

Unstoppable

Some things are unstoppable,
and some things only seem that way

- What things really are unstoppable?
- What things only seem unstoppable?

What difference does it make if you get this right or not?

Which category describes Christianity?

How should that affect how Christians live?

Unstoppable

Acts 12:19-24

Chinese: page 1787
Spanish: page 1403
Brown: page 1105
Green: page 753

Overview of Acts 12

1-4: King Herod used power to attack the Church

- Killed James (Apostle: 1 of 12 chosen by Jesus)
- Arrested Peter (Apostle: 1 of 12 chosen by Jesus)

5-19a: King Herod's power was neutralized

- Peter freely walked out of King Herod's power
- King Herod left Jerusalem → what now?

19b-23:

24:

Acts 12:19b-24

19b-20: Herod went to Caesarea (a more Roman place)

21-23: • Political maneuvering with Tyre and Sidon

24: • Again, Herod had the power

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Acts 12:19b-24

19b-20: Herod went to Caesarea (a more Roman place)

21-23: God killed Herod for accepting praise as a god

- 24:
- Royal clothing (made of silver) and powerful speaking were highly valued in that day
 - Josephus (1st century historian) described the same event: Herod had 5 days of agony before death
 - Offense:
 - Not giving glory to God
 - Accepting glory that should be God's alone

**Being praised (or not)
reveals our hearts**

Parker Solar Probe

- Parker Solar Probe: studying the sun
- Specially designed to handle the heat of the sun
- Record for being close to the Sun and surviving
 - Eventually within 3.8 million miles!!



Acts 12:19b-24

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- Royal clothing (made of silver) and powerful speaking were highly valued in that day
 - Josephus (1st century historian) described the same event: Herod had 5 days of agony before death
 - Offense: **Being praised (or not) reveals our hearts**
 - Not giving glory to God
 - Accepting glory that should be God's alone
 - Like approaching the sun: glory consumes what stands against its glory

Acts 12:19b-24

19b-20: Herod went to Caesarea (a more Roman place)

21-23: God killed Herod for accepting praise as a god

24: The church Herod tried to kill kept growing

- Word of God=the Gospel
 - Good news of Jesus' death and resurrection that brings a relationship with God through faith
- A theme of Acts: the Church keeps growing and growing as people hear the Gospel and believe

- And the Lord **added to their number daily** those who were being saved. *2:47*
- But **many who heard the message believed**; so the **number of men who believed grew** to about five thousand. *4:4*
- Nevertheless, **more and more men and women believed** in the Lord and were **added to their number**. *5:14*
- So the **word of God spread**. The number of disciples in Jerusalem **increased rapidly**, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. *6:7*
- Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, **it increased in numbers**. *9:31*
- The **word of the Lord spread** through the whole region. *13:49*
- So the churches were strengthened in the faith and **grew daily in numbers**. *16:5*
- In this way the word of the Lord **spread widely and grew in power**. *19:20*

Acts 12

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- Peter freely walked out of King Herod's power
- King Herod left Jerusalem → what now?

19b-23: King Herod is removed

- **King Herod dies a horrible death**

24: The Church flourishes

The Big Idea

God
and His Gospel
are unstoppable

The Big Idea

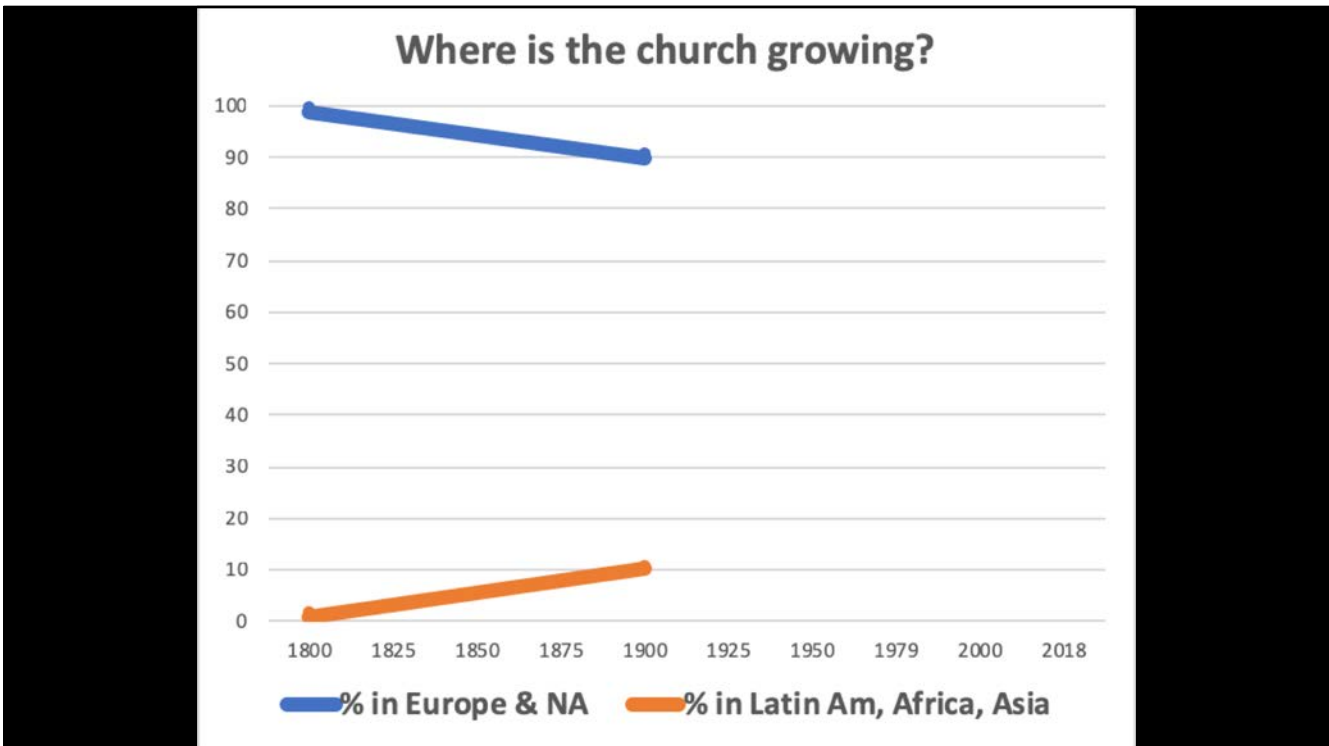
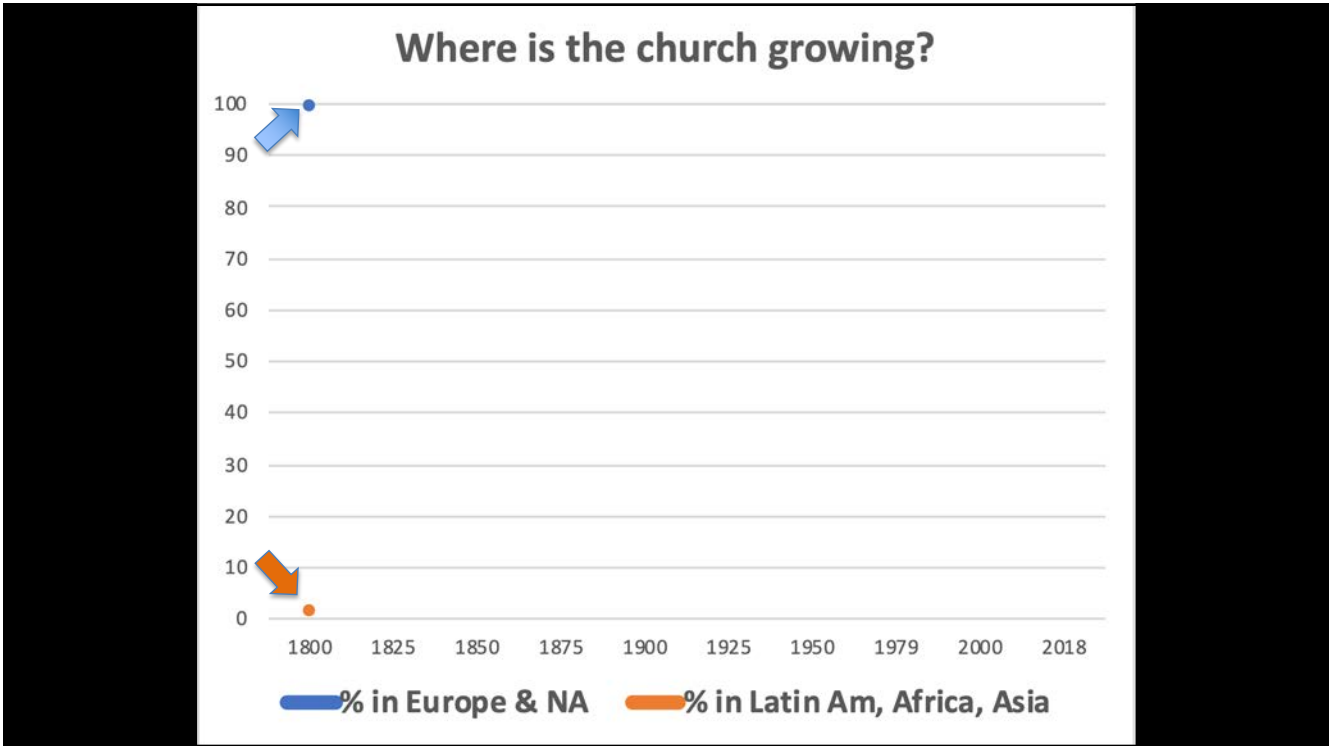
God and His Gospel are unstoppable

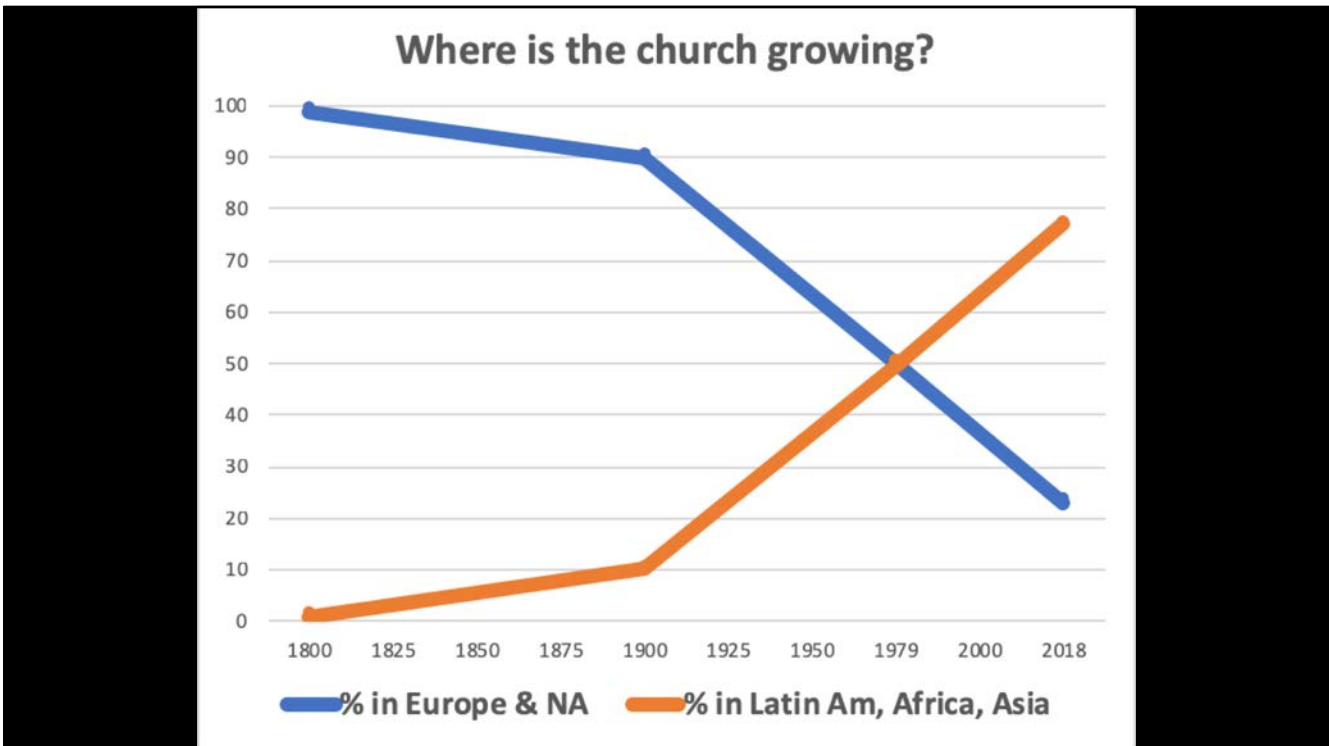
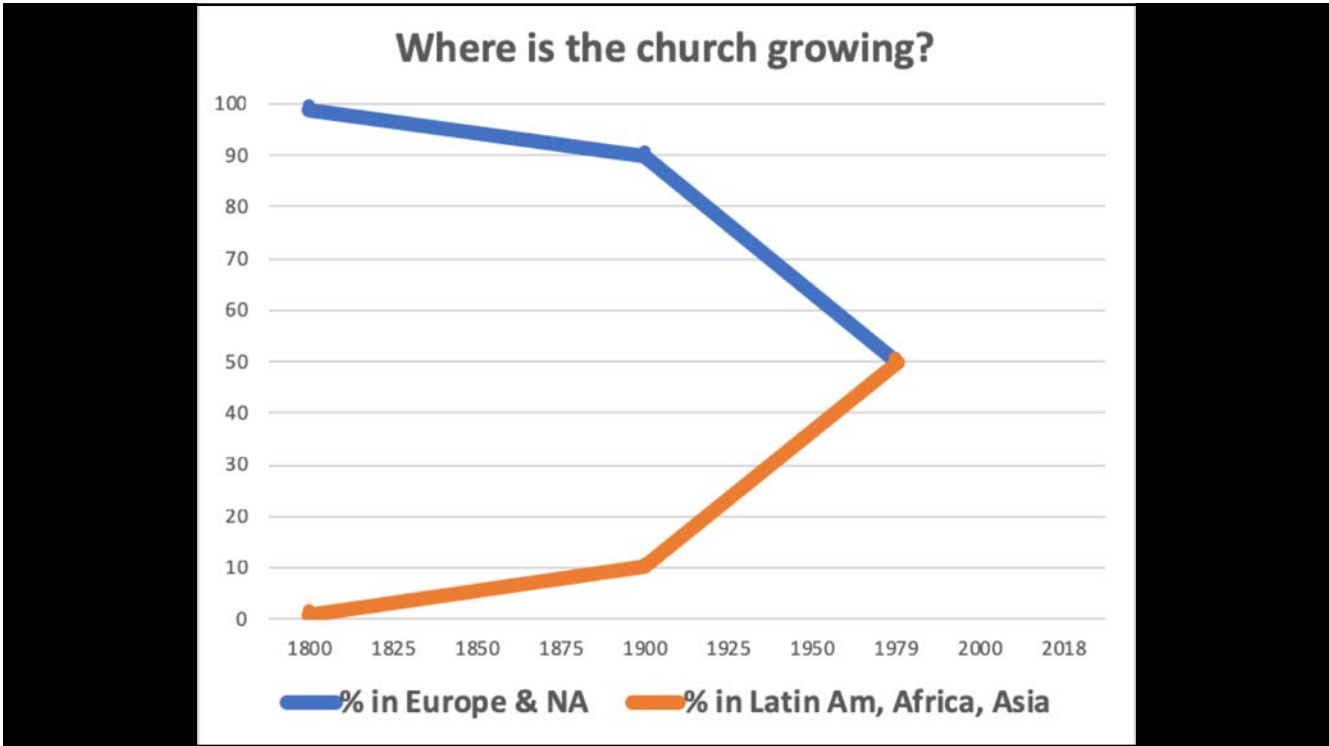
Growth of the Church → the ‘fruit’ of the Gospel

- **Quantity:** new people added
- **Quality:** unity, diversity, and Christlikeness

God’s agenda, NOT ours **It’s not about us!**

- **God’s glory** matters more than our worldly comfort
 - James was killed, and Peter was miraculously released
- **God’s glory** matters more than our church’s “success”
 - The Church matters more than our church





The Big Idea

God and His Gospel are unstoppable

Growth of the Church → the ‘fruit’ of the Gospel

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Application

- **Have bold confidence in God and the Gospel**
 - **Nothing** can stop His work
 - Once you are adopted by God in Christ,
no one can ever steal you from His family

Application

- **Have bold confidence in God and the Gospel**
- **Be humble about how we fit in God's plan**
 - When facing death by the hand of the king who opposed their worship of God, 3 faithful men said:

“The God we serve is able to deliver us from [your hand], and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods.”

Daniel 3:17-18

Application

- **Have bold confidence in God and the Gospel**
- **Be humble about how we fit in God's plan**
- **Be bold about how we fit in God's plan**
 - Where you and I are now:
 - People can't believe what they haven't known, so tell them
 - Where you and I are going:
 - “You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth” *Acts 1:8*
 - Some are sent to ‘home’ environments, some are sent to new places, and some stay where we are
 - Some choose our destination, and some have little choice
 - “Those who had been scattered **preached the word wherever they went.**” *Acts 8:4*

The Big Idea

God
and His Gospel
are unstoppable

**With confidence, humility, and boldness
let's join God's work in the Gospel!**