

Acts of the Apostles

chapters

- 1 Stand by Me
- 2a You Light Up My
- 2b He's **ALIVE**
- 3 When Tomorrow Starts without Me
- 4a Got Friends in Low Places
& Crocodile Bill
- 4b LIAR – Lying to God**
- 5 Worthy
- 6 Serving
- 7-8 Baptizing
- 9a Calling
- 9b Healing
- 10-11 Including
- 12 Praying



Death of Ananias
by Raphael, c1515



Acts 5:5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And **GREAT FEAR** seized all who heard what had happened.



Taps, the Song

Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the hills,
From the lake,
From the skies.

All is well,
Safely rest,
God is nigh
Go to sleep,
Peaceful sleep,
May the soldier
Or sailor,
God keep.

On the land
Or the deep,
Safe in sleep.
Love, good night,
Must thou go,
When the day,
And the night
Need thee so?

All is well.
Speedeth all
To their rest.
Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well,
Day has gone,
Night is on.
Thanks and praise,
For our days.

'Neath the sun,
'Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.



Early Church

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary</i>
June 2	1	<i>Stand by Me</i>	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	1st Sermon Resurrection - Unified, Devoted, Shared .
June 23	3	<i>When Tomorrow Starts</i>	Peter Heals Lame – 2nd Sermon Resurrection
June 30	4a	<i>Got Friends in Low Places</i>	Crocodile Bill & Peter to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	<i>LIAR – Lying to God</i>	Shaken, Shared - Ananias & Sapphira's Lies ←
July 14	5	<i>Worthy</i>	Peter Arrested, Gamaliel
July 21	6	<i>Serving</i>	Seven Chosen & Stephen
July 28	7-8	<i>Baptizing</i>	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	<i>Calling</i>	Paul Blinded, then SEES
Aug 11	9b	<i>Healing</i>	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabatha
Aug 18	10	<i>Including</i>	Peter's Vision— <i>EAT</i>
Aug 25	11-12	<i>Praying</i>	Peter Freed from Prison

4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared....



Our Church



Chapter 4:23-37 **Peter, John, People PRAY – All in One Heart:**

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

... all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Chapter 5:1-10 **Ananias & Sapphira LIE to God**

Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing?

You have not **LIED** just to human beings but to God.”



Ananias & Sapphira

LIED to God Almighty 



LIAR - LIAR

**No one likes to be
Tricked**

Deceived

Hoodwinked

Beguiled

Misguided

Fooled

Cheated

Bamboozled



From Peter's 3rd Witness – Acts 4-12

- ✓ Bill's Feet healed ~ Peter & John warned
No one could DENY
- ✓ Crocodile Bill over 40 years old!
- ✓ Peter & John released, go home, rejoice

AFTER Peter's 3rd Witness – Acts 4:13 to 5:11

- ✓ Peter & John Share Story ~ Place shaken again, vs. 31,
- ✓ Spirit boldness
- ✓ No one had need ... all taken care of
- ✓ Then Ananias & Sapphira's **Fatal LIE**



Acts 4:23 On their release, Peter & John went back to their own people & reported all that the chief priests ... said....

24-26 When they heard this, they—church—raised their voices together in PRAYER TO GOD. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit thru the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“‘Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together against the Lord
and against his anointed one.’”

“THEY” raised their voices? First Church PRAYER



Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod & Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles & the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you—GOD—anointed.

28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats & enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30 Stretch out your hand to heal & perform signs & wonders through the

NAME of your holy servant Jesus.”



**Healing of Man Born Lame was one among many
“Church” in its purest form ... first use in Acts 5:11**

Ekklesia/s/n – Called Out – the Church

5:11 – Great fear seized the whole **CHURCH** and all who heard about these events.

✓ **“Church”** first time “Ekklesian” in Acts right here in 5:11

➤ “ek” *out* – “klesia” *called* = **Called Out Ones**

➤ 114x in N.T. under various ways

➤ Interestingly, word only appears in Matthew few times

➤ Mostly in Acts & the Epistles

NOT in Mark, Luke, or John

church

✓ LXX – 200 B.C. the O.T. trans into Greek

Gentile non-Jew meaning: Greek city assembly

Ekklesia/s was for *assembly* in the LXX, the Greek O.T.

Ekklesia/Church came to refer to a Christian gathering

Even at the start was *Judas* – then *Ananias & Sapphira*



No one likes to be

Tricked

Deceived

Hoodwinked

Beguiled

Misguided

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Cheated

Bamboozled



1971, Three Dog Night released 5th album, "Naturally"
One song written by Russ Ballard in 1970 was reworked

LIAR

It hit #7 on Billboard, #4 in Canada ...

You can believe in me

I won't be leavin'

I won't let you go

Ain't that what you said?

Ain't that what you said?

Ain't that what you said?



LIAR

Liar, Liar ... Liar ... Liar Liar



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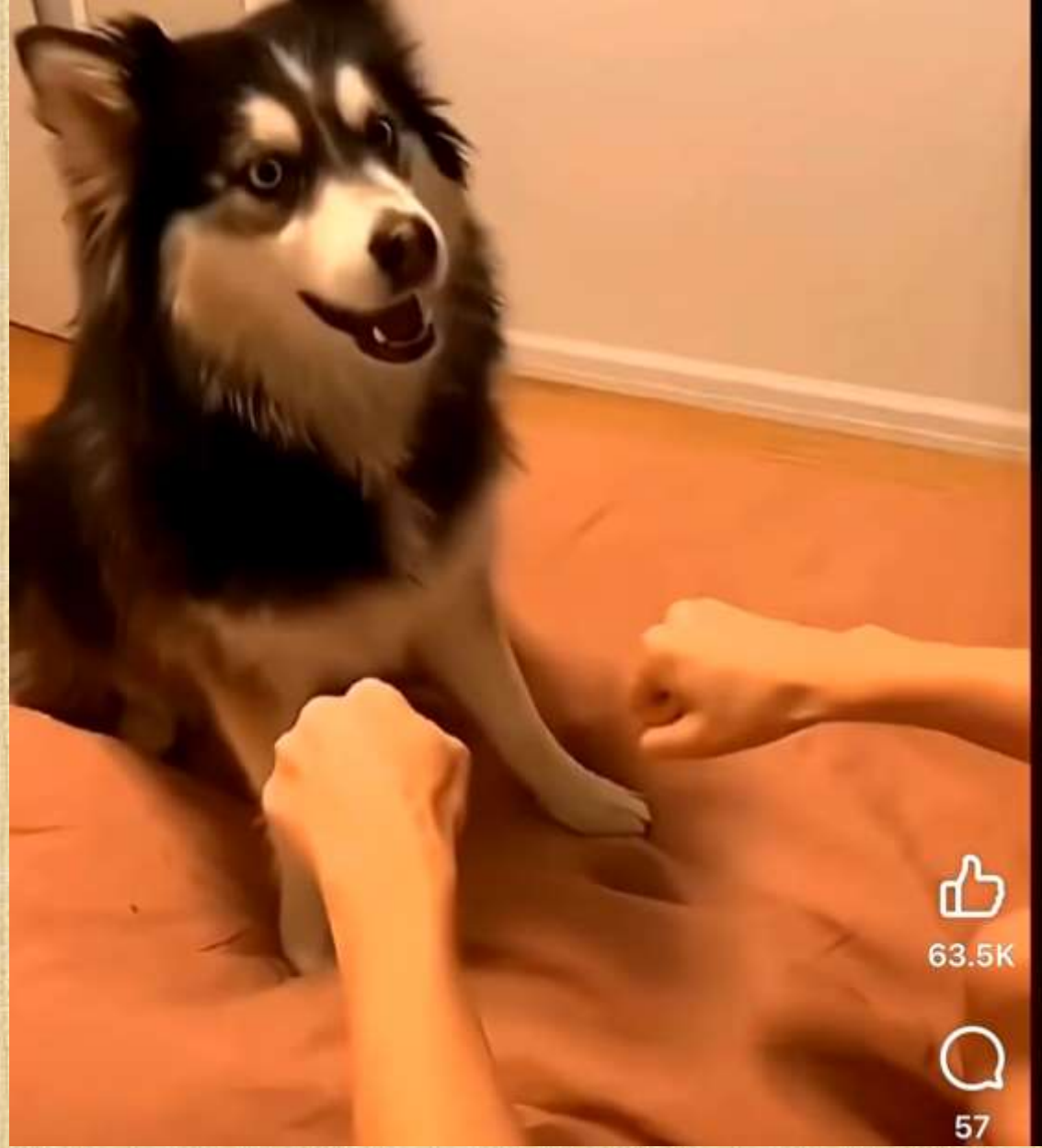
Beguiled

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**Acts 4:31 After they prayed,
the place where they were meeting was SHAKEN.**

**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit &
spoke the Word of God BOLDLY.**

What “WORD” did they speak BOLDLY about?

Luke tells us in the next verses ...

Do note: KEY to Holy Spirit’s work is “BOLDLY Speaking”

Word of God



4:32-35 Believers Share Their Possessions

4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind.

No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

**33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the
Resurrection of the Lord Jesus**

God's grace was so powerfully at work in them ALL

34-35 that there were NO NEEDY persons among them.

For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.



Verses 4:32-35 above indicate a HOST selling & sharing ... **ALL?**

Acts 4:36-37 Barnabas – *Son of Encouragement*

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas which means “son of encouragement,” sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Seems Barnabas was the **FIRST** one *NAMED* in offering?

So much of this is about Stewardship . . .

Yet from the beginning ... as with Judas ...

There are **OTHER MOTIVES**



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Key Doctrine - Stewardship

**God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual.
All that we have and are we owe to him.**



Baptist Faith and Message (1963) – www.PreciousHeart.net/Baptist_Faith.htm

XIII. Stewardship. God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.



Barnabas – *Son of Encouragement*

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas which means “son of encouragement,” sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.



a field



Rome

**Greece
Hellás**

Cyprus



**Area of Study
Acts 1-12**

4:36-37 Barnabas

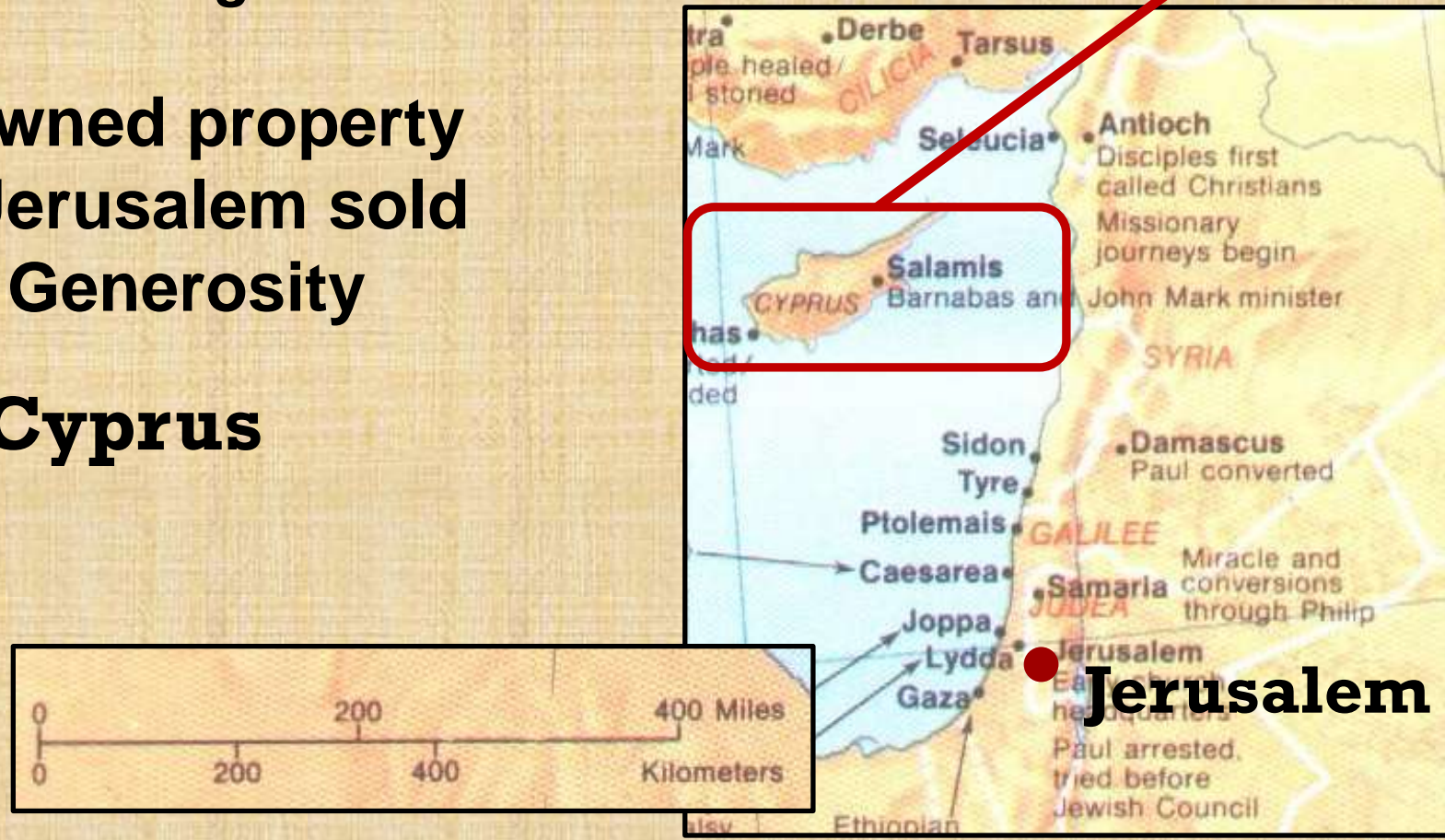
Joseph called Barnabas –
Son of Encouragement

- ✓ Levite who owned property
- ✓ Holdings in Jerusalem sold
- ✓ Integrity and Generosity

Levite from Cyprus



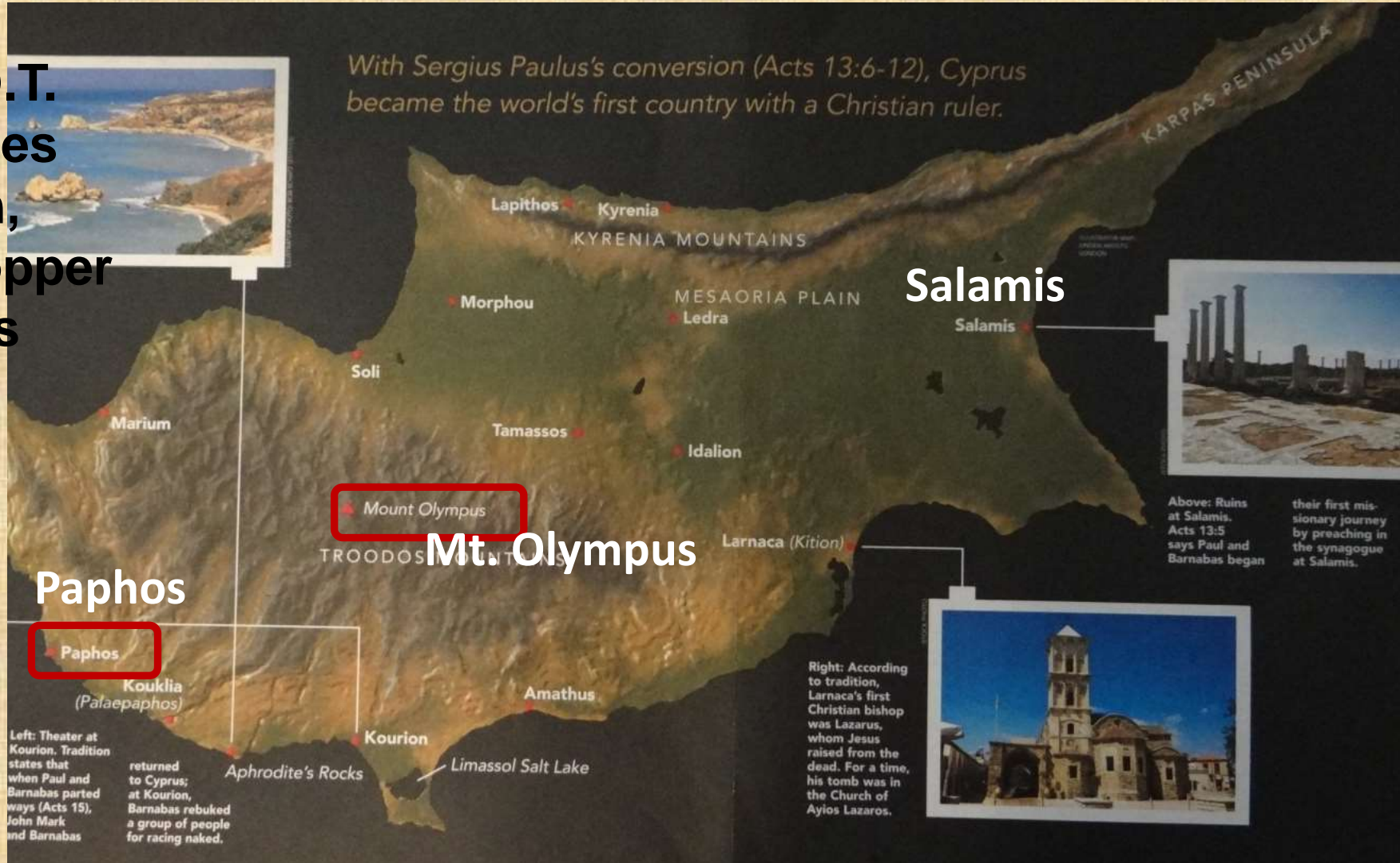
Cyprus



- **Cyprus**
- **Chittim in O.T.**
- **140 x 40 miles**
- **timber, corn, wine, oil, copper**
- **Mt. Olympus**

Paphos

- **Birthplace of Aphrodite**
- **since 1200 B.C.**



Cyprus

Paul & Barnabas
in Acts 13
Barnabas &
John Mark
in Acts 15



4:36-37 Exhibit A: Barnabas

Joseph called Barnabas – *Son of Encouragement*

- ✓ Barnabas Travels with Paul, and later with John Mark
- ✓ Catholics > St. Barnabas
- ✓ Patron Saint of Cyprus, Antioch
- ✓ Patron Saint against Hail Storms
- ✓ Invoked as Peacemaker



on sale for \$75
originally ~~\$100~~

Enter Ananias . . . then wife Sapphira
Not . . . Ananias of Damascus
who restored sight to the Apostle Paul



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Death of Ananias
by Raphael, c1515



5:1-6 Ananias – *Dropped Dead*

Acts 1-2 – Now a man named Ananias,
together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property.
With his wife's full knowledge he
kept back part of the money
for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.



Acts 5:3 – Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have LIED to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?.....”



**Acts 5:4 – “Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold?
And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal?
What made you think of doing such a thing?
You have not LIED just to human beings but to God.”**

- **Peter points out the money was ALL theirs**
- **To give, keep, share, divide as THEY pleased**



TRUTH is an absolute ... biblically & morally

➤ Jesus is the *Way*, the *Truth*, the *Life*

➤ Yet not all LIES were condemned

> Hebrew midwives were praised for saving LIFE

> Rahab was praised for saving Hebrew Spies

LIE was not praised or condemned

➤ See my book,

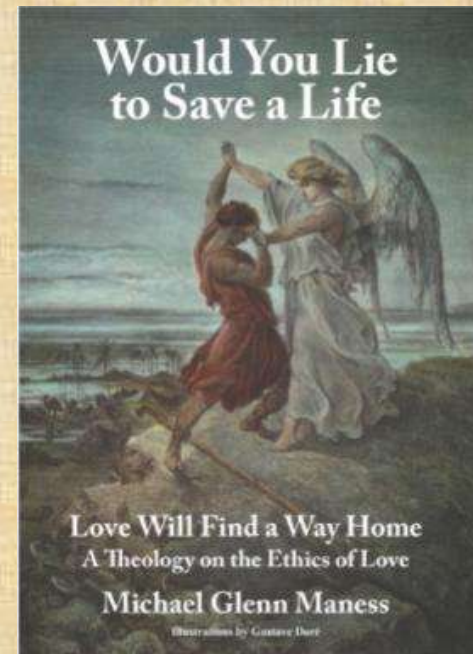
Would You Lie to Save a Life?

> www.PreciousHeart.net/love/

LOT of research on *absolutes*

Love & Truth are absolutes

Choosing Love to SAVE LIFE



**Acts 5:5-6 – When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died.
And great FEAR seized all who heard what had happened.**

What?!? – Died because of Deceit?!?

**Then some young men came forward,
wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.**

Want to be a church member NOW?

Death in Deceit

Lie to God—DIE



5:1-6 Ananias – *Dropped Dead*

Want to be a church member ... **NOW?**

- ✓ There is a new dog in the neighborhood
- ✓ New Doctrine in Town
- ✓ New Marshal / Sheriff
- ✓ What New Doctrine in Town ?!?!?

Peter the Rock

? ? ? ?

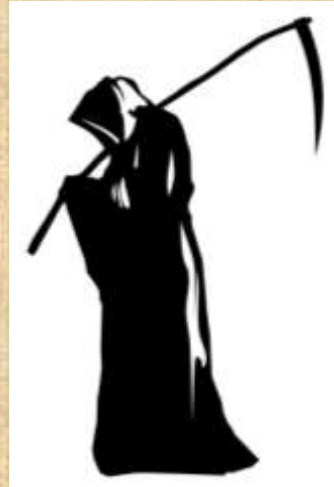
Death in Deceit Doctrine

Scared Now? – You BETTER BE!

***Immediate* Death in Deceit Doctrine**

you BET they're scared!

No One wants THIS TODAY



Enter *Sapphira*

- ✓ From *Sapphire* – Aramaic for “beautiful” or stone
- ✓ Hebrew connotes a meaning “*pleasant*”



deep blue



5:7-11 Sapphira – *Dropped Dead*

Acts 5:7-8 – About three hours later his wife came in,
not knowing what had happened.

Peter asked her, “Tell me,
is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?”

Are you kidding? . . . Pastor ***DETECTIVE*** Peter?

“Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”



5:7-11 Sapphira – *Dropped Dead*

5:9 – Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen!

The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”



What is Sapphira thinking?

I suppose she is **SHOCKED!**

ALSO suppose, believe Ananias LED her to LIE

Aghast. Bewildered. Confused.

Scared

yet, not for long ...



Acts 5:10 – At that moment she fell down at his feet and died.

Really? – Hey, ALL, are you getting this?

Did you see *THAT*?

Do you want to be a church member *NOW?!?*

NOW?

**11 – Then the young men came in and, finding her dead,
carried her out and buried her beside her husband.**



5:7-11 Sapphira – *Dropped Dead*

11 – Great FEAR seized the whole church and ALL who heard about these events.



FEAR



ALL understood clearly

What Do These TWO Deaths for Deceit Mean?

Morality has been the source of much commentary

- Some have described it as “one of the most unnerving” in N.T.
- Oddly, some have said Peter was new in ministry and had *not yet* learned to be PASTORAL – translated, “kinder” as though they COUPLE HAVE lived if Peter was more *Pastoral*
- One thing is for certain, this was the SPIRIT’s work – aka God
- God did this ...

Peter was just given insight into their deceit



GOD DID THIS

Death for Lying to GOD



What Does This Mean?

- ✓ Many noted parallels with the story of Achan in Joshua 7
- ✓ Lost fight with Ai ... Joshua sought the Lord: Achan found
- ✓ Joshua 7:21 – “When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”
- ✓ They stoned Achan,
stoned his family,
and stoned his livestock
THEN BURNED ALL



Stoning of Achan
by Gustav Doré

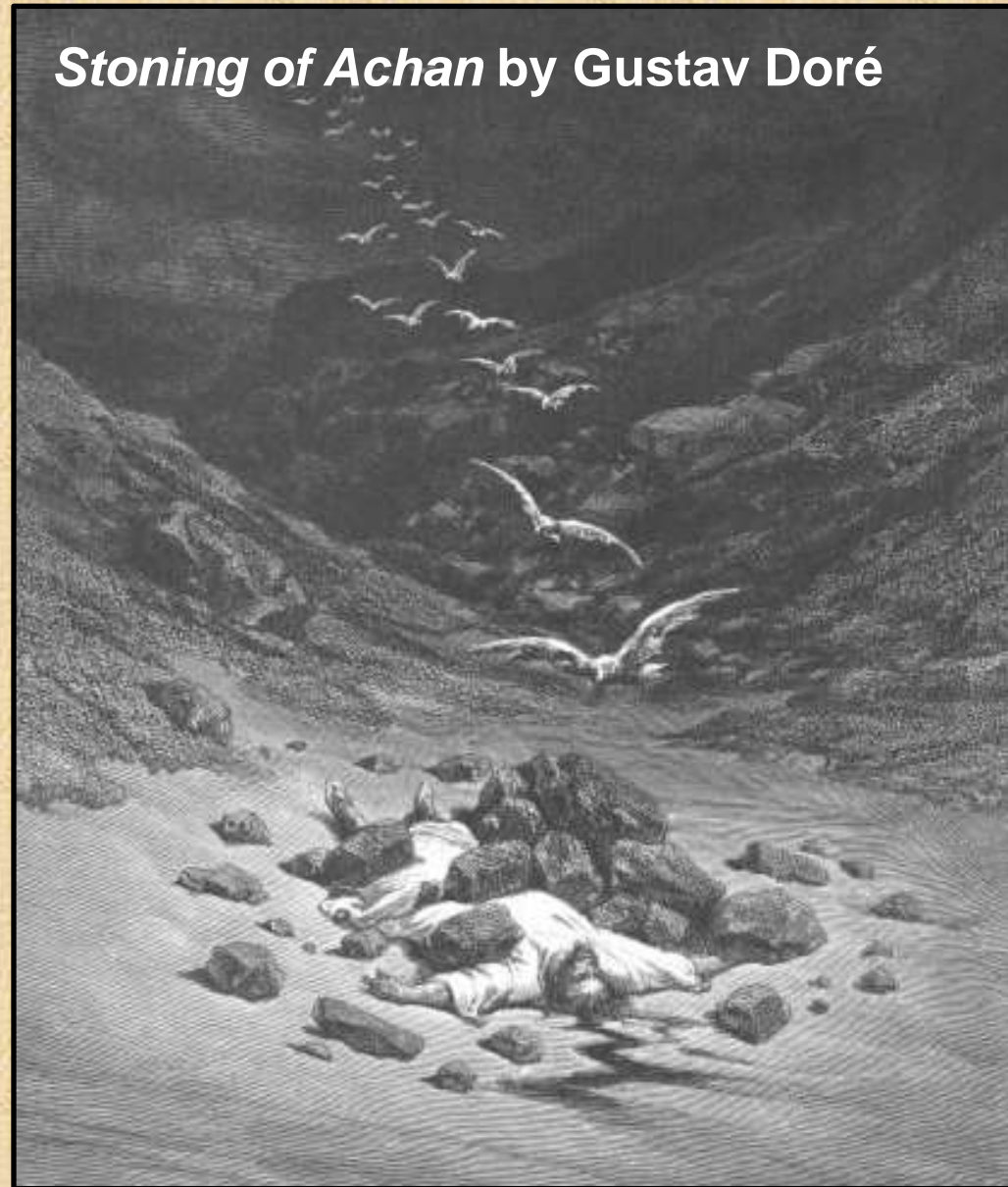


What Does This Mean?

... to say the least
BRUTAL



Stoning of Achan by Gustav Doré



What Does This Mean?

- ✓ Sanctity of Life is precious
- ✓ God is the Author of Life
- ✓ God's Honor & His Church & His Mission are MORE valuable than human life
- ✓ Sometimes ... a bit **BRUTAL**



Oracle of Delphi

**Greek Historian Herodotus (484-425 B.C.)
tells of honest Glaucus**

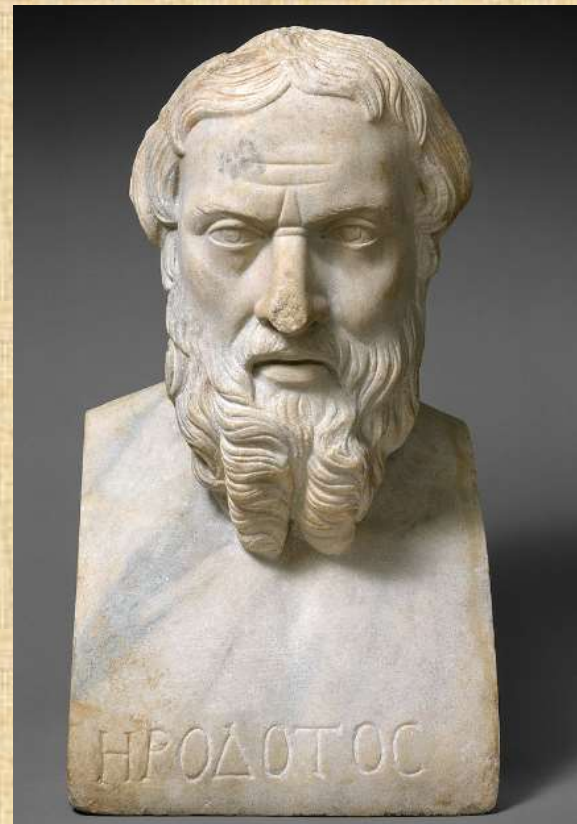
**Glaucus takes money ...
a man from Miletus trusting Glaucus**

Later, descendants of Miletus man ask for money

Glaucus refuses ... says he forgets

Then asks the Oracle of Delphi for wisdom

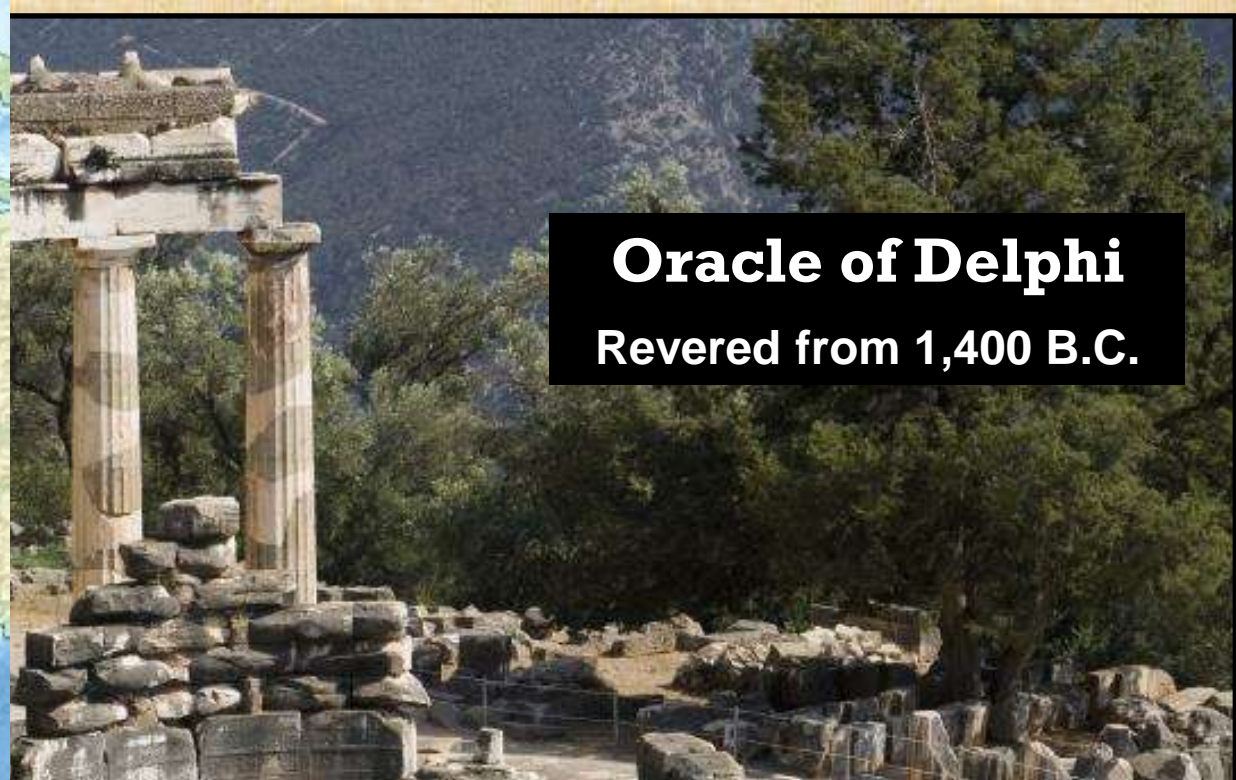
Oracles responds on prosperity of HONESTY



**Marble bust of Herodotus
Metropolitan Museum Art
from 2nd Century A.D.**



Not far from Corinth



Oracle of Delphi
Revered from 1,400 B.C.



Oracle of Delphi

Oracle said to Glaucus:

To conquer their word by an oath and to rob is more gainful....

But know thou that Oath has a son ...

one nameless, handless, footless,

Yet without feet he pursues, without hands he seizes, and

Wholly he shall destroy the race and

the house of the man who offendeth.

But for the man who swears truly

his race is the better hereafter.



Near Final Lesson

- ✓ Was Peter Responsible for couple's death?
- ✓ Nothing in the passage indicates Peter was at fault
- ✓ Nothing indicates Peter was short on CARE
- ✓ Everything in indicates the **SPIRIT** of God was offended and powerful and working
- ✓ Vestiges of Pentecost **STILL** at work

Life is Precious

**Honor of GOD More Precious than
Human Life**



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Final Lesson

About Stewardship ... rightly giving, honest motive

More about Being Honest to God

In Early Church – Spirit Worked in Apostles

God Himself ... was Guiding

Most of All ... Most Important of ALL is

How Seriously God Takes

SINCERITY

of the Heart

