Looking back on 2020...
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Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12
Looking back on 2020...

I am chosen
I am holy
I am dearly loved
Psalm 91:1

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”
Looking back on 2020...

God has me in His hands.
Looking back on 2020...

You are way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness. My God, that is who You are. Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it, you're working. You never stop, you never stop working.
God has this world in His hands. And has a plan to Bless this world. working through us.
Genesis 12:2-3

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
Matthew 28:18-20

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
The Book of Acts is where this plan begins to take shape.
Acts 1:6-8

“[The disciples] gathered around Jesus 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.”
Acts 1-7

Thousands of people in Jerusalem put their faith in Jesus Christ.

...Satan wan’t too happy.
Acts 6:8-14
~ Stephen arrested

Acts 7:1-53
~ Stephen preaches

Acts 7:54-60
~ Stephen killed by Saul
Acts 8:1-3

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.”
We must never mistake God’s silence for His absence.

Even when I don't see it, You're working.
Even when I don't feel it, you're working.
You never stop, you never stop working.
Acts 9
“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.” But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings...”
Saul (whose Christian name becomes Paul) is joined by a man named Barnabas—and they launch out on their first missionary journey. And so begins the spread of the Gospel to every nation on earth, a work that is still ongoing TODAY.
God is doing something in this world that will not be stopped.
3 Things to Remember as we make our way through Acts 15-18
1. These are stories that make sense.

Each of us, in our own lives, are trying to tell a story that makes sense. The story of the Book of Acts shows us that behind what happens there is an active presence (God!) who gives coherence and meaning to the story.
1. These are stories that make sense.

God is not just a character IN the story; rather, God is the AUTHOR who makes the story possible and whose nature and purposes are revealed as the story unfolds.
2. These stories in Acts not only show the nature of God. They also reveal the promise of God to give us a new heaven and a new earth.
This world is not all there is. There is FAR MORE in store for God’s children. We’re not home yet.
The God of the Book of Acts is a God of promise who can be depended on to be faithful to His promises. The stories in the Book of Acts aren’t just a historical description of what was—but an exciting picture of what WILL BE.
We live in a world where God is busy making good on His promises. Today. Right now.
3. The Book of Acts, like the rest of Scripture, has as its purpose the formation and equipping of disciples.
Jesus came calling people to a new way of living—and a new way of dying.
Like any good story, Acts reveals an adventure—and gives clues as to how ordinary people like you and me can make an eternal difference in this life.
Acts 1:8

“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.”

We are in the story. Today. Right now.