

“Here We Go Again”

Acts 5:12-42

Easter 2015

VIDEO: “We Believe!” (Newsboys)

Intro: Welcome to yet another Easter Celebration...

Here we go again!

Let me ask you a personal question (a theme today...)

Why are you here?

What does “celebrating Easter” mean to you?

What is the real meaning of Easter?

Easter is the revelation of the resurrection!

If you don’t know the “what” & “why” of Good Friday, you can’t possibly know “how” to “celebrate” Easter Sunday!

How does one “celebrate” Easter?

Best behavior, Christian car-wash?

How do YOU celebrate Easter?

Does the Bible shed light on the matter?

ANSWER: The WHOLE Bible speaks to the Purpose, Power, & Person of Easter...

VIDEO: “Easter Hallelujah”

Here We Go Again! (Grace, Gospel, Glory)

- We celebrate Easter’s empty tomb by praising the Lord for Friday’s bloody cross
- Hallelujah means “Praise God”
- We celebrate Easter by PRAISING God!

So when you come here... or spend time with our people, literally PRAISING God (be it Easter, a “normal” Sunday, or any other day that ends with the letter “Y,” you’ll be able to say:

HERE WE GO AGAIN...

T/S: The same truth that you find amongst the true people of God, is what you will find in the truth of the Word of God...

Here We Go Again!

- From cover to cover, Genesis to Revelation, every page of the Bible points to Jesus & the promise of Good Friday's crucifixion & Easter Sunday's resurrection and celebration!
- No matter where you turn... Here We Go Again!

VIDEO: "True & Better"

Sunday = the proof of Christ's power, purpose & passion from Friday

"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" - Matthew 20:18-19

T/S: The story of Christ (the Bible) is the story of the Church (Acts)

*"God has a power-filled people
and a purposed-plan...
together, they are the Church."*

T/S: Again, how are WE to CELEBRATE Easter... While the Bible teaches us the “what” & the “why” of Easter from cover to cover, the N.T. book of Acts really highlights the “how” (by showing us the passionate, & powerfully unified Church in its purest form).

Here We Go Again!

T/S: The people of God are passionately & powerfully unified in their persistent pursuit of the purposes of God, pressing on in the midst of menacing persecution.

REVIEW of ACTS

Ch.1 Here we go again... (Plan, Purpose, Promise/Power)

Ch.2 Here we go again... (Power, Preaching, People)

Ch.3 Here we go again... (Power, Platform, Preaching)

Ch.4 Here we go again... (Persecution, Prosecution, Petition)

Acts ONE: **Purpose, Plan, Promise (of Power)**

vv.1-3:

1In my first book^a I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. 3During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

vv.8-9

8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

Acts TWO: **Power, Proclamation, People** (ekklesia in koinonia)

vv.1-4

1On the day of Pentecost^a all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,^b as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

vv.14ff

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this...

vv.23-24

This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

vv.32-33

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

vv.37-40

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

vv.42-47

42All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals and to prayer.

43A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

45They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts THREE: **Power, Platform, Proclamation**

vv.1-10

6Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

vv.15-16

15You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

v.19, 23-24

19Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord... 23Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.' 24"Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days.

Acts FOUR: **Persecution, Prosecution, Petition**

vv.1-4

1While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. 2These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. 3**They arrested them** and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. 4**But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of believers now totaled about 5,000...**

vv.8, 12-13

8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them... **12****There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.** **13****The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were unschooled, ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.**

vv.18-21

18**So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.** **19**But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? **20**We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” **21**The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God

T/S: ***“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul”*** - Acts 4:32

Acts FIVE: **Passion – Personified, Polarized, & Overpowering**

T/S:

Today's passage – Acts 5:12-42

vv.12-16 Here we go again... **Personified Passion**
(Unifying Power & Passion)

- Worship
- Witness
- Warfare
- Wondrous-Oneness

vv.17-21 Here we go again... **Opposing Passions**

- Polarized People
- Polarized Passions
- Polarized Power
- Polarized Proof

vv.21-42 Here we go again... **Overpowering Passion**

REALITY

H.W.G.A. = **PREPARING for PERSECUTION:** v.21b

Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought.

H.W.G.A. = **MIRACULOUS MYSTERIES vs. MINISTRY** v.22-24

²² *But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back,*

²³ *saying, "We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside."*

H.W.G.A = **PERPLEXING DAMAGE CONTROL vs DENIAL** v.24

²⁴ *Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this.*

***** Reminiscent of:**

- People outside Noah's Ark when the rain came
- Soldiers jeering from Jericho's walls...
- Haman's last look at Mordecai's gallows
- Soldiers near the 3 boy's furnace...
- Prophets of Baal when Elijah's call for fire came
- The Philistine army when Goliath fell dead...

H.W.G.A. = **UNDENIABLE POWER & PASSION:** v.25

²⁵ *But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"*

REACTION

H.W.G.A. = **COWARDICE CONTROL:** v.26

²⁶ *Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).*

H.W.G.A. = **CHALLENGING CONFRONTATIONS:** v.27-28

²⁷ *When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."*

RESPONSE

H.W.G.A. = **FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE!**

²⁹ *But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."*

H.W.G.A. = “**GO... STAND & SPEAK:**” v.29-32 (cf. v.20)

- Faithful Obedience: v.29
- Sovereignty; Crucifixion; Resurrection: v.30
- Christology; Repentance; GOSPEL! v.31
- Witness; Great Commission; Trinity; Spirit-Filled; Grace; Obedience; Lordship: v.32

³⁰ *"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.*

³¹ *"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

³² *"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is **the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.**"*

RATIONALE

H.W.G.A. = **CORRUPT KILLER'S CONVICTIONS:** v.33

³³ *But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.*

UNLIKELY COUNSELOR: v.34-39

³⁴ *But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time.*

³⁵ *And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men.*

³⁶ *"For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.*

³⁷ *"After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered.*

³⁸ *"So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown;*

³⁹ *but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God."*

H.W.G.A. = SUFFER, SPEAK, SEND: v.40

⁴⁰ They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, *they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus*, and *then released them*.

T/S: It should come as no surprise that THE “Suffering Servant” (cf. Isaiah 53) would have suffering servants (especially when you consider that He both predicted & promised as much...

Here We Go Again!

VIDEO: “Forsaken?”

“For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross...” – Heb. 12

H.W.G.A.

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials - 1 Ptr 1:6

RELENTLESS REJOICING

H.W.G.A.

REJOICING, PERSPECTIVE, SUFFERING, LOVE & LOYALTY

⁴¹ *So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, **rejoicing** that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

“Here we GO again!”

“*they*” = ekklesia in koinonia (passionately UNIFIED)

“*kept on*” = Holy Spirit EMPOWERED to PERSEVERE

“*teaching & preaching Jesus*” = “We-BE” bold WITNESSES

“*the Christ*” = Christians CELEBRATE the Christ!

VIDEO: “Grace”

Here We GO! Again

- See the GREAT COMMANDMENTS
- See the GREAT COMMISSION

We “celebrate” Easter by sharing the truth in love of BOTH crucifixion-Friday and resurrection Sunday!

Here we GO! again...

Acts 1:8

“But YOU WILL receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and YOU WILL BE My witnesses... (locally, regionally, and globally).”

NOTE: Here we go again...

**Championing biblical obedience doesn't DEFY-Grace. No.
Championing biblical, faithful obedience DEFENDS-Grace.**

Let's Pray

VIDEO: "The Same Love"

VIDEO: "Change This Heart"

VIDEO: "You Make Beautiful Things"