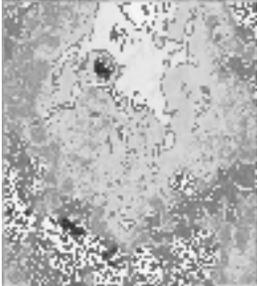


**THE COMMISSIONING
AND THE ASCENSION OF
JESUS**



Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:1-11

^{KJV} **Acts 1:1** 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:

Acts 1:1-11

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:
⁴ 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.

Acts 1:1-11

⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.
⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Acts 1:1-11

⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:1-11

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1:1-11

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.

I. THE AUTHOR'S PROLOGUE
(1:1-5)**A. The Author's Purpose Stated (1:1, 2)**

- ^{KJV} **Acts 1:1** 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:

I. THE AUTHOR'S PROLOGUE
(1:1-5)

- "*Former treatise*" - undoubtedly refers to the Gospel according to Luke. The recipient is the same as before – Theophilus

- Luke's purpose in writing Acts is clearly to supplement his Gospel narrative of Jesus' earthly life and works.
- Acts is a historical record of the works of the ascended Christ through His soon-to-be Spirit-filled followers.
- The Holy Spirit will cleanse and empower Jesus' followers. (Acts 2:4; 15:8-9)

ESV **Acts 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ESV **Acts 15:8** And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

B. The Resurrection of Jesus Confirmed (1:3a)

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate confirmation that all that Jesus taught was indeed the truth!



- Between his passion and ascension, Jesus presented himself alive over a period of 40 days through many infallible and unmistakable proofs. (1 Cor. 15:1)



- 1Co 15:1 ¶ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,
- 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

- 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
- 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.
- 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.
- 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.
- 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.



"The resurrection of Jesus Christ and Christianity stand or fall together. One cannot be true without the other..." - Josh McDowell



- The resurrection is the keystone of the arch on which our faith is supported. If Christ has not risen, we must impeach all those witnesses for lying. If Christ has not risen, we have no proof that the crucifixion of Jesus differed from that of the two thieves who suffered with him. If Christ has not risen, it is impossible to believe his atoning death was accepted. – D. L. Moody

C. The Building of a Kingdom Reaffirmed (1:3b)

- "and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."
- The kingdom refers primarily to JESUS' rule in human life and affairs of history, and secondly, to the realm in which such ruling takes place.
- "kingdom of God" is used 39 times in his gospel and 6 times in Acts

- **Lu 1:30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
- 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.
- 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.
- 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of *His kingdom* there will be no end."

- **Lu 4:43** And he said unto them, I must preach the *kingdom of God* to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.
- **Lu 17:21** Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the *kingdom of God* is within you.

- "That spiritual kingdom was to be wrought in, and outworked through, the lives of His disciples by the personal operation of the Holy Spirit through:
 - the doctrines that would mould it,
 - the discipline that would direct and preserve it, and
 - the spirit and methods that would propagate it." - Ralph Earle

The Kingdom

- A kingdom requires and has:
 - A King = Jesus
 - A location = the hearts of the saved
 - Kingdom rules = love & obey Jesus
 - Kingdom culture = separation from the world
 - Kingdom expansion = winning the lost
 - Kingdom future = King Jesus will return to put down all unrighteousness and establish His earthly rule.

II. THE CHURCH'S MISSION (1:6-8)

"they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

The question the disciples asked reflects the embers of a once-blazing hope for a political earthly theocracy in which they would be leaders.

Now the embers are fanned by Jesus' talk of the coming Holy Spirit.

II. THE CHURCH'S MISSION (1:6-8)

In Jewish expectations, the restoration of Israel's fortunes would be marked by the renewed activity of God's Spirit....his words about the Spirit's coming rekindled in the disciples their old nationalistic hopes, Jesus had something else in mind.

A. THE MISSION'S DYNAMIC (1:7- 8)

⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

A. THE MISSION'S DYNAMIC (1:4, 8a)

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

- Instead of political power which had formerly been the object of their ambitions, a spiritual power far greater and nobler would be theirs.

B. THE MISSION'S AMBASSADORS (1:8b)

- The concept of "witness" is prominent throughout the book of Acts.
- *Martus* (mar'-toos) from which we get our word martyr, occurs 39 times in the book of Acts.
- It would be these very common, ordinary men and women who would become His "witnesses" to the ends of the earth.

- "It is the task of the witness not only to attest the facts but also to convince the opposite side of the truth of them."

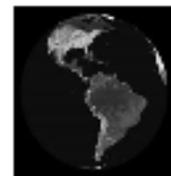


- The Christian today should understand that witnessing to Christ, in the sense of testifying about him, is but a partial understanding of witness.
- True, the Christian attests to the identity of Jesus. But the biblical concept of witness means that the Christian employs evidence in order to actively persuade men and women about Christ.



C. THE MISSION'S EXTENT (1:8c)

- *Jerusalem...*
- *Judea....*
- *Samaria....*
- *Uttermost part of the earth!*



**THE LORD'S
ASCENSION (Acts
1:9-11)**

1. The visible ascension was a visible reminder that He would return in like manner a 2d time!



Acts 1:1-11

- ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
- ¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1:1-11

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.

2. The visible ascension confirmed in their minds the reality of His ultimate, bodily return – “This same Jesus” – the human name serving to emphasize the abiding humanity of the One who had taken to Himself our human nature.

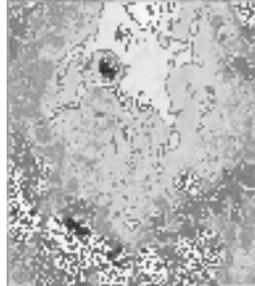
3. The visible ascension gave them a hope that would inspire them to a lives of faithfulness and holiness

- **1John 3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- **Tit 2:11** ¶ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
- 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,
- 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
- 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

- Let us live each day with the thought of Jesus' promise that He is coming again.
- Be sure you are saved, walking in the light God has given you.
- Be sure that you have been filled with the Holy Spirit = surrendered to the Spirit's full control.
- May our lives be the holy examples for others to see, and to follow, as we follow Christ.

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Acts 1:1-11