

ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS

Chapter 1

1 I wrote the former book, oh Theophilus, concerning all those [things] that our Lord Jesus Christ began to do and to teach,

2 until that day in which he was taken up, ~~after~~ he had commanded the apostles, those whom he had chosen by the Holy Spirit,

3 those to whom he also showed himself alive ~~after~~ he had suffered with many signs for forty days, while he was seen by them and spoke about the kingdom of God.

4 And as he ate bread with them, he commanded them that they should not leave Jerusalem, but that they should wait for the promise of the Father, [about] which ^e[he said], “You have heard from me.

5 For John baptized with water, yet you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit ~~after~~ not many days.”

6 Now while they were assembled, they asked him and said to him, “Our Lord, at this time will you restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them, “This is not yours to know the ^{sy}time or these ^{sy}times that the Father has placed in his own authority.

8 But when the Holy Spirit will come on you, you will receive power ^pand you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and also among the Samaritans, ^γ even to the ends of the earth.” ^γ

9 And ~~after~~ he said these [things], while they watched him, he was taken up and a cloud received him and he was hidden from their ^meyes.

10 And while they were staring into heaven as he was going away, two men were found standing near them in white clothing.

11 And they said to them, “Galilean men, why are you standing and staring into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up¹ from you into heaven, will come in the same manner as you have seen him who went up to heaven.”

12 And afterwards, they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain that is called the Mount² of Olives, which was near Jerusalem and distant from it about seven furlongs.³

13 And ~~after~~ they entered, they went up to an upper room, in which Peter ^pand John and James and Andrew and Philip and Thomas and Matthew and Bartholomew and James, the son of Alphaeus, and Simon, the zealot, and Judas, the son of James ^γ were staying.

¹ Repeat *was taken up* from v. 9

² Lit: house

³ Culture: seven furlongs is .875 miles, or 1.4 km, see Appendix 2.

ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS

Chapter 1

14 All of these as one were steadfast in prayer with one soul with the women ^pand with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with ¹his brothers.

15 And among them in those days, Simon Peter stood up in the middle of the disciples ^{ba}(now there was a gathering there of about one hundred and twenty men) and he said,

16 “Men, our brothers, it was right that the scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the ^mmouth of David, about Judas who was a guide to those who arrested Jesus,

17 because he was numbered with us and ~~he had~~ a portion in this ministry.

18 This is he who acquired a field for himself from the wage of sin and fell on his face on the ground and burst from his middle and all his insides poured out.

19 And this was known to all who lived in Jerusalem and so that field was called in the language of the country, “Akeldama,” which [by] interpretation is, “Field of Blood.”²

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms: **LET HIS HABITATION BE DESOLATE and LET NO ONE BE A DWELLER³ IN IT AND LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS MINISTRY.**

21 It is right, therefore, for one of these men who were with us during this whole time in which our Lord Jesus entered and went out among us,

22 who began from the baptism of John until the day that he was taken up from [being] with us, to be a witness of his resurrection with us.”

23 And they caused two to stand,⁴ Joseph, who was called Barsabas, who was named Justus, and Matthias.

24 And when they prayed, they said, “LORD, you know what is in the hearts of all. Reveal the one whom you have chosen of these two,

25 that he should receive a portion of the ^{he}ministry and apostleship from which Judas left to go to his place.

26 And they cast lots and it fell on Matthias and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

¹ Repeat *with*, 4x

² Culture: strangling in the East was accomplished as this verse describes, cf. Matt 27:3-10. For further study, see Wilcox, *The Semitisms of Acts*, pp. 87-88.

³ Same root: *habitation, dweller*

⁴ Or “proposed two”

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 2

1 And when the days of Pentecost were fulfilled as all were assembled together,

2 suddenly there was a sound from heaven ^sas a powerful wind and the whole house in which they were sitting was filled with it.

3 And tongues that were divided appeared to them ^sas fire and sat on each one of them.

4 And all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them to speak.

5 And there were men who were living in Jerusalem who feared God, Judeans from all the nations that are ^{pr}under heaven.

6 And when that sound occurred, all the people gathered and were troubled, because each one of them heard that they were speaking in their [own] languages.

7 And all of them were amazed and wondered, saying to each other, "All these who are speaking, *behold, are they not Galileans?

8 How do **we** each hear the language into which we were born?

9 Parthians ^pand Medes and Elamites, and those who dwell in Mesopotamia, Judeans and Cappadocians and those from the region of Pontus and of Asia,

10 and those from the region of Phrygia and of Pamphylia and of Egypt and of the regions of Libya that are near to Cyrene, and those who have come from Rome, Judeans and proselytes,

11 and those from Crete, and Arabians,^γ *behold, we hear them, that they are speaking in our languages the wonders of God."

12 And all of them were amazed and wondered,¹ saying to one another, "What is this event?"

13 And others were mocking them, saying, "These [men] have drunk new wine and are intoxicated."

14 Afterward, Simon Peter stood up with the eleven apostles and ^{pr}raised his voice and said to them, "Men, Judeans, and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and listen to my words.

15 For these [men] are not intoxicated, as you suppose, for *behold, it is still only the third hour.²

¹ Same root: *wonders* (v. 11), *wondered*

² Culture: on the feast days, they drank and ate nothing until noon, Freeman, pp. 440-441 (quote from Lightfoot).

ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS

Chapter 2

16 But this is that which was spoken by Joel the prophet:

17 **IT WILL BE IN THE LAST DAYS, said God, [THAT] I WILL ^cPOUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL ^{sy}FLESH. YOUR SONS WILL PROPHECY ^pAND YOUR DAUGHTERS AND YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS.¹**

18 **AND ON MY SERVANTS AND ON² MY HANDMAIDENS I WILL ^cPOUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS AND THEY WILL PROPHECY.**

19 **AND I WILL GIVE SIGNS IN HEAVEN AND MIGHTY WORKS ON THE EARTH, BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.**

20 **THE SUN WILL BE TURNED TO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD BEFORE THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE ^{sy}DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME.**

21 **AND IT WILL BE [THAT] EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL LIVE.γ**

22 Men, sons of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene, a man who was shown to you by God with miracles ^pand with signs and with³ mighty worksγ that God did among you by his ^mhand, as **you** know,

23 this [man], who was set apart for this by the foreknowledge and will of God, you delivered into the hands of ungodly [men] and you crucified and you killed.

24 But God raised him and released the cords⁴ of SHEOL, because it was not possible that he should be held captive in SHEOL.

25 For David spoke about him, **I FORESAW MY LORD AT ALL TIMES, FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE MOVED.**

26 **BECAUSE OF THIS, MY HEART REJOICES AND MY PRAISE FLOURISHES AND ALSO MY BODY WILL LIE DOWN IN HOPE,**

27 **BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN SHEOL, NEITHER WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR INNOCENT [ONE] TO SEE CORRUPTION.**

28 **YOU HAVE REVEALED TO ME THE WAY OF LIFE. YOU WILL FILL ME WITH GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.**

29 Men, our brothers, allow [me] to speak **boldly** with you about the patriarch David, who is dead and also buried and whose tomb is with us until today.

¹ Same roots: *see, visions, and dream, dreams*

² Repeat *and on*

³ Repeat *with*

⁴ *Cords* is homonym with “birth pangs” in Aramaic.

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 2

30 For he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn oaths to him:
**OF THE ^mFRUIT OF YOUR LOINS I WILL ESTABLISH ^e[ONE] ON YOUR
THRONE.¹**

31 And he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of Christ: **HE WAS
NOT LEFT IN SHEOL, NEITHER DID HIS BODY SEE CORRUPTION.**

32 This Jesus has God raised and all of us are his witnesses.

33 And this is he who is elevated at the right hand of God and received
from the Father the promise concerning the Holy Spirit. And he has
^cpoured out this gift that *behold, you see and you hear.

34 For David did not ascend into heaven, because he said, **THE LORD
SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND**

**35 UNTIL I PLACE YOUR ENEMIES [AS] A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR
FEET.**

36 Therefore, all the house of Israel should truly know that God has
made this Jesus, whom you crucified, LORD and Christ.”

37 And when they heard these [things], they were moved in their
heart[s] and said to Simon and to the rest of the apostles, “What should
we do, our brothers?”

38 Simon said to them, “Repent and be baptized, each one of you, in
the name of the LORD Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, so that you will
receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is to you ^pand to your children and to² all those
who are far away,^γ those whom God will call.”

40 And with many other words he testified to them and begged them,
saying, “Live apart from this perverse generation.”

41 And some of them willingly received his word and believed and
were baptized. And there were added in that day about three thousand
people.

42 And they were steadfast in the teaching of the apostles and were
fellowshipping in prayer and in the breaking [of the bread] of
communion.

43 And fear was to every person and many signs and mighty works
occurred by way of the apostles in Jerusalem.

¹ Word play: *loins*, **karsakh** ܟܪܫܟܐ, *your throne*, **kursaikh** ܟܪܫܐܝܟܐ. Ellipsis
could be [a king].

² Repeat *and to*, polysyndeton extends through v. 47.

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 2

44 And all those who had believed were as one and everything that they had was held in common.

45 And those who had wealth sold it and distributed to each one according to whatever was needed.

46 And every day they were steadfast in the temple with one soul and at home they were breaking bread and were receiving food, rejoicing. And in the simplicity of their heart[s]

47 they were praising God, while giving mercies before all the people. And our Lord added every day those who were being given life in the church.

Chapter 3

1 And it happened that while Simon Peter and John were going up together to the temple at the time of prayer at the ninth hour,

2 and *behold, men were carrying a certain man who was lame from the womb of his mother. These [were men] who were accustomed to bringing and laying him at the gate of the temple, which was called Beautiful, so that he could ask alms from those who were entering the temple.

3 This [man], when he saw Simon and John entering the temple, begged them to give him alms.

4 And Simon and John looked at him and said to him, "Look at us."

5 And **he** looked¹ at them, expecting to receive something from them.

6 Simon said to him, "I have no gold and silver,² but what I have I will give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up [and] walk."

7 And he took him by his right hand and raised him up. And immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

8 And he leaped up [and] stood and walked and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

¹ Repeat *looked, look* (v. 4)

² Culture: it was unlawful by rabbinical teaching to carry a purse into the temple, Bullinger, *Companion Bible*, p. 1582. *Gold and silver* could be metonymy, standing for "money" in general.

ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS

Chapter 3

10 And they recognized that he was that beggar who sat every day and asked alms at the gate that was called Beautiful. And they were filled with ^{he}amazement and wonder at what had happened.

11 And while he held Simon and John, all the people, being amazed, ran to them, to the porch that was called Solomon's ^e[Porch].

12 And when Simon saw [it], he answered and said to them, "Men, sons of Israel, why do you wonder at this [man]? Or why do you look at us as if by our own power or by our authority we did this, so that this [man] would walk?¹

13 The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Son Jesus, whom **you** delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, after he had thought it right to let him go.

14 But **you** denied the Holy and Just [one]² and requested that a murderer³ should be given to you.

15 And you killed that Prince of Life, whom God raised from the dead. And we all are his witnesses.

16 And by the faith of his name he has strengthened and healed this [man], whom you see and know, and faith that is in him has given him this wholeness before all of you.

17 But now, our brothers, I know that through ignorance you did this, as did your leaders.

18 And God, according to what he preached beforehand by the ^mmouth of all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer, has fulfilled [it] in this manner.

19 Repent, therefore, and be converted, so that your sins will be blotted out and ^{sy}times of rest will come to you from the presence of the LORD.

20 And he will send to you him who was prepared for you, Jesus Christ,

21 whom it is required for ^mheaven to retain, until the fullness of the times of all those [things] that God spoke by the ^mmouth of his holy prophets of old.

¹ Fig: erotesis – question to ponder

² Fig: antonomasia, description given for a name, also for *Prince of Life*, v. 15

³ Lit: murdering man

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 3

22 For Moses said: **THE LORD WILL RAISE UP A PROPHET FOR YOU FROM YOUR BROTHERS LIKE ME. HEAR HIM IN WHATEVER HE SPEAKS TO YOU.**

23 **AND IT WILL BE [THAT] EVERY PERSON THAT DOES NOT HEAR THAT PROPHET, THAT PERSON¹ WILL PERISH FROM HIS PEOPLE.**

24 And all the prophets from Samuel and those who were after him spoke and preached about those days.

25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God established with our fathers, when he said to Abraham: **IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED.**

26 He has first appointed to you and God has sent his Son to bless you, if you will be converted and repent from your evil [ways].²

Chapter 4

1 And while they were speaking these words to the people, the priests and the Sadducees and the rulers of the temple stood up against them,

2 being furious at them that they taught the people and preached about Christ concerning the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they seized them and kept them for the next day, because evening was drawing near.

4 And many who heard the word believed. And there were about five thousand men in number.

5 And on the next day, the rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together,

6 and also Annas, the high priest, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander and those who were of the family of the chief priests.

7 And after they had placed them in the middle, they asked them, "By what power or in what³ name have you done this?"

8 Then Simon Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of the house of Israel, hear [me].

9 If today **we** are judged by you concerning the good [thing] that happened to the sick man, by what [means] this [man] was healed,

10 let this be known to you and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom **you** crucified, whom God

¹ Repeat *person*, lit: soul

² Lit: evils

³ Repeat *by what*, same as *in what*

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 4

raised from the dead, by that same [one], *behold, this [man] stands before you whole.

11 This is **THE STONE THAT YOU BUILDERS REJECTED AND HE HAS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER.**

12 And there is no deliverance by another man, for there is no other name ^{pr}under heaven that is given to men by which it is possible to have life.”

13 And when they heard the word of Simon and of John that they spoke boldly, they perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant. And they marveled at them and recognized that they had associated with Jesus.

14 And they saw the lame [man], who had been healed, standing with them and they were not able to say anything against them.

15 Then they commanded that they should remove them from their assembly. And they were saying to each other,

16 “What should we do to these men? For *behold, a visible sign that has happened by their hands is known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and we are not able to deny [it].

17 But so that this rumor does not spread any more among the people, we should threaten them that they should not speak again to anyone among men in this name.”

18 And they called them and commanded them that they should absolutely not speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

19 Simon Peter and John answered and said to them, “You judge if it is right before God that we should obey you more than God.

20 For we are not able not to speak what we have seen and heard.”

21 And they threatened them and released them, for they did not find a cause for which to punish them¹ because of the people, for everyone was glorifying God for what had happened.

22 For that man, on whom this sign of healing happened, was more than forty years old.

23 And when they were released, they went to their brothers and told them all that the priests and elders had said.

24 And when they heard [it], they raised their voice as one to God and said, “LORD, you are God, who made the heaven ^pand earth and seas and everything that is in them.7

¹ Lit: a cause to place on their head

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 4

25 And it is you who spoke by way of the Holy Spirit by the ^mmouth of David your servant: **WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE AND THE PEOPLE CONSIDER VANITY?**

26 **THE KINGS OF THE EARTH AND THE RULERS HAVE RISEN UP AND HAVE DELIBERATED AS ONE AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS MESSIAH.**

27 For truly Herod and Pilate with the Gentiles and the congregation of Israel were gathered together in this city against the Holy [one], your Son, Jesus, whom **you** anointed,

28 to do everything that your ^mhand and your will **foreordained** to be ^e[done].

29 And also now, LORD, look and see their threats and allow your servants to **boldly** preach your word,

30 while you extend your ^mhand for healings and mighty works and signs to be ^e[done] in the name of your holy Son, Jesus.”

31 And after they had prayed and made [this] request, the place in which they were gathered was shaken and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and were **boldly** speaking the word of God.

32 And the assembly of men who believed had one soul and one mind and not one of them said concerning the possessions that he owned that they were his, but everything that **they had** was held in common.

33 And with great power the apostles witnessed about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and great grace was with all of them.

34 And **there was no one** among them who was lacking, for those who owned fields and houses sold [them] ^pand brought the price of what was sold

35 and placed [it] at the feet of the apostles and it was given to **each one** according to what he needed. 7

36 And Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles, which is interpreted, “son of comfort,” a Levite from the region of Cyprus,

37 **had** a field. And he sold it and brought its price and placed [it] before the feet of the apostles.

Chapter 5

1 And a certain man whose name was Ananias, with his wife, whose name was Sapphira, sold his field

ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS

Chapter 5

2 and took [some] of its price and hid [it], his wife being aware of it. And he brought a part of the money and placed [it] before the feet of the apostles.

3 And Simon said to him, Ananias, why is it that SATAN has so filled your heart that you should lie to the Holy Spirit and hide some of the money of the sale of the field?

4 Was it not yours before it was sold? And after it was sold, again **you** were in control of its sale. Why have you decided in your heart to do this thing?¹ You have not lied to ~~men~~, but to God.

5 And when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And there was great fear among all those who heard.

6 And those who were young among them rose up and gathered him up and took [and] buried him.

7 And ~~after~~ three hours had passed, his wife also entered, not knowing what had happened.

8 Simon said to her, “Tell me if you sold the field for this sale price?” And **she** said, “Yes, for this sale price.”

9 Simon said to her, “Because you have agreed to tempt the Spirit of the LORD, behold, the feet of the grave diggers of your husband [are] at the door and they will take you out.”

10 And ~~immediately~~, she fell before their feet and died. And those young men entered and found her dead. And they gathered [her] up, took [and] buried her by the side of her husband.

11 And there was great fear in all the church and among all those who heard.

12 And ~~by way of~~ the apostles many signs and mighty works occurred among the people. And they were all assembled together in Solomon’s Porch.

13 And of other men, no one dared to come near to them, but the people magnified them.

14 And more were added who believed in the LORD, a crowd of men and of women,

15 so that they brought out the sick into the streets, lying on pallets, that when Simon should come by, at least his shadow would cover them.

¹ Fig: erotesis – questions to ponder

**ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS**

Chapter 5

16 And many came to them from other cities that were around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those who had unclean spirits and all of them were healed.

17 And the high priest and all who were with him who were of the teaching of the Sadducees were filled with envy.

18 And they seized the apostles and arrested [and] bound them [in] prison.

19 Then, during the night, an angel of the LORD opened the door of the prison and took them out and said to them,

20 “Go! Stand in the temple and speak to the people all these words of life.”

21 And they went out at daybreak¹ and entered the temple and were teaching. And the high priest and those who were with him called for their companions and the elders of Israel and sent to the prison to bring out the apostles.

22 And when those who had been sent by them went, they could not find them [in] prison, and they turned [and] came [back],

23 saying, “We found the prison that was securely closed, and also the guards who were standing at the doors. And we opened [them], yet we did not find anyone there.”

24 And when the chief priests and rulers of the temple heard these words, they were amazed at them and were reasoning, “What is this?”

25 Then a man came [and] told them, “Those men that you confined [in] prison, *behold, they are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”

26 Then the rulers with the guards went to have them brought, [but] not with violence, for they feared lest the people would stone them.

27 And when they had brought them, they caused them to stand them before all the assembly and the high priest began to speak to them.

28 “Did we not particularly command² you that you should not teach anyone in this name? Now *behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. And you want to bring the blood of this man on us.”

29 Simon answered with the apostles and said to them, “It is right to be persuaded by God, more than by men.

¹ Lit: at the moment of dawn

² Fig: polyptoton, lit: commanding, we commanded; fig: erotesis, “not” question, answer in the affirmative.

ARAMAIC PESHITTA NEW TESTAMENT
ACTS

Chapter 5

30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom **you** killed when you hung him on the ^{eu}tree.

31 God has established this [man as] a leader and savior and has elevated him by his right hand to give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

32 And **we** are witnesses of these words and [so] is the Holy Spirit that God gives to those who believe in him.”

33 And when they heard these words, they were inflamed with anger and planned to kill them.

34 And one of the Pharisees stood up, whose name was Gamaliel, a teacher of the law and honored by all the people. And he commanded that they should take the apostles outside [for] a short time.

35 And he said to them, “Men, sons of Israel, take precaution among yourselves and look at what you ought to do about these men.

36 For before this time, Theudas rose up and said about himself that he was someone great. And about four hundred men followed him. And he was killed and those who followed him were scattered and became as nothing.

37 And Judas the Galilean rose up after him in the days that men were registered for the poll tax and caused many people to turn after him. And he died and all those who followed him were scattered.

38 And now *I say to you, ‘Separate yourselves from these men and leave them alone,’ for if this thought and this work is of men they will be dismissed and pass away.

39 But if it is from God, you are not able to stop it with your ^mhands, lest you should be found standing against God.”

40 ^PAnd they were persuaded by him. And they called the apostles and beat them and commanded them that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and released them.

41 And they left their presence, rejoicing that they were worthy to be despised because of the name.

42 And they did not cease to teach every day in the temple and at home and to preach about our Lord Jesus Christ.⌋

Chapter 6

1 And in those days as the disciples multiplied, the Greek disciples were murmuring against the Hebrews that their widows were neglected in the daily service.