

Acts Series

Lesson #102

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

Expansion: Belief vs. Disobedience Signs and Wonders Acts 14:1–12



Acts 14:1, “Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed.”

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**γίνομαι *ginomai* 2aor mid indic 3 sing
to become, to come into existence, to
come to pass,
typically used following the Hebrew
style of advancing the narrative to the
next event.**



MACEDONIA
Thessalonica

THRACE

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS

AEGEAN SEA

ASIA
Adramyttium
Ephesus

GALATIA
Iconium
Halys River

CAPPADOCIA
River

Corinth
Athens

LYCIA
Cnidus
Myra

PAMPHYLIA

CILICIA
Tarsus

Phoenix
Fair Havens
Crete
Lasea
Cape Salmone
Cauda

Rhodes

Cyprus

SYRIA
Antioch

SEA

Cyrene

Sidon

Damascus

CYRENAICA

Alexandria

Caesarea Maritima

JUDEA
Jerusalem

EGYPT

N

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πιστεύω *pisteuō* aor act infin
to believe, trust

Acts 14:2, “But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.”

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ἀπειθέω *apeitheō*

aor act part masc plur nom

“to be disobedient, disobey” [BDAG]

Luke 1:17, “He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” [NASB95]

[NKJV] Acts 28:24, “And some were persuaded [peitho] by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved [*apisteuo*].”

AT Robertson:

Strictly *apeitheō* does mean to disobey and *apisteō* to disbelieve, but that distinction is not observed in John 3:36 nor in Acts 19:9; 28:24. {only in translations}

The word *apeitheō* means to be *apeithēs*, to be unwilling to be persuaded or to withhold belief and then also to withhold obedience. The two meanings run into one another. {But they are not the same, interchangeable, or identical.}

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First one is persuaded by facts or information, then one believes. Belief is not the same as persuaded, but results from being persuaded.

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ἀπειθέω *apeitheō*

aor act part masc plur nom

“to be disobedient, disobey” [BDAG]

ψυχή *psuchē* acc fem
plur

“soul, self, inner life”

Acts 14:3, “Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”

ἱκανός *hikanos*

acc masc sing

“sufficient, enough, worthy, able, competent, qualified”

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Signs and Wonders in the New Testament

- 1. The term “signs” is used 77× in the New Testament; 61× in the Gospels and Acts (13 of those in Acts); 7× in Revelation; which leaves 16**

Matt. 12:38, “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’

Matt. 12:39, “But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.’ ”

2. The word is used only one more time in Acts, and that is in the next chapter, 15:12, when Paul and Barnabas report about these signs on the first journey. The term “signs” does not appear again in Acts.

3. Wonders, τέρας *teras*, occurs only 16× in the New Testament; 3× in the Gospels, 9× in Acts; 4× in the epistles.

Rom. 15:19, “in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

2 Cor. 12:12, “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”

2 Thess. 2:9, “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,”

4. Signs and wonders were miraculous events used to establish the credentials of Jesus as the Messiah and of the Apostles as His messengers.

Isa. 42:7, “To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.”

Isa. 29:18, “And on that day the deaf shall hear words of a book, And out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.”

Isa. 35:4, “Say to those with anxious heart, ‘Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you.’ ”

Isa. 35:5, “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

Isa. 35:6, “Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.”

5. Jesus' miracles were not performed at random or indiscriminately. He did not always heal those who needed healing or perform on demand, but to fulfill the plan of God (John 5:3–5; Matt. 12:38–40).

6. Healing during the Apostolic era:

Acts 5:12, “And at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico.”

Acts 8:7, “For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.”

Acts 9:34, “And Peter said to him, ‘Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise, and make your bed.’ And immediately he arose.”

7. The question of Mark 16.

Mark 16:17, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;”

8. The word is used frequently in the Olivet Discourse, the question regarding the signs of His coming, to refer to both the counterfeit miracles of the Antichrist, as well as to the prophetic fulfillment signs indicating the proximity of Christ's coming.

9. The gospel with the most significant use of the word is John.

John 20:30, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these [signs] are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and by believing you might have life through His name.”