

# NT SURVEY

## Acts – Paul and the Spread of the Church (Part 1)





UNINTENDED



UNINTENDED

CONSEQUENCES



Begins as  
a story of  
UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES



c.33



## Paul and the Spread of the Church

Saul approved of [Stephen's] execution.  
And **there arose on that day a great persecution** against the church in Jerusalem, and **they were all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1)

Begins as  
a story of  
**UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES**



c.33



## Paul and the Spread of the Church

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. (Acts 11:19)

Begins as  
a story of  
UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES



c.33



## Paul and the Spread of the Church



Begins as  
a story of  
UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES



c.33



## Paul and the Spread of the Church

Begins as  
a story of  
UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES



c.33

# Today we study Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Paul and the Spread of the Church

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



**Paul never forgot:**

You have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it...

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



**Paul never forgot:**

...advancing in zeal beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers (Gal. 1:13-14).

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

**ENRAGED!**



# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

**ENRAGED!**

**GROUND THEIR TEETH**

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

**ENRAGED!**

**GROUND THEIR TEETH**

**Cried out and STOPPED their EARS**

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

Acts 9:56-60

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul's Motives:

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Paul's Motives:

Paul linked his persecuting to his zeal as a Pharisee

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Paul's Motives:

Paul linked his persecuting to his zeal as a Pharisee

Phil. 3:5-6 Acts 22:3-4; 23:6 Gal. 1:14

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Paul's Motives:

Pharisees and the Hasidim



In those days there appeared in Israel men who were breakers of the law, and they seduced many people, saying: 'Let us go and make an alliance with the Gentiles all around us.... Some from among the people promptly went to the king, and he authorized them to introduce the way of living of the Gentiles. Thereupon they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem according to the Gentile custom. They covered over the mark of their circumcision and abandoned the holy covenant (1 Maccabees 1:11-15)



# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Paul's Motives:

Pharisees and the Hasidim

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Paul's Motives:

Pharisees and the Hasidim

Paul saw himself protecting the  
true Jewish faith

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Why stone Stephen?

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Why stone Stephen?

Dt. 17:2-7 - If there is found among you, a man or woman who...has gone and served other gods and worshipped them...and it is told you and you hear of it...

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Why stone Stephen?

then you shall inquire diligently, and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in Israel, then ...

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Why stone Stephen?

you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones.

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Why stone Stephen?

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Why stone Stephen?

To worship Jesus as Messiah was an offense that demanded stoning under the Law of Moses –



# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Why stone Stephen?

To worship Jesus as Messiah was an offense that demanded stoning under the Law of Moses – unless, of course, **Jesus actually was Messiah**

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Why stone Stephen?

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



## Why stone Stephen?

“a hanged man is cursed by God”

Dt. 21:23

# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

---

What do the following  
pictures have in common?



Paolo  
Uccello -  
Stoning of  
St. Stephen  
c. 1397



Rembrandt –  
The Stoning of  
St. Stephen  
1625



Fra Angelico -  
The stoning of  
Stephen 1449

# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

---

What do the following  
pictures have in common?



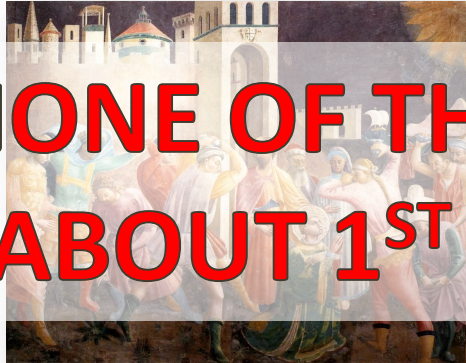
# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

What do the following pictures have in common?



# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

What do the following pictures have in common?

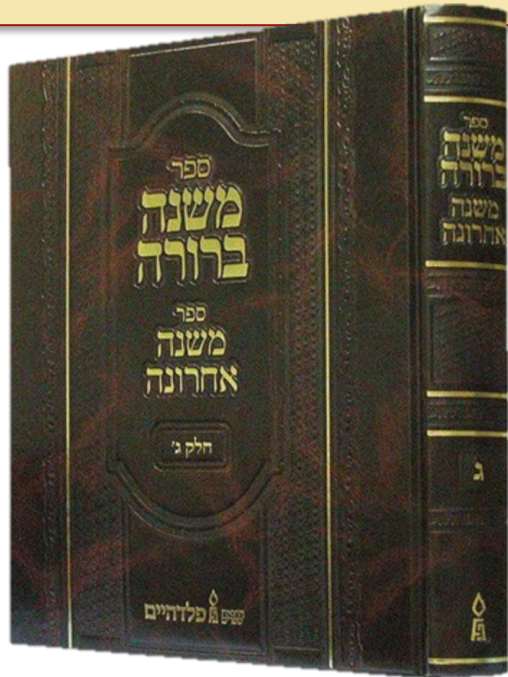


**NONE OF THE ARTISTS KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY JEWISH STONING**

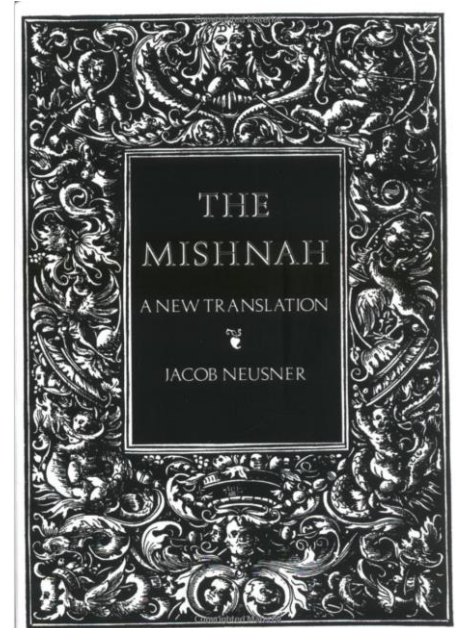
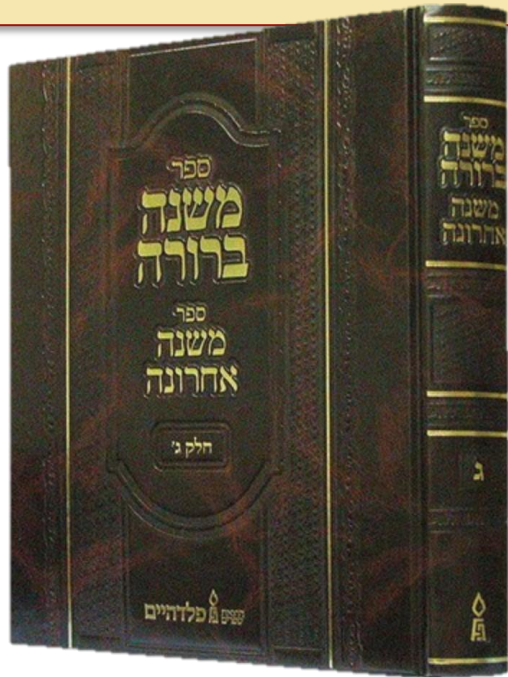
# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

---

# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

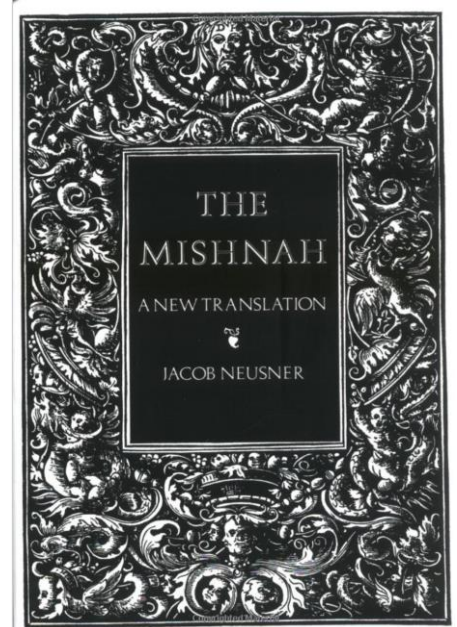


# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen



# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

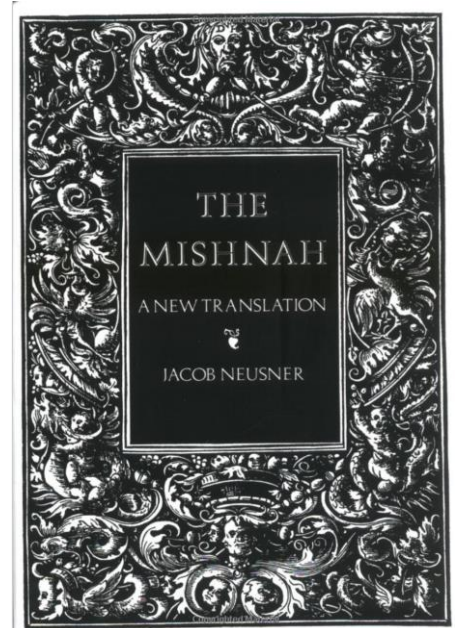
Rules:



# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

## Rules:

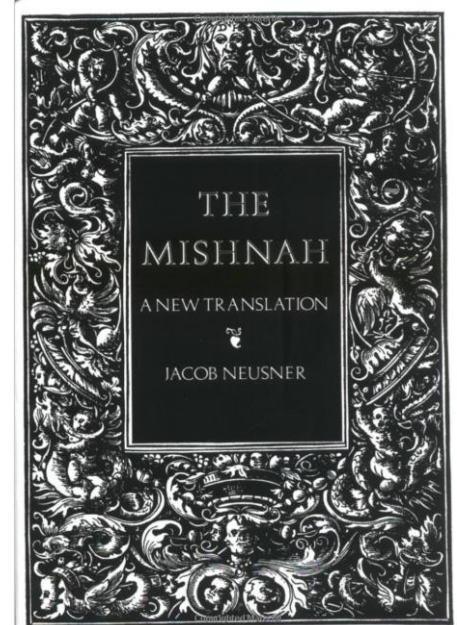
- The place of stoning is well outside the court



# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

## Rules:

- The place of stoning is well outside the court
- At the place of stoning, if the convicted party says, “I have something to say in favor of my own acquittal,” the Jews must “bring him back” to the court

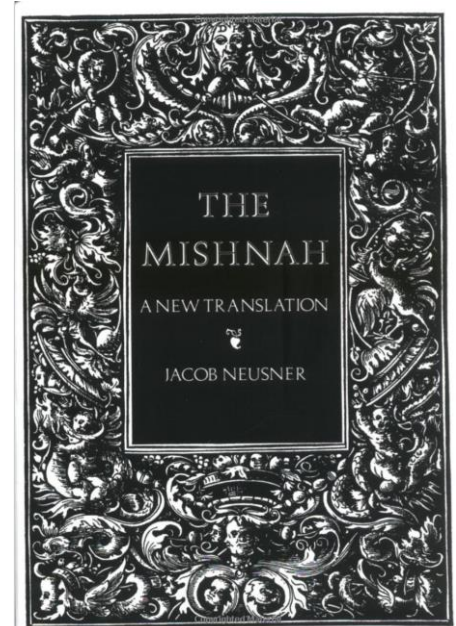




# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

## Rules:

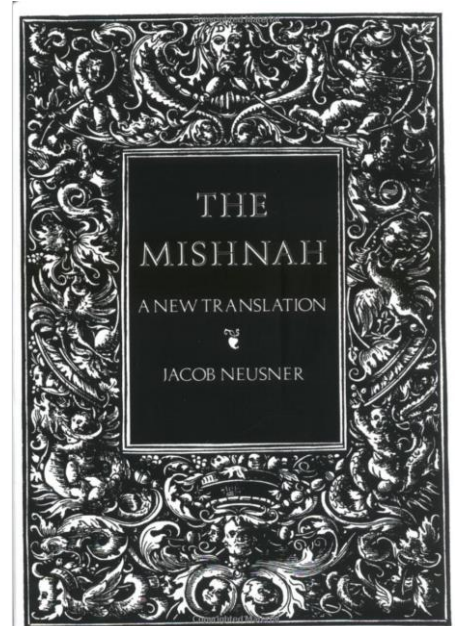
- When the convicted was ten cubits [about 15 feet] from the place of stoning, they say to him, “Confess.” The words are provided in the *Mishna*: May my death be an atonement for all my sins.



# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

## Rules:

- They push the convicted from a cliff, drop a stone on his heart, continue until he is buried under stones.



# Stoning of Stephen

---

# What happened in the Stoning of Stephen

---

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen

---



# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

# Paul the Persecutor and the Stoning of Stephen



Paul never forgot:

Last of all, as to **one untimely born**, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, **unworthy** to be called an apostle, **because I persecuted the church** of God. (1 Cor. 15:8-9)

Begins as  
a story of  
UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES



c.33

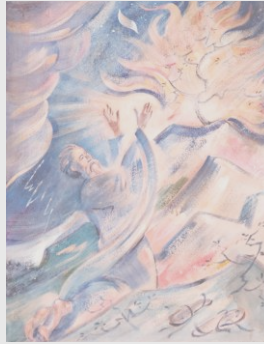
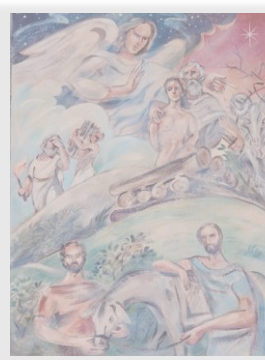
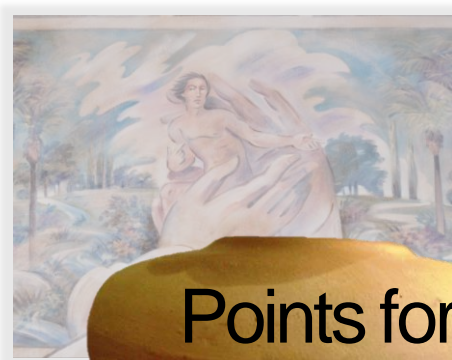


## Paul and the Spread of the Church





# Points for Home





Points for  
Home

*“Here is a trustworthy saying  
that deserves full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world  
to save sinners—of whom I am  
the worst”  
(1 Tim. 1:15)*



Points for  
Home

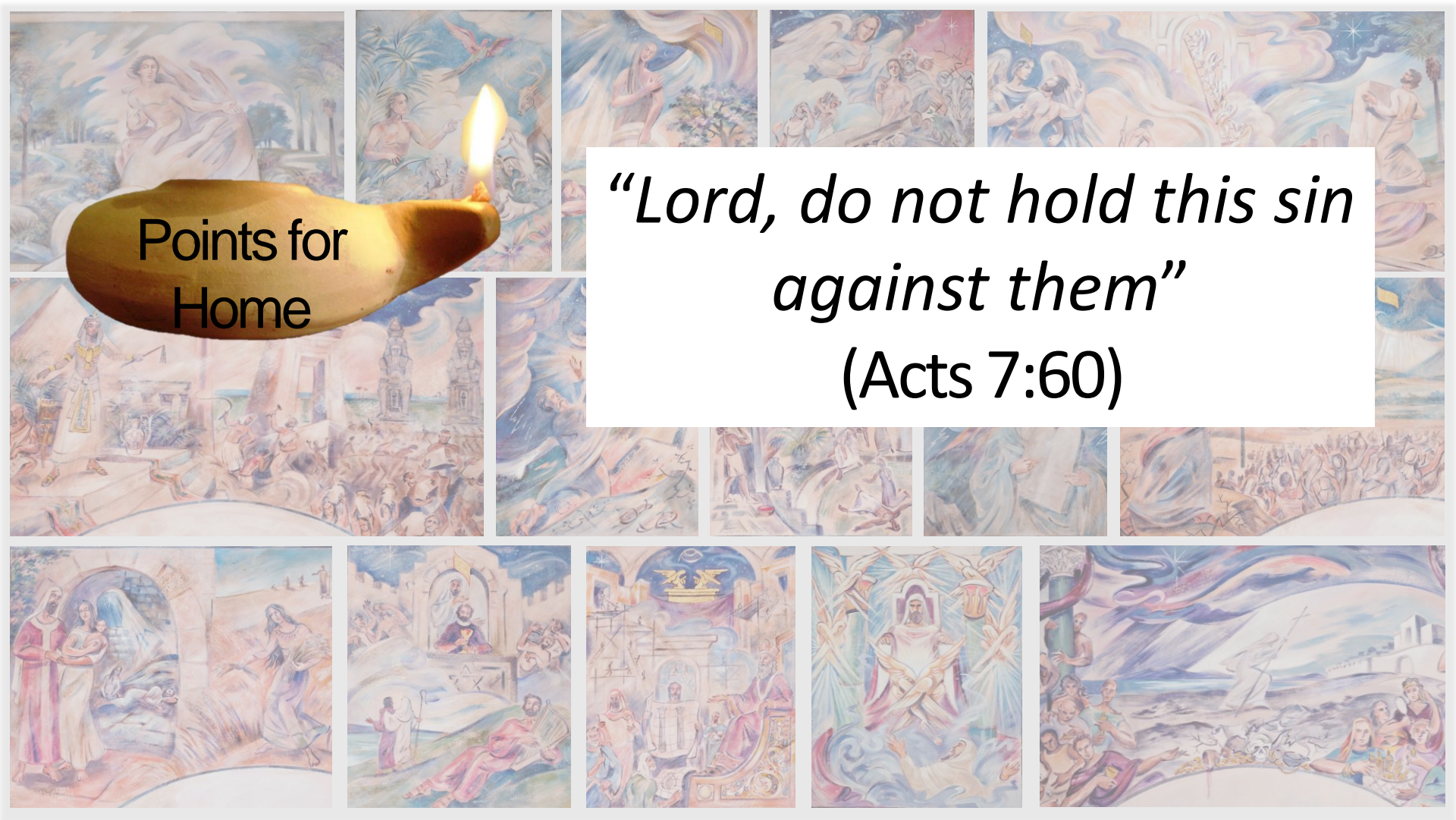
*“Here is a trustworthy saying  
that deserves full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world  
to save sinners—of whom I am  
the worst”  
(1 Tim. 1:15)*

**Let us NEVER think that our worst is too  
much for God’s best!**



Points for  
Home

*“Lord, do not hold this sin  
against them”  
(Acts 7:60)*





Points for  
Home

*“Lord, do not hold this sin  
against them”*  
(Acts 7:60)

**Attitude check:  
Toward God and others!**



Points for  
Home

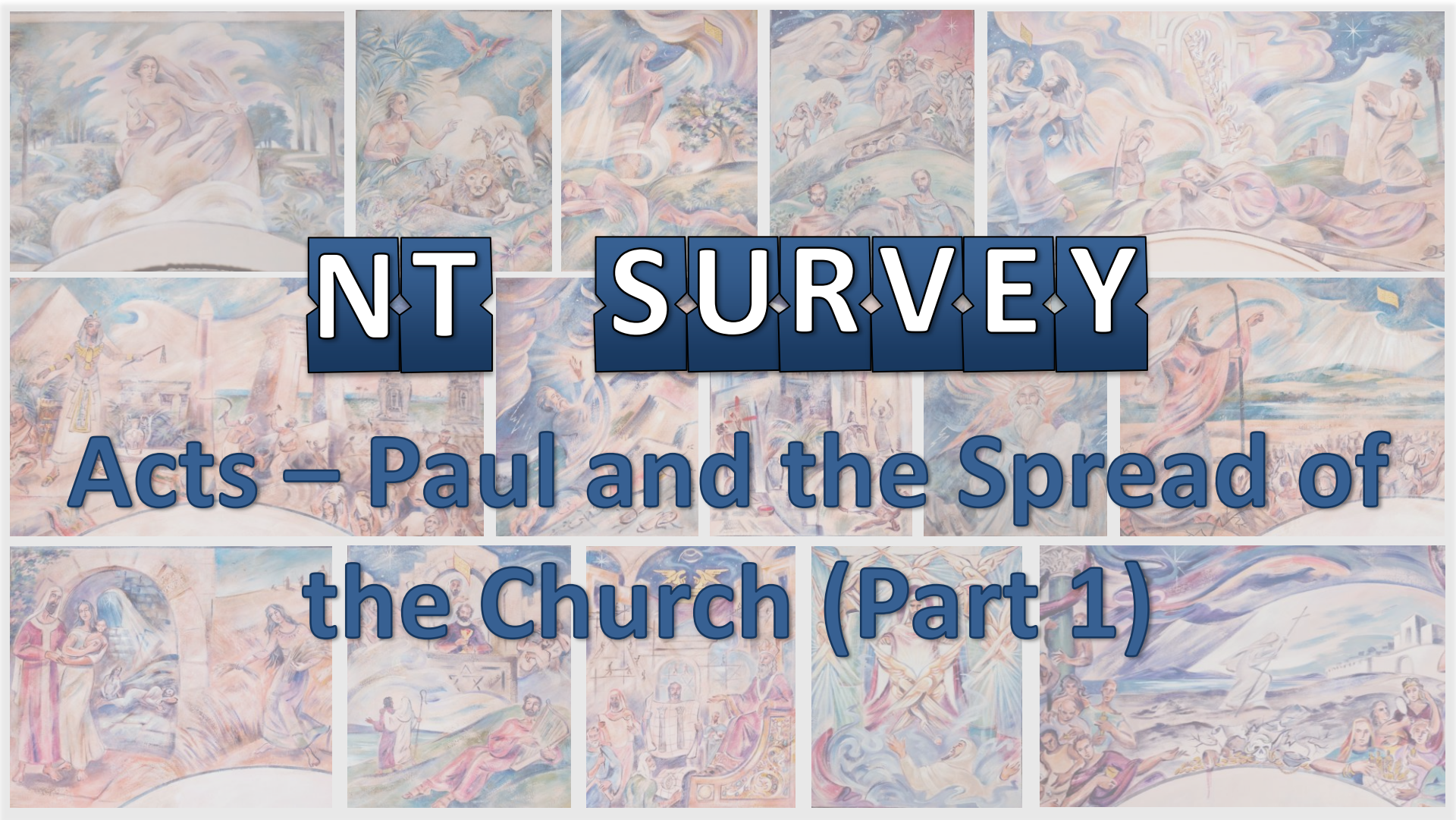
*“I am the least of the  
apostles, unworthy to be  
called an apostle”  
(1 Cor. 15:9)*



Points for  
Home

*“I am the least of the  
apostles, unworthy to be  
called an apostle”  
(1 Cor. 15:9)*

**I am moved by Paul's humility!**



# NT SURVEY

## Acts – Paul and the Spread of the Church (Part 1)