



# Acts.

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# Acts as a Bridge

FROM



TO

- + Life of Jesus with Disciples
- + New Testament Gospels giving us life and teaching of Jesus
- + Birth & infancy of the church
- + Apostolic leaders planting churches
- + Upper Room in Jerusalem
- + Jewish believers in Jerusalem
- + Life of Spirit through Disciples
- + New Testament Epistles giving us doctrine and practice of Church
- + Growing & maturing of the church
- + Local elders leading churches
- + Caesar's palace in Rome
- + Jewish & Gentile believers around world

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→ **LOCAL**

Acts 1-6

→ **REGIONAL**

Acts 6-9

→ **GLOBAL**

Acts 10-28

“But 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, **and** to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 NIV

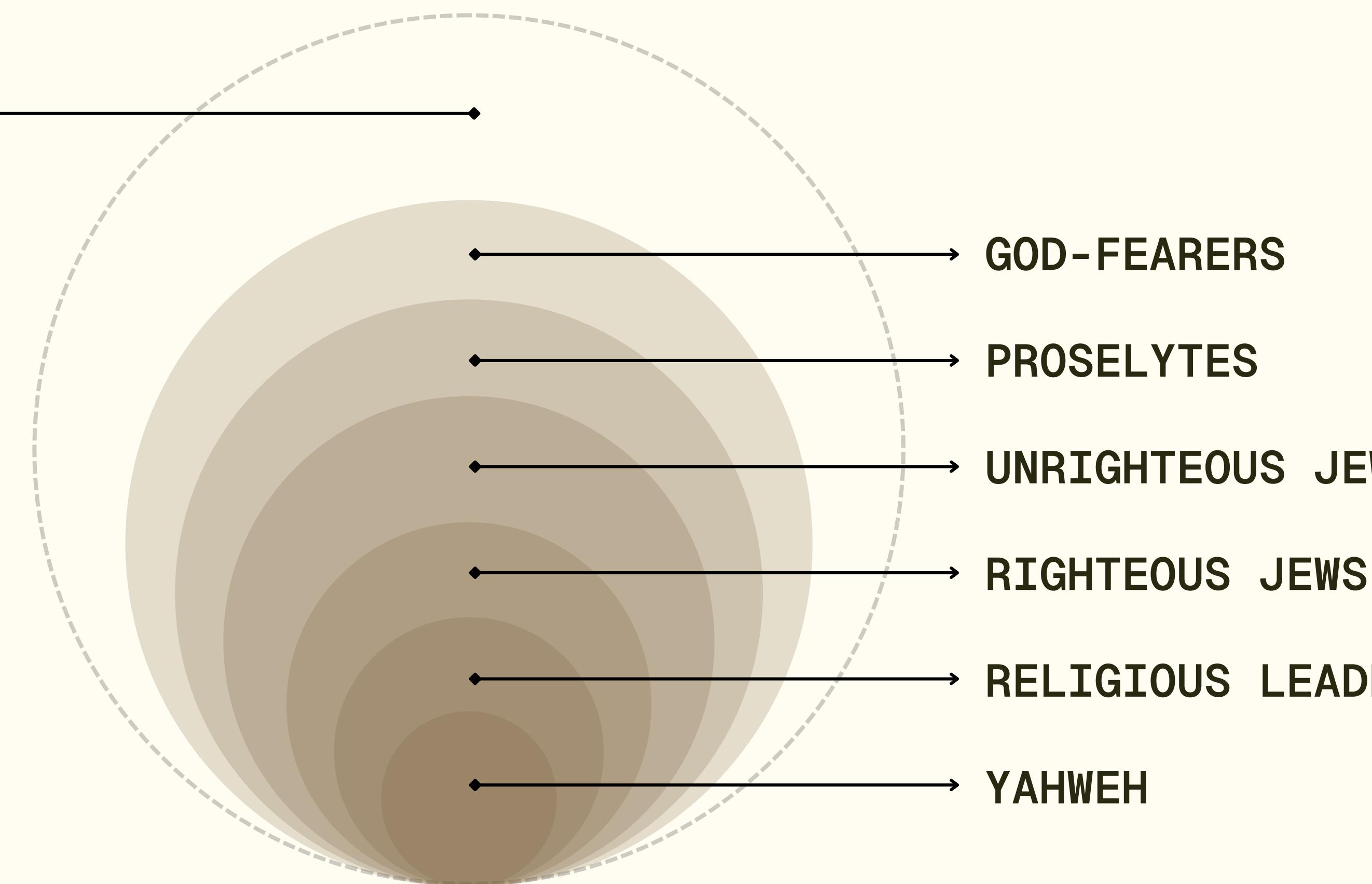
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At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and **God-fearing** [God-fearers]; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

ACTS 10:1-2 NIV

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**GENTILES**



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# God's Movement in Cornelius

One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

ACTS 10:3-6 NIV

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# God's Movement in Peter

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.<sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.<sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.<sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds.

ACTS 10:9-12 NIV

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# God's Movement in Peter

Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

ACTS 10:13-16 NIV

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# God's Movement in Peter

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.<sup>18</sup> They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you.<sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

ACTS 10:17-20 NIV

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# God's Movement in Peter

Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?” <sup>22</sup> The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. **A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.**”

ACTS 10:21-22 NIV

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# God's Movement in Cornelius

The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.<sup>25</sup> As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence.<sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."<sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

ACTS 10:24-27 NIV

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# God's Movement in Peter

He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But **God has shown me** that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.<sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. **May I ask why you sent for me?**”

ACTS 10:28-29 NIV

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# God's Movement in Cornelius and Peter

Cornelius answered:

<sup>33</sup> So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. **Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen** to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "**I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism** <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

ACTS 10:30a, 33-35 NIV

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# God's Movement through Peter

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

<sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. <sup>39</sup> “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

ACTS 10:36-39a NIV

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# God's Movement through Peter

They killed him by hanging him on a cross,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup> 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.<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**"

ACTS 10:39b-43 NIV

# Holy Spirit → Word → People

While Peter was still speaking these words,  
the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

ACTS 10:44 NIV

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# God's Movement in Cornelius and Peter

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.<sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said,<sup>47</sup> “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”<sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

ACTS 10:45-48 NIV

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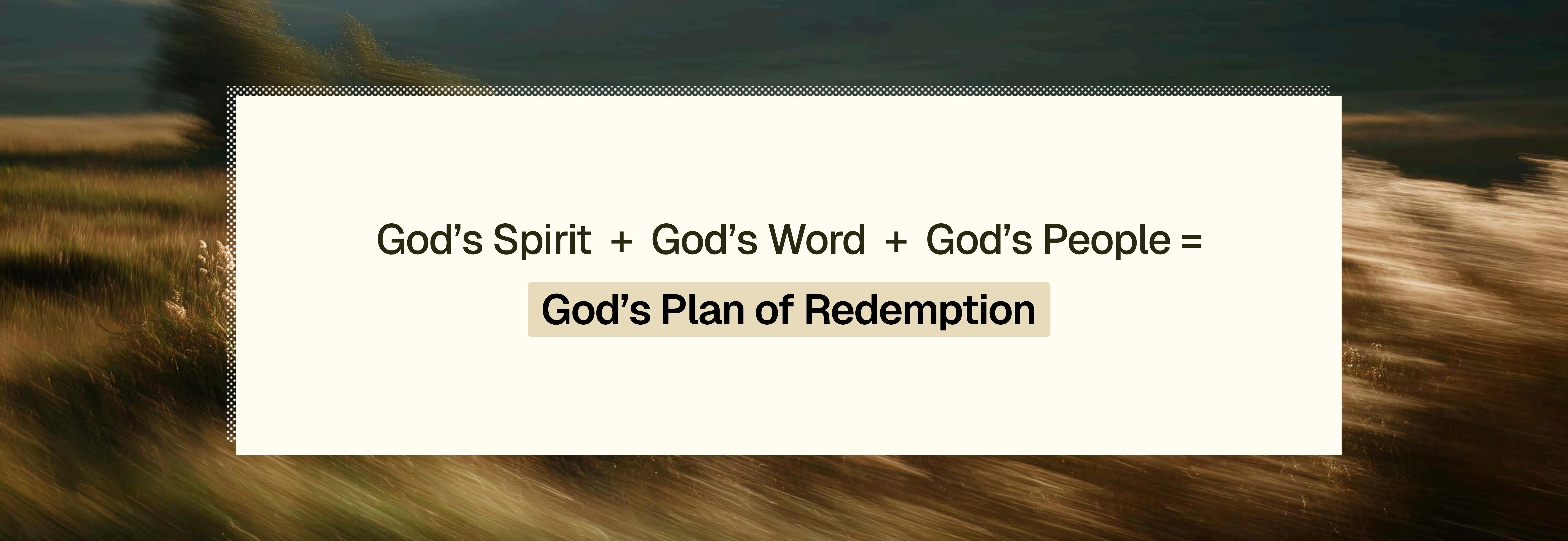
# What God sees?

- + Every **person** and **people group** on earth, at the same time.
- + His **local church** and His **global church**, at the same time.

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# What God is doing?

- + Moving through His local church across the globe to redeem persons from every people group.
- + **Holy Spirit** still uses His **Word** in and through His **People** to accomplish His **Plan**.



**God's Spirit + God's Word + God's People =**

**God's Plan of Redemption**