

## EPISODE 2 "Peter & Friends in The New Adventures of The Apostles!"

The first 12 chapters of the Book of Acts, re-told in the style of the 1960s cartoon version of "The New Adventures of Superman!"

**Episode 2: Acts 4:1 to 8:3** (6 minutes + 4 seconds)

Peter and John in prison; Peter and John questioned by Sanhedrin; (*Acts 4: 23-36 and Acts 1: 42-47 - the believers pray together and share belongings - are summarised together in Episode 1, and the story of Ananias and Sapphira from chapter 5 also given in Episode 1, for contrast*); all the apostles put in prison; the apostles before the Sanhedrin; choosing of the seven helpers; Stephen before Sanhedrin; death of Stephen; church persecuted.

### **Cast:**

1. Narrator (Luke)
2. Person in Crowd 1 – (*opening credits only*)
3. Person in Crowd 2 – (*opening credits only*)
4. High Priest (spokesman for the Sanhedrin)
5. Peter
6. Angel
7. Baddie (thug-for-hire)
8. Gamaliel
9. Stephen
10. Saul

*(slide1 "Cheese & Jesus" present and slide 2 is Episode number)*

Narrator:        (*drum roll*) *(slide 3)* Taught by Jesus, witnesses of the resurrection, chosen by God to found the church, it's... The Apostles! (*music starts*) *(slide 4)* Look! In Judea! In Samaria!

Person in Crowd1:        Is it a fad?

Person in Crowd2:        Is it a cult?

Narrator:        *(slide 5)* No! It's Super-Church!

*(slide 6 – title slide, let some music play)*

Narrator:        *(slide 7)* Previously, on "The New Adventures of The Apostles", healings and miracles, carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit, had convinced thousands to believe Jesus is the Messiah. The Jewish religious leaders have put Peter and John in prison for the night. *(slide 8)* The next day Peter and John had to explain what had happened before the council of the Jewish chief priest and elders, called the Sanhedrin

High Priest:        By what power or what name did you heal that lame beggar?

- Narrator: Peter was “clothed with power from on high!”
- Peter: It is the power of the name of Jesus that completely healed the man! Jesus is the Messiah the prophets promised us! The one sent by God to save us from our sins!
- Narrator: Peter and John, unschooled, plain men – where did such courage and wisdom come from, wondered the sanhedrin
- High Priest: Do not speak or teach in the name of Jesus anymore!
- Peter: If what you tell us to do, is different from what God tells us to do, we have to listen to God!
- Narrator: *(slide 9)* God’s healing power was so greatly upon Peter, that people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats in the hope that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. *(slide 10)* Consumed with jealousy the Jewish religious leaders had the apostles put in prison. *(slide 11)* But during the night, an angel of the Lord let them out of prison.
- Angel: Go, and stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this new life!
- High Priest: *(slide 12)* Fetch those men from prison, and have them stand before the Sanhedrin!
- Baddie: *(slide 13)* They’re not in the prison! We don’t know how they got out, but those men are in the temple, teaching the people!
- High Priest: *(slide 14)* We gave you strict orders not to teach using the name of Jesus!
- Peter: We must obey God, rather than human beings!
- High Priest: *(slide 15)* We should kill them!
- Gamaliel: No! Leave them alone! If their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop them and you will find yourselves fighting against God!
- High Priest: *(slide 16)* Let’s at least have them flogged! *(whipping sound effect)* You are to stop speaking in the name of Jesus!
- Peter: Thank you, Lord, that we are worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of Jesus!
- Narrator: *(slide 17)* Next, the Apostles appointed “The Magnificent Seven”, including Stephen –full of faith and the Holy Spirit- and Philip –later known as Philip the Evangelist- , to see to the church’s finances and charity work. This enabled the Apostles to concentrate on preaching. Stephen performed great wonders and signs, and the Spirit of God gave him wisdom to win every debate.

- Baddie: *(slide 18)* That Stephen speaks against the law of Moses and God! He must be stopped!
- High Priest: Are these charges true, Stephen?
- Narrator: Stephen was “clothed with power from on high!”
- Stephen: Everything in our scriptures, from the covenant God made with Abraham, to Joseph and his brothers in Egypt, to Moses leading our people to freedom, show that God is faithful in keeping His promises, but we, his people, have rebelled time and time again! Every prophet that spoke up for God was persecuted by our ancestors. And you are no better now! What’s happening among the followers of Jesus is clearly the work of the Holy Spirit, yet for your own selfish reasons, you are determined to resist God!
- High Priest: How dare you speak to us like that!
- Stephen: Look! I see heaven open and the Son of Man -our saviour, Jesus- standing at the right hand of God!
- High Priest: This is blasphemy! Kill him! Saul, oversee the stoning to death of this blasphemer!
- Saul: *(slide 19)* Kill him! }  
 Baddie: Kill him! } *(together, shouting)*
- Stephen: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit! Lord, do not hold this sin against them!
- Narrator: And so Stephen became one of the first Christian martyrs. *(slide 20)* On that day, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem.
- Saul: *(slide 21)* You! Followers of Jesus! I’ve got a prison cell waiting for you! And worse!
- Narrator: *(slide 22)* And here we must leave Peter and Friends for now, only a year or two into their mission, facing impossible odds! What will Peter and friends do next? How will they share the good news of Jesus with Saul and the Sanhedrin out to stop them??  
*(slide 23)* Tune in next time, for another exciting episode of “The New adventures of the Apostles!”

*End with blast of theme tune*