

## Selected Parallels between the Post-Exodus and Acts

Type of Event	Occurrence in the Post-Exodus	Occurrence in Acts
1. Divine commissioning of the people as God's representatives among the nations	God's invitation to Israel to be his own and represent his holiness ("... you shall be to me [ <i>esesthe moi</i> ] a kingdom of priests and a holy nation," Exod 19:6, LXX)	Jesus' commissioning of his apostles to represent him to the world ("... you shall be of me [ <i>esesthe mou</i> ] witnesses ... to the ends of the earth," 1:8)
2. Organization of the people under twelve leaders with a census taken and vacancy filled	Listing of tribal leaders and effective replacement of Levi by Manasseh to maintain twelve tribes (Num 1:1-16; 47-49; cf. Josh 14:3-4)  Census taken and number of the people recorded (Num 1:17-46)	Listing of apostles (1:13)  Number of disciples given as 120 (1:15)  Vacancy of Judas filled by Matthias to maintain twelve apostles as leaders (1:15-26)
3. Consecration of shrine and priests is attested by the manifestation of the divine presence and descent of heavenly fire	Dedication of tabernacle, after which it is filled ( <i>plethos</i> ) with God's glory (Exod 40:34-35, LXX)  Installation of Aaron and sons as priests, at which people are amazed ( <i>existemi</i> ) to see fire descend upon the offerings (Lev 9:23-24, LXX)	Coming of God's Spirit, which fills ( <i>plethos</i> ) the disciples and their meeting room and is visible as "tongues of fire," drawing amazed ( <i>existemi</i> ) onlookers (2:1-12)

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4. Divine judgment of named, guilty persons as a new era begins	<p>Striking dead of Nadab and Abihu as wilderness sojourn begins, their bodies carried out of the tabernacle by their brothers (Lev 10:1–5)</p> <p>Theft of dedicated plunder and miraculous revelation of the offender by Joshua, leading to condemnation of Achan and family (Josh 7:16–26)</p>	<p>Theft of pledged money by Ananias and his wife, Sapphira (5:1-2)</p> <p>Miraculous revelation of guilty parties by apostolic leader, Peter (5:3-4, 7-9)</p> <p>Offenders stricken dead and their bodies carried out of the place of worship by young men of the assembly (5:5-6, 10-11)</p>
5. Complaint about food on the part of Gentile-associated members of the assembly, resulting in the appointment of inspired ministers to assist the congregational leadership	Murmuring ( <i>gogusmos</i> ) that gives way to a complaint of the “mixed multitude” about their diet, resulting in the inspiration of seventy elders to assist Moses (Num 11:1–30, LXX)	Murmuring ( <i>gogusmos</i> ) of Greek-speaking disciples about lack of food for their widows, resulting in the appointment of seven inspired ministers to assist the apostles (6:1–6)
6. Confrontation by God of an agent of cursing and destruction who is on the way to bring ruin to the people, but who at journey’s end becomes an agent of blessing	<p>The hiring of Balaam to curse Israel and appearance of an angel on the road to warn Balaam of Yahweh’s displeasure (Num 22:1-35)</p> <p>Balaam’s pronouncement of a blessing instead of a curse (Num 22:35–24:25)</p>	<p>The deputation of Saul to arrest disciples in Damascus and the confrontation of Saul by the risen Jesus on the road (9:1-2)</p> <p>Transformation of Saul into an apostle and tireless missionary (9:3–20)</p>
7. Escape by being lowered down the wall of a hostile city by sympathizers	Lowering ( <i>katachalan</i> ) of Israelite spies down Jericho’s wall through a window ( <i>thuris</i> ) by sympathizer Rahab (Josh 2:16, LXX)	<p>Lowering (<i>kathiemi, chalao</i>) of convert Saul down the wall of Damascus by disciples (9:25)</p> <p>(Note: Lowering is through a window, <i>thuris</i>, 2 Cor 11:33.)</p>

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8. Thwarting of threats, either by God's direct action or through agents	Protection given through war with Amalek; rebellion by Korah; seduction on plains of Moab; Canaanite resistance, etc.	Protection from plan to kill apostles, imprisonment of Peter (later, Paul), persecutions of Paul in various cities, Jerusalem plot against Paul's life, storm at sea and aftermath  (Note the allusion in Rev 12:15–16 to Num 16:28–32 and cf. Acts 6:33–40; 19:29–41.)
9. The sending of two valiant men to survey territory as the initial step to conquest, and their return with a favorable report	Joshua's sending out of two spies, who encounter enemies, pledge protection to Rahab, and return with a favorable report (Josh 2:1-21)	The sending out of Paul and Barnabas, who encounter resistance, establish churches, and return with a favorable report (13:1-14:27)
10. Assignment of covenant land to non-Israelites who send emissaries to Israel's leaders	Acceptance of the Hivites of Gibeon in the land after they send a delegation to conclude a treaty with Joshua (9:1-15)  Joshua comes to their cities on the third day after receiving the delegation (9:16-17)  Israel's leaders explain their actions to the assembly (Josh 9:18-21)	Acceptance of Gentiles into the church after a delegation from the Roman officer Cornelius asks Peter to come and share the gospel (10:1-48)  Peter arrives in Caesarea on the third day after receiving the delegation (10:23-24)  Peter explains his actions to the Jerusalem church (11:1-18)

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11. Forced march and battle to defend the non-Israelites who were granted a place within the covenant territory	<p>Joshua marches his army all night to defend the Gibeonites when they are threatened (Josh 10:1-7)</p> <p>Joshua is given a great victory by Yahweh (Josh 10:8-15)</p>	<p>Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and others travel to Jerusalem when Gentile believers are threatened by Judaizers (15:1-12)</p> <p>Paul <i>et al.</i> are given victory in the Jerusalem council by the Holy Spirit (15:13-33; cf. Gal 2:4-5)</p>
12. Assurance of protection is given directly by Yahweh to the battle leader of his people	<p>“And the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Fear them not, for I have delivered them into your hands; not a man of them shall stand before you.’” (Josh 10:8)</p>	<p>“Then the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, ‘Fear not, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.’” (18:9-10)</p>
13. Battle to overcome nations and claim the territory assigned to the people by God	<p>Conquest by Joshua of “seven nations” represented by listed cities, gaining a solid foothold for Israel in Canaan (Josh 12:1-24; 24:11; cf. Deut 7:1; Acts 13:19)</p>	<p>Expansion of the church in Judea under Peter and other apostles (2:47; 5:14; 6:7; etc.)</p> <p>Establishment of churches among the Gentiles in far-flung cities by Paul and his co-workers (13-14; 16-20)</p> <p>(Note: Paul preaches in seven cities in first missionary tour: Salamis, Paphos, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Perga [13:2–14:26]. Further, cf. war instructions in Deut 20:10–12, mission instructions in Matt 10:11–15; Luke 10:5–12.)</p>

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14. A false rumor of apostasy from the far reaches of the covenant territory	The building of a memorial altar by the tribes east of the Jordan, misinterpreted as a violation of the covenant (Josh 22:10-34)	False representation of Paul's Gentile mission as an inducement of Jews to violate the Law of Moses (Acts 21:20-21)
15. Convening (twice) of the elders by the congregational leader as the initial phase of conquest closes  The recitation of a divine warning by the leader and a call for a decision on the part of the elders	The final summoning of the Israelite elders to Shechem by Joshua, who recites God's dealings, predicts the people's unfaithfulness, and calls them to renew their covenant with God (Josh 23:1-24:28)	Paul's meetings with Christian and Jewish elders to defend his own actions and issue divine warnings (20:17-38; 28:17-28)
16. Prominence of two faithful witnesses, representing the two broad divisions of the Israelite nation  (See tables for apportionment of the land, Peter and Paul in Acts.)	Two faithful witness-spies: Caleb of Judah, Joshua of Ephraim (Num 13:6, 8)  Nation divided between house of Judah in the south and house of Joseph, led by Ephraim, in the north (Josh 18:5)  Distribution of the land bracketed by special portions in Hebron (south) for Caleb and in in hill country of Ephraim (north) for Joshua (Josh 14:6-15; 19:49-51)	First of two prominent human witnesses in Acts, Peter, presumptively of the house of Judah (as with Jews in general)  Second of the two witnesses, Paul, of tribe of Benjamin and therefore of the house of Joseph (Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5; cf. 2 Sam 19:16-20; Num 2:18-24; Ps 80:1-2)