

EPISODE 4 “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 4: Acts 9:31 to 12:24 (7 minutes + 44 seconds)

Church enjoys a time of peace; Peter heals Aeneas and Tabitha (Dorcas); the story of Cornelius, including Peter’s vision/dream; the church in Antioch; death of James; Peter escapes from prison; death of Herod Agrippa; summary of how far apostles and disciples have got with spreading the gospel.

Cast:

1. Narrator (Luke)
2. Person in Crowd 1 (*opening credits only*)
3. Person in Crowd 2 (*opening credits only*)
4. Peter
5. A Disciple
6. Angel
7. Cornelius
8. Jesus
9. An Apostle
10. Barnabas
11. Rhoda the Servant

(slide 1 “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)* The story so far: since the ascension of Jesus, the apostles and disciples have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This has empowered them to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Jews and Samaritans. The church was persecuted but is currently enjoying a time of peace, and, through the help of the Holy Spirit, is strengthened and growing in numbers. Peter travels about and goesto Lydda...*(slide 8)*

Peter: Aeneas, you are paralyzed and have been bedridden for eight years, but Jesus Christ heals you. Get up now!

Disciple: Come quickly to Joppa, Peter! Tabitha, who was always doing good and helping the poor, has died! *(slide 9)*

- Peter: All you mourners need to leave the room... Tabitha! Get up! ... You can come back in now, mourners, and stop your mourning. Tabitha is alive!
- Narrator: *(slide 10)* All in the area heard of these miracles; many believed in the Lord.
(slide 11) Meanwhile, in Caesarea...
- Angel: Centurion Cornelius! God is pleased with your prayers and works of charity, and is ready to answer you. Send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Peter
- Cornelius: I will do as you say, Sir
- Narrator: *(slide 12)* At noon the following day, as Cornelius' men were nearing Joppa, Peter had a vision of all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds in something like a large sheet being lowered down from heaven...
- Jesus: Get up, Peter, kill and eat!
- Peter: Certainly not Lord! I have never eaten anything ritually unclean or defiled
- Jesus: Do not consider anything unclean that God has declared clean
- Peter: *(slide 13)* Cornelius, you are well aware that it is against Jewish law for a Jew to associate with or visit a gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone unclean or defiled. I now realise that it is true, God does not show favouritism, but accepts from every nation whoever worships him and does what is right. Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah our prophets said would come. Everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven by the power of his name!
- Narrator: *(slide 14)* And there and then those gentile believers -Cornelius, his relatives and close friends- were "clothed with power from on high!"
- Apostle: *(slide 15)* What do you think you are doing Peter, mixing with gentiles? Are you out of your mind?!
- Peter: It's ok! I had a vision from the Lord in which he said I should not call anyone unclean or defiled, and that it's alright to mix with gentiles! And while I was there, the Lord confirmed that anyone who worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him, by pouring out his Holy Spirit on the gentiles! It was amazing!
- Apostles: Well then, if that's what God wants, Praise the Lord! His salvation extends even to the gentiles!
- (slide 16)* Some of the disciples who went to Antioch have been speaking to the Greeks, as well as the Jews. Let's send Barnabas there to find out what's going on!
- Barnabas: I am full of joy and so encouraged at the number of people, Jew and Greek, who have believed in Jesus! Praise God for his grace! Saul, you must come and work with me in Antioch! And the believers here have made a collection to help the believers in Judea affected by the famine.

- Narrator: It was at Antioch that the disciples were first called *(slide 17)* “Christians”!
- (slide 18)* Meanwhile, back in Judea - fascinated by all things Jewish and wishing to please the Jewish religious leaders– King Herod Agrippa had the Apostle James killed... *(slide 19)* and Peter put into prison.
- Angel: *(slide 20)* Peter! Wake up! Your trial is tomorrow, you need to leave prison now! Look, your chains are off! Now, get dressed and follow me!
- Peter: *(slide 21)* I must be dreaming! I am having a vision that an angel is escorting me out of prison, pass the guards in my cell, pass the first guard, and the second guard, and right out the locked iron gate which has popped open for me! *(slide 22)* Hang on! I really am out of prison! Standing in the city street! But the angel is gone now! I will go to Mary’s house, there’s bound to be believers gathered together there. *(slide 23)* *(sound effect of knocking on door).*
- Rhoda: Who is it?
- Peter: It’s me, Peter!
- Rhoda: Aah! Listen everyone! Peter is at the door!
- Apostle: Don’t be daft! Peter’s in prison!
- Rhoda: No, he really is at the door!
- Apostle: *(sound effect of knocking on door)* If it’s Peter, it must be his angel! Let’s open the door and see, shall we? *(sound effect of door opening)* It’s Peter! Peter’s here!
- Peter: An angel of the Lord came and set me free!
- Apostle: Herod’s going to have a fit when he finds you gone!
- Peter: I’ll go and lie low for a while...
- Narrator: *(slide 24)* That same year, King Herod Agrippa was giving a speech in Caesarea, when the audience shouted “This is the voice of a god, not man!” Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down and he died.
- (slide 25)* But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.
- Praying together, crossing cultural boundaries, and “clothed with power from on high”, Peter and Friends began to spread the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and on... to the ends of the earth! Here we leave our intrepid pioneers, but tune in for next time to find out what happens to Paul and Friends in... *(slide 26)* “The New Adventures of the Apostles!”