



**RUN,
CHURCH,
RUN**

**FIT FOR
MISSION**

CRAIG REES



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Acts 1:6-11

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Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very

eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:6–11



Is stepping out for Jesus easier
when it's local?

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Stepping out for Jesus is rarely
comfortable, familiar, easy, and safe—
wherever we are.

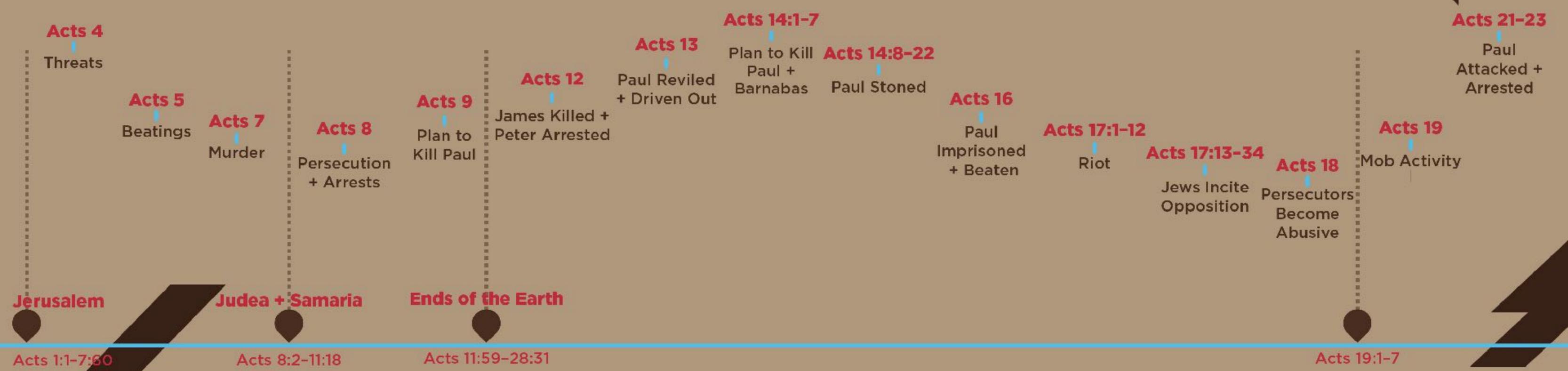








Stepping out for Jesus is never comfortable, familiar, easy or safe.





Jerusalem wasn't comfortable.

The mission didn't start in Jerusalem because it was home but because that's where God said it needed to begin.

“Men of Galilee...”

Acts 1:11

Jerusalem wasn't familiar.

There were racial, geographical, political, economic, cultural, religious, and linguistic differences between Galileans and Jerusalemites.

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

Matthew 26:73

The disciples didn't embrace Jerusalem because it was similar, they embraced it even though it was different.

Jerusalem wasn't easy.

The ministry of Jesus was seen as a Galilean revolution at odds with Jerusalem orthodoxy (Matthew 15:1; Mark 3:22; 7:1).

On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”

John 7:40-42

Jerusalem wasn't safe.

Jesus died there. Jerusalem saw Peter, John,
and Paul arrested and imprisoned and
Stephen and James killed.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Matthew 23:37

Stepping out for Jesus is rarely comfortable, familiar, easy, and safe - wherever we are. So why do we do it?

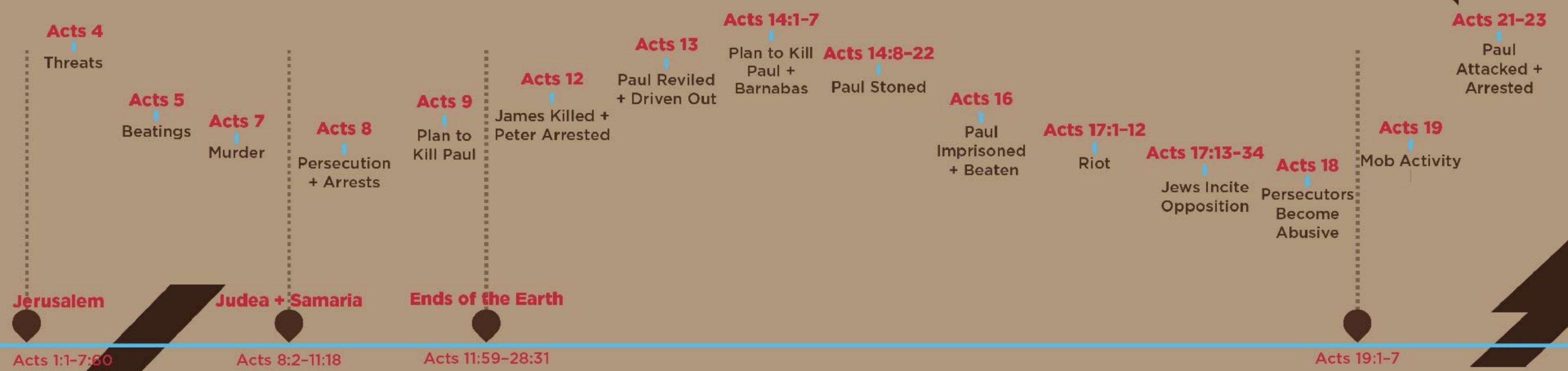


God got his church fit for mission by giving them a vision of heaven and the ascended Jesus. Mission is often done against one's wishes and is sustained by comprehending that the alternative is far worse.

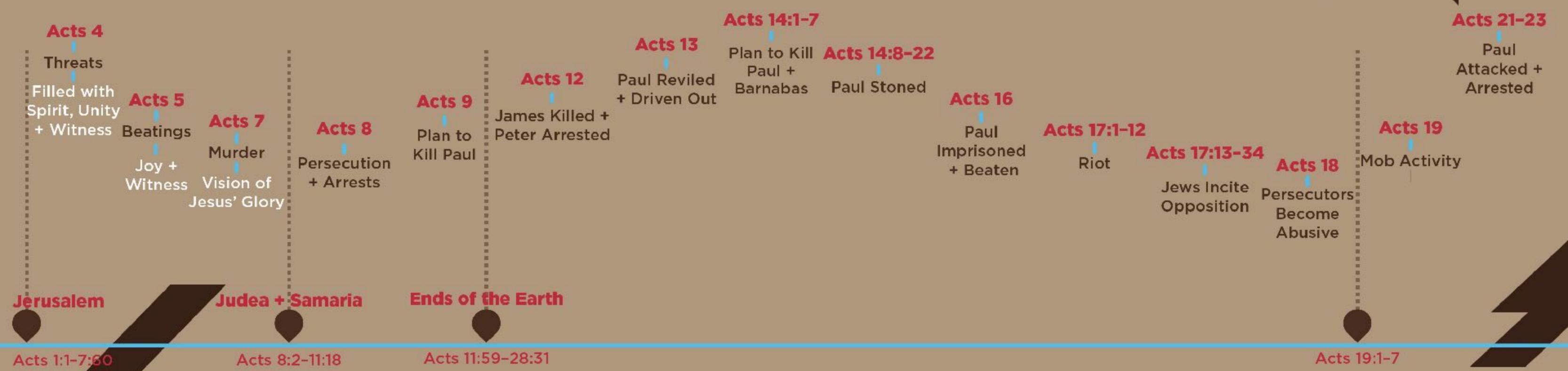




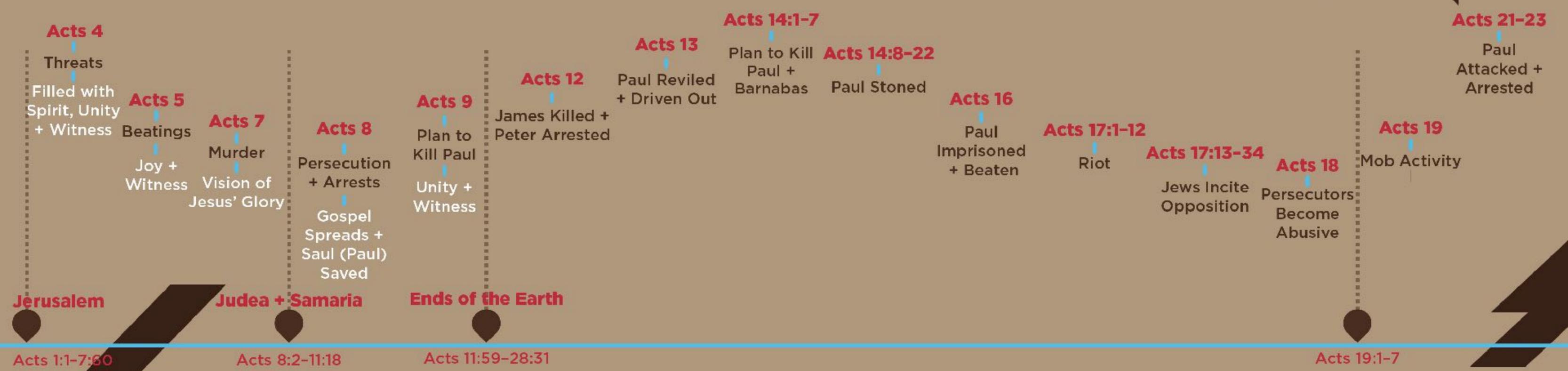
Stepping out for Jesus is never comfortable, familiar, easy or safe. But when we do, God gives the fruit!



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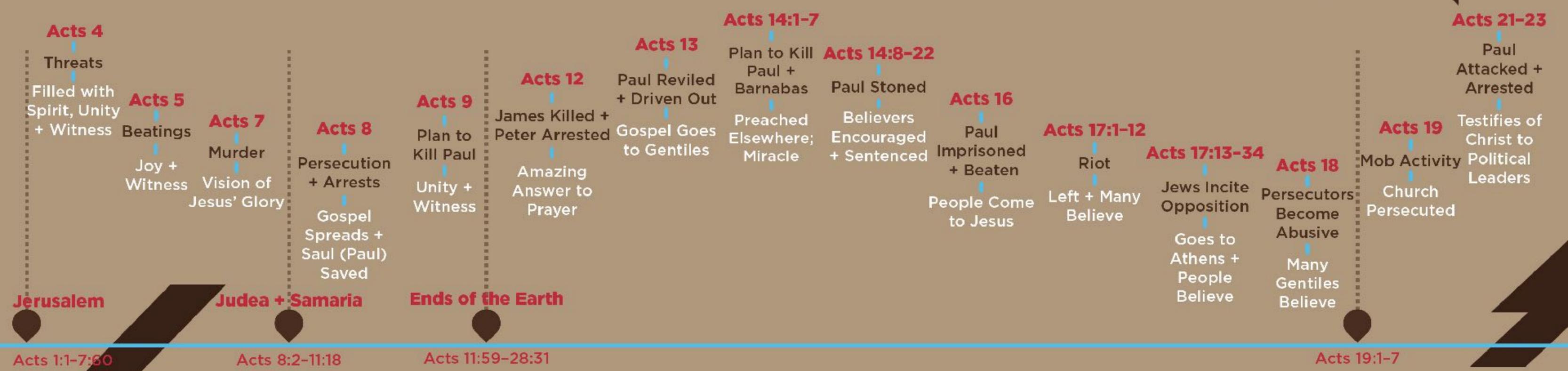
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Stepping out for Jesus is never comfortable, familiar, easy or safe. But when we do, God gives the fruit!



Stepping out for Jesus is never comfortable, familiar, easy or safe. But when we do, God gives the fruit!





Stepping out for Jesus is rarely comfortable, familiar, easy, and, safe—wherever we are—but when we step out, God brings the fruit.



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