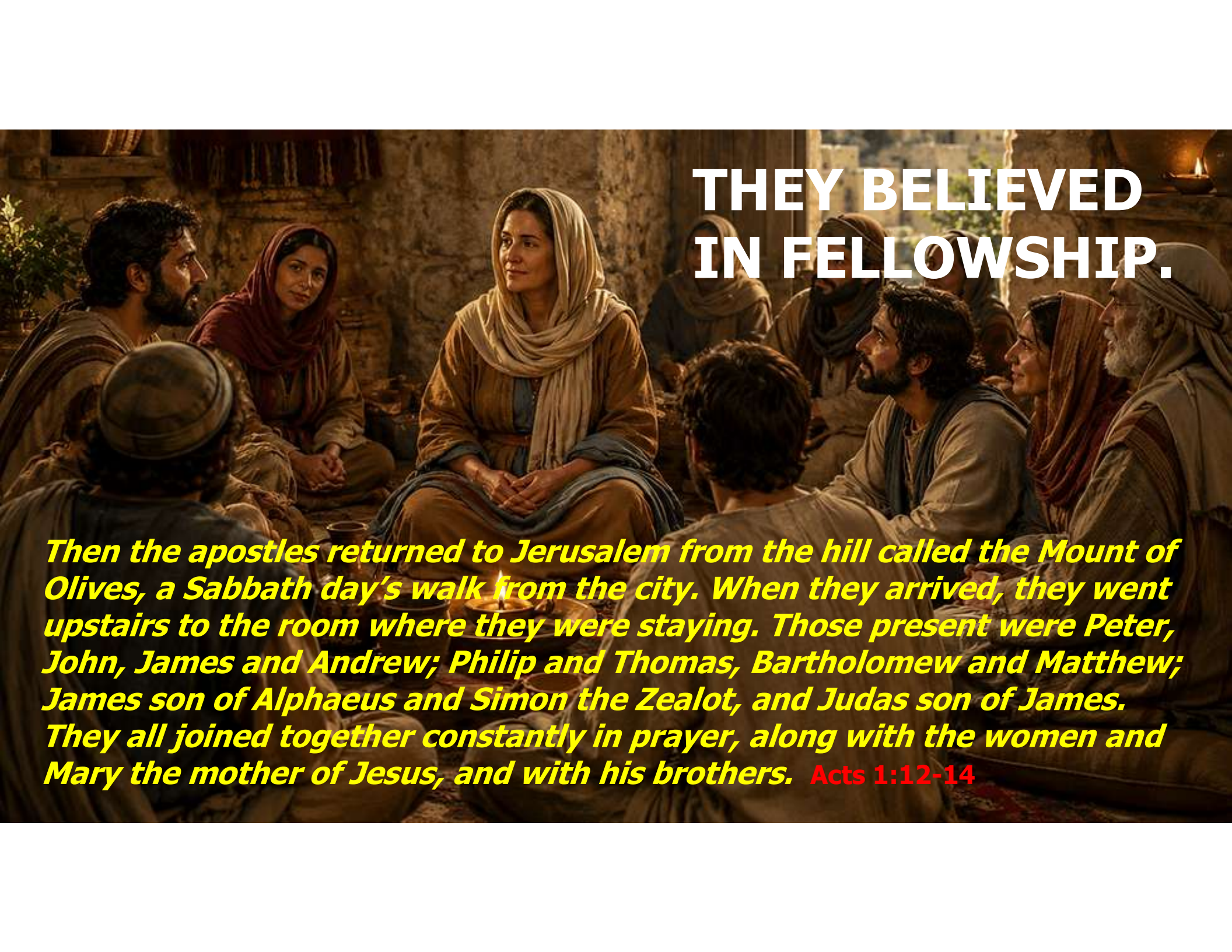
THEY LONGED FOR HIS SECOND COMING.



After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11

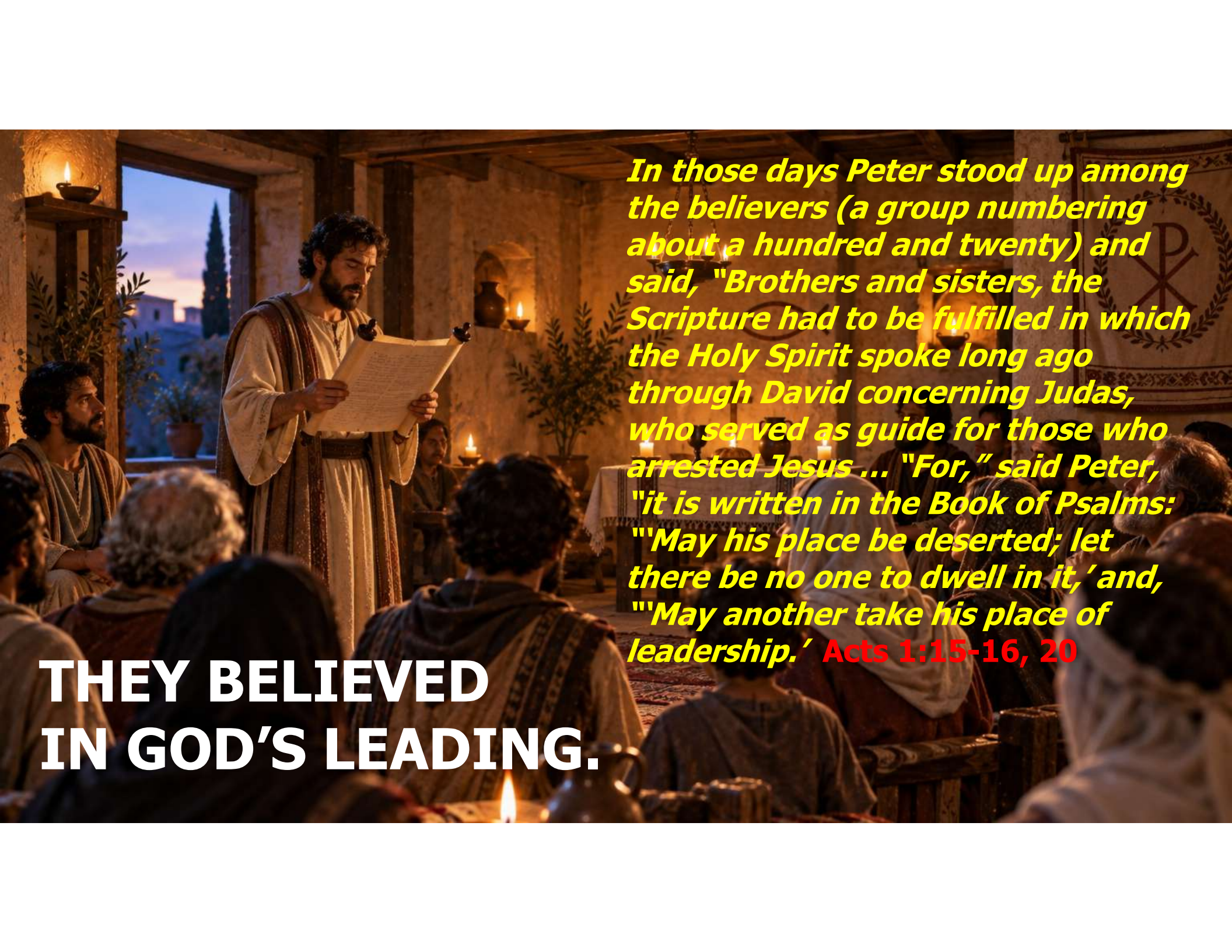


How did their life change?

A group of people, including men and women, are gathered in a rustic, stone-walled room. They are dressed in traditional Middle Eastern clothing, such as head coverings and long robes. The group is seated in a circle, engaged in conversation. The lighting is warm and intimate, suggesting a candle or fire source. The background shows a stone wall and a window with a view of a city.

THEY BELIEVED IN FELLOWSHIP.

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. Acts 1:12-14

A cinematic scene depicting Peter, a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a white robe with a brown sash, standing and reading from a scroll. He is addressing a group of people seated in a room with stone walls and a large window showing a sunset. A cross is visible on the wall behind him. The scene is lit with warm, golden light from candles and the window.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus ... "For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "May another take his place of leadership.' Acts 1:15-16, 20

**THEY BELIEVED
IN GOD'S LEADING.**

Then they prayed, "Lord, You know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two You have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. Acts 1:24-26

**THEY BELIEVED
IN PRAYER.**



Christ has
risen!

We will
testify!

"Empowered to Witness"

The Book of Acts