

Acts Series

Lesson #44

October 11, 2011

Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbible.org](http://www.deanbible.org)

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

# The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

## “Asked and Answered” Acts 4:23–37



**Col. 4:2, “Devote [προσκαρτυρέω, *proskartureo*-  
to continue to do something with intense effort,  
with the possible implication of despite difficulty  
‘to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in.’]  
yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an  
attitude of thanksgiving;”**

**1 Thess. 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.”**

**Prayer is that grace provision of the royal priesthood**

**whereby the Church Age believer has access and privilege to communicate directly with God;**

**the purpose of this communication is**

**to acknowledge our sin,**

**express adoration and praise to God,**

**give thanks,**

**intercede for others, and**

**convey our personal needs, petitions, and**

**conduct intimate conversations with God.**

**Acts 4:23, “And when they [Peter and John] had been released, they went to their own companions, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.”**

## **Adoration:**

**This is the part of the prayer which focuses our attention upon WHO God is and WHAT He has done.**

# ESSENCE OF GOD

**Sovereign**

**Omniscient**

**Righteousness**

**Omnipresent**

**Justice**

**Omnipotent**

**Love**

**Veracity**

**Eternal Life**

**Immutability**

**Acts 4:24, “And when they [their companions] heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, ‘O Lord, it is Thou who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them [Ex. 20:11; Ps. 146:6].’ ”**

**Psa. 146:6, “Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; Who keeps faith forever;**

**Psa. 146:7, “Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry.”**

**The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.**

**Acts 4:25, “who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things?**

**Acts 4:26, “ ‘The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ [Psa. 2:1–2].’ ”**

**Acts 4:25, “who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things?’ ”**

**Acts 4:26, “ ‘The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ [Ps. 2:1–2].’ ”**

**Psa 2:1, “Why do the nations rage,  
And the people plot a vain thing?”**

**Psa 2:2, “The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together,  
Against the Lord and against His Anointed,  
saying,**

**Psa 2:3, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us.”**

**They quote this psalm to emphasize to God that His revealed will is to put down the attack of secular powers against the Messiah.**

**Ultimately God will have His victory.**

**By reciting this they have a sense of victory rather than defeat or intimidation.**

**Acts 4:26, “The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.**

**Acts 4:27, “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together.”**

**Acts 4:28, “to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.”**

**Acts 4:28, “to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.”**

**προορίζω (*prohorizō*),**

**decide upon beforehand, prior  
appointment**

# Predestination Clarification

**1. This is a rare word. Used 6× in the New Testament;**  
**The compound *prohorizō* (formed from *pro*, in front, before and *horizō*, to ordain, determine)**

**The Vulgate translation, *praedestino*, which has colored the English translation.**

**2. A correct word study would also focus on the use of the two related words, *horizein* and *aphorizein*, it has the idea of appointing someone to something ahead of time. It does not have the idea of destiny which includes an idea of fatalism.**

**To prove that these statements of mine are true, that he [Onetor] even now declares that the land is mortgaged for a talent, but that he *laid claim* to two thousand drachmae more on the house.**

**~Demosthenes, 4<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C.**

**3. The related word *horizein*, means “to limit, to set the limit, to fix or to appoint.” Luke 22:22; Acts 2:23, 10:42, 17:31; Romans 1:4**

**Luke 22:22, “And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!”**

**Acts 2:23, “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”**

**Acts 10:42, “And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained [NASB “appointed”] by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.”**

**Acts 17:31, “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

**Rom. 1:4, “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”**

4. *Aphorizein* is used 10 times in the New Testament, “to separate.” Rom. 1:1; Gal. 1:15; Acts 13:2

**5. The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament concluded: the core meaning is God marking something off for His purpose or for His service.**

**6. Perhaps previously appointed is the best translation then**

**Acts 4:28, “to do whatever Your Power previously appointed to occur.”**

**7. God is the Sovereign of the universe and has a plan for His Creation consistent with His omniscience and His will.**

**Isa. 14:24, “The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, ‘Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand:”**

**Isa. 14:27, “For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”**

**Isa. 46:9, “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,**

**Isa. 46:10, “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’**

**Isa. 46:11, “Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.”**

**Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**Rom. 8:30, “Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”**

**8. God's plan includes appointing specific people for specific tasks. Above all, this involves appointing the Lord Jesus Christ to the task of carrying out our salvation.**