

## THE CHURCH IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE

*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.*

### Objectives:

- ✠ Identify what was the Church like the apostolic age.
- ✠ Identify how similar the Coptic church of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is to the apostolic church.

### Key verses:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (*Acts 1:8*)

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (*Ephesians 4: 4-6*)

### Lesson Outline:

#### Church then!!!

[CLASS QUESTION: WHAT WAS THE CHURCH LIKE BACK IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE]

The pagan Romans had control over all of North Africa (including Egypt), most of the Middle East all of Western and Southern Europe. The Romans were pagans, and believed in many gods.

At this time, the Romans had control of Jerusalem, but let the Jews practice their religion and to enforce their own religious rules.

When Christ was crucified, the Christians had a reputation of being troublemakers, because that’s how many of the Romans and the Pharisees saw him. But the Romans really didn’t care as long as the Christians didn’t stop people from paying taxes and obeying the Roman Emperors.

The Church started in Jerusalem, but Christianity is not a religion only for the people of Jerusalem or just the Jews. [RE READ THE 1<sup>st</sup> MAIN VERSE]

Many people were baptized. [Read Acts 3:40-41]

They were in trouble all the time, but were fearless. [Read Acts 4:1-4]

Some were killed. [Read Acts 7: 54-60]

## **THE CHURCH IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE**

They made decisions as a WHOLE, and did not just do what they wanted.

[Read Acts 15: 22-29]

### **Church now!!!**

We should be like the early church.

We should preach.

Not fear the authorities or those who threaten us.

Not fear death (we don't have that problem here, but in Moslem countries it's a big problem).

Make decisions as a whole.

Believe the same things they did.

[READ Ephesians 4:4-6]

### **Conclusion:**

The Church that exists today is similar to the one that started after our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and ascended to heaven. Why? Because WE CHRISTIANS have chosen to do that. We should look to the early Christians, the apostles, as the best of examples after our Lord Jesus Christ, and we should not try to do things because it suits today.

God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**Glory is to God, forever. Amen.**