

God's Unstoppable Plan

Acts 1:12-26

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 12th October 2025

1. Prayer is needed (v12-14)

Luke 24v51-53

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Luke 11v13

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

2. The Scriptures are fulfilled (v15-20)

Acts 1v16

Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.

Psalm 69v25

May their place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in their tents.

Psalm 69v25

May their place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in their tents.

Psalm 109v8

May his days be few;
may another take his place of leadership.

Genesis 50v20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

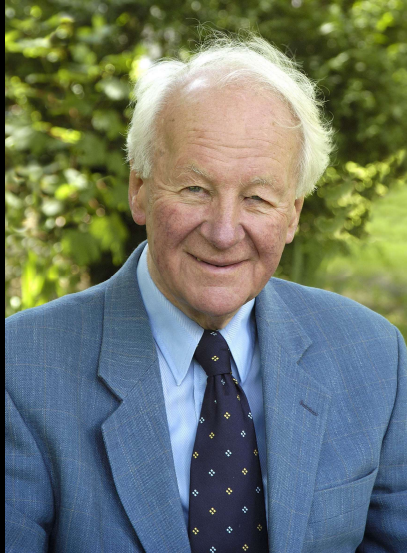
3. The apostles are complete (v21-26)

Proverbs 16v33

The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.

“The stage is now set for the day of Pentecost. The apostles had received Christ’s commission and seen his ascension. The apostolic team is complete again, ready to be his chosen witnesses. Only one thing is missing: the Spirit has not yet come. Though the place left vacant by Judas has been filled by Matthias, the place left vacant by Jesus has not yet been filled by the Spirit...”

“So, we leave Luke’s first chapter of Acts with the 120 waiting in Jerusalem, persevering in prayer with one heart and mind, poised, ready to fulfil Christ’s command just as soon as he has fulfilled his promise.”



John Stott

Acts 10v39-42

³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

2 Peter 1v16

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

1 John 1v1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.