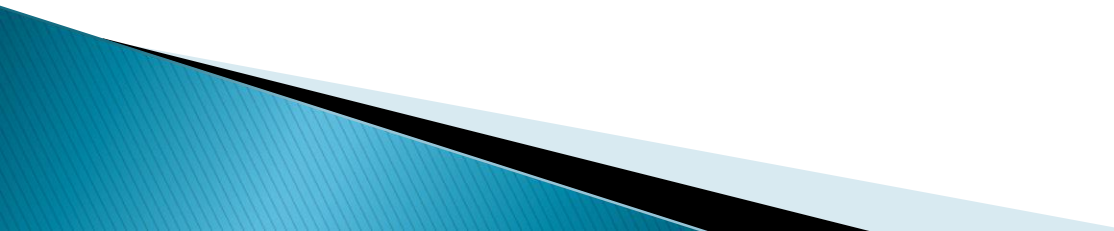



# THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH (1)

From Jerusalem...

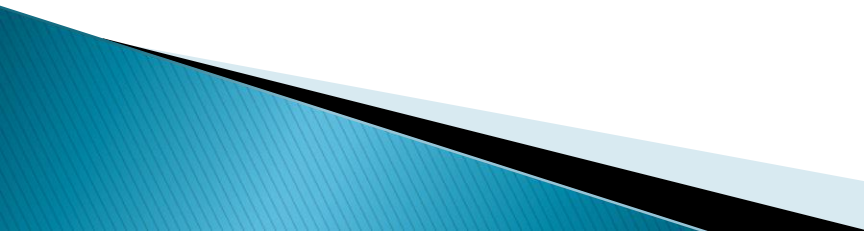


- ▶ *“...beginning at Jerusalem...you are my witnesses.” (Luke 24:47–48)*
  - ▶ *“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria...” (Acts 1: 8)*
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# Yahweh tells Israel:

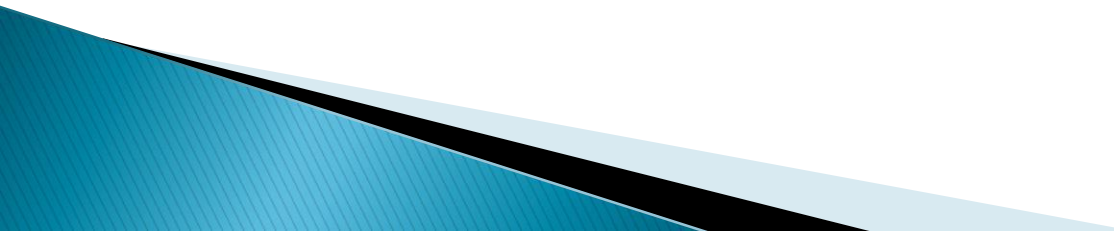
- ▶ *“You are my witnesses...and my servant whom I have chosen...” (Isaiah 43:10)*
  - ▶ *“You are my witnesses...that I am God (43:12)*
  - ▶ *“You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?” (44:8)*
- 

# The Lord Jesus tells his disciples:

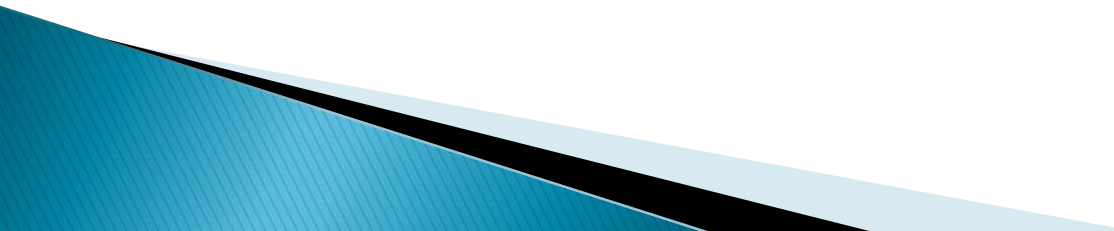
- ▶ *“You are my witnesses...”*
  - ❖ Not to the wisdom of the Law
  - ❖ But to the power of the Spirit
- 

- ▶ *“They overcame him (the Dragon) with the blood of the Lamb and the word of their witness.”  
(Revelation 12:11)*

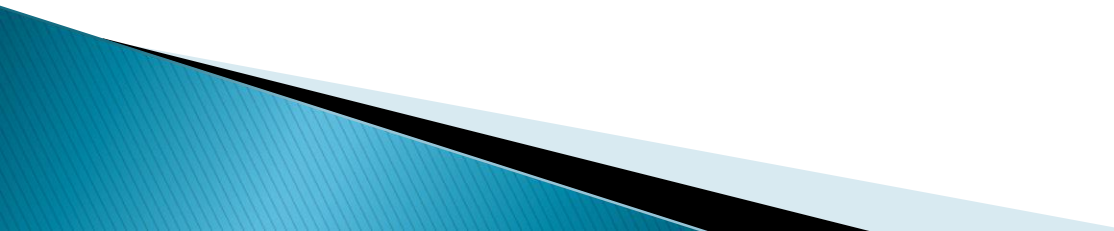
# Being witnesses:

- ▶ By the proclamation of the **Message about Jesus**
  - ▶ By demonstrating a **Model of the Kingdom**
  - ▶ ...first in Jerusalem
- 

# The Message (*Acts 2:32,36,38*):

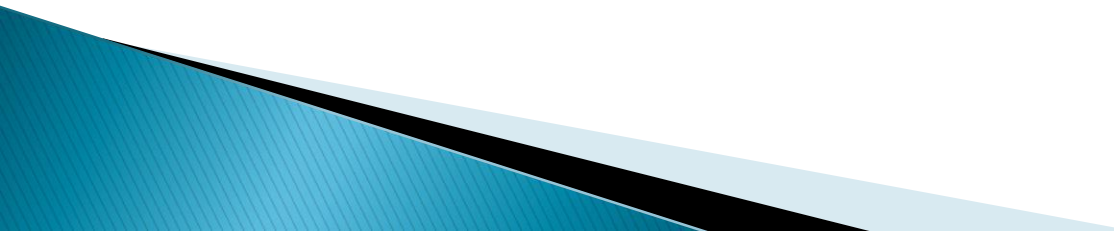
- ▶ Jesus has passed through death and begun a new way of living
  - ▶ God has made Jesus Lord (Ruler) and Christ (Deliverer)
  - ▶ Jesus brings about forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit
- 

# The Model (*Acts 2:42-47*):

- ▶ Dedication to teaching, shared life, prayer and worship
  - ▶ Apostolic ministry with signs and wonders
  - ▶ Mutual care
- 



# The Model (*Acts 2:42-47*):

- ▶ Rhythm of meeting in homes and large gathering
  - ▶ Effective engagement with the surrounding community
  - ▶ Growth of the believing community
- 

- ▶ Then in Judea, Samaria and the coastlands:
- ▶ *Acts 8:4–8 “heard and saw...”*
- ▶ *Acts 9:36 a disciple demonstrating the love of God*
- ▶ *Acts 10:39–46 “even on the .....*