

Born To Be Wild: Rediscovering The Lost DNA of The Church

*"...they (the wicked) dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "**These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.**" Acts 17:6*

I. Introduction

"You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there's a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it."---Leonard Ravenhill

II. Noting the Progress of the Unleashing Of the Church in Acts

- ✓ 2:4---infilling of the Holy Spirit empowers the believers and spurs them to action
- ✓ 2:41—3,000 saved in one day
- ✓ 2:47---daily additions of souls to the church
- ✓ 4:4---5,000 come to faith in Jesus
- ✓ 4:13---Peter and John's boldness shocks and frightens the Pharisees
- ✓ 4:31---the room where they prayed was shaken like an earthquake
- ✓ 4:33---great power, miracles and grace was upon them all
- ✓ 5:14---believers were increasingly added, and multitudes were converted
- ✓ 5:19---Apostles were freed from prison by an angel
- ✓ 5:42---there was a daily teaching and saturation of the region by God's Word
- ✓ 6:7---Word of God spread, and number of disciples was greatly multiplied
- ✓ Chapter 7---Stephen's martyrdom sets the stage for the Word to spread as the church arose

"The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it."---Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

III. The Rising of the Church

1. We were _____ . "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air...So God created man in His own image...male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; exercise dominion...over every living thing that moves on the earth." **Genesis 1:26-28**

*"Then God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you will be cursed more than any **domesticated animal** and more than any wild animal. On your belly you shall go and dust you shall eat all the days of your life." **Genesis 3:14** Lexham English Bible*

2. Jesus didn't save us so we could _____ . "For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." **I Corinthians 16:9**

*"...the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that **chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me;** nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*
Acts 20:23-24 (NKJV)

3. We were made for _____. “From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth **and He has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live**. He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though he is not far from each one of us.” Acts 17:26-27 (Christian Standard Bible)

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and his body decayed...” Acts 13:36 (NKJV)

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, **but you and your father’s family will perish**. And **who knows but that you have brought into the Kingdom, and have come to your royal position for such a time as this?**” Esther 4:14

4. We were made for _____. “On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and **all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria**...Those who had been scattered **preached the word wherever they went**.” Acts 8:1; 4

“These are...the men...who came to David at Hebron; there were 200 chiefs of tribe of Issachar, **who understood the times and knew what Israel should do**...” I Chronicles 12:32

“We do not want a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world.”
---G.K. Chesterton

IV. Statements of Victory to Declare Daily

Beginning today...

I am going to be brave with my life
I choose to live “*in the arena*”—and not on the sidelines of life
I refuse to live in fear any longer of what people might say about me
I choose to believe that my best days are yet ahead of me
I believe that the Church is God’s redemptive hope for the world
I believe that God wants to use me today and every day
I can and will be a spiritual “change agent” in people’s lives
I believe that In Jesus I am called, I am able and I am anointed for duty!

Answer Key:

1. made for more
2. play it safe in life
3. this exact moment in time
4. Mondays!

