

To the Ends of the Earth - Acts Intro

Pastor Jim Scudder, Jr.

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Acts 1:8b

... ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The 1st chapter of Acts begins with all the things the Gospels ended with:

The Resurrection:

Acts 1:3

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

The Ascension:

Acts 1:9

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Promise of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 1:4-5

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Promise of Jesus' return:

Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

3 Divisions of Acts:

The first seven chapters record the Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles in Jerusalem.

Chapters 8 through 12 record the Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles in Judea and Samaria.

The remainder of the book is devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles unto the uttermost part of the earth.

8 Special features of the Book of Acts:

1. Prominence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Prominence of the Holy Spirit.
3. The Power of the church.
4. Prominence of the church, visible and invisible.
5. Prominence of places.
6. Prominence of persons.
7. Prominence of the Resurrection.
8. There is a prominence of Peter in the first section of the book and of Paul in the last section.

Acts 1:1-2

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

2 Corinthians 5:16

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

Acts 1:4-5

And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.