

Acts 1:1-8

Introduction and Christ's Ascension

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Acts 1:1-5 (NASB)

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. 4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:6-8 (NASB)

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Keep these things in mind

Important things to remember as we make our way through:

- Acts is transitional
 - Transitional in time
 - Transitional in understanding
 - Transitional in dispensation
 - Transitional in location and personal focus
- Acts is descriptive, not prescriptive
 - Just because it happened to them doesn't mean it should happen to us
- Acts is historical
 - Author is Luke
 - He seems primarily concerned with a detailed historical account

On last week's episode ...

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

- *I* – Luke, the author
- *The first account* – Volume 1 of “the Gospel according to Luke”
 - Volume 1 covers Jesus' work from earth
 - Volume 2 (our present study) covers Jesus' work from heaven
- *All that Jesus began to do and teach* – Jesus' ministry was not finished
- *Theophilus* – means “lover of God”
 - Common Greek name at that time
 - Also referred to in Luke 1:3
 - Almost certainly a real person

Presenting the evidence

3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- *Presented Himself alive after His suffering* – the resurrection is a documented fact
 - See Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21
- *Many convincing proofs* – the evidence is there for us to see
 - Incontrovertible evidence¹
 - *Appearing to them* – in total Jesus appeared to over 500 people
 - *Speaking of things* – this wasn't merely a vision
- Why would it be important for Luke to document the resurrection?
 - 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹Constable

Doing what they are told

4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;

- This is a paraphrase/expansion of Luke 24:44-53
 - Is this a different event?
- *Them* – the eleven disciples of Jesus
 - Pronoun refers back to verse 2: “the apostles He had chosen”
- *What the Father had promised*
 - Jesus, speaking with God’s authority, had promised them the Holy Spirit
 - see Luke 24:49 (also John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7)

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- *John baptized with water* – should be translated “in water”
- John prophesied the “baptism of the Holy Spirit”²
 - See Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; John 7:39
- Constable: *The Old Testament associated Spirit baptism with the beginning of the messianic (millennial) kingdom.*
 - See Isaiah 32:15-20; 44:3-5; Ezekiel 39:28-29; Joel 2:28-31; Zechariah 12:8-10
- As we shall see, the disciples were not yet aware of the church

²We will study this much more in depth later. For now, please refer to the supplemental handout.

Are we there yet?

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

- *Were asking Him* – imperfect tense; lit. “kept on asking him”
- *You are restoring* – to restore lost dominion or authority
 - Restoration, in the Septuagint, refers to God’s political restoration of Israel³
 - See Psalm 16:5; Jeremiah 15:19; 16:15; 23:8; Ezekiel 16:55; 17:23; Hosea 11:11
- The disciples understood that God still intended to establish an earthly kingdom

³Carroll, by way of Constable

Coming soon to a Middle East near you!

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

- Essential point: THE LORD DID NOT REBUKE OR CONTRADICT THEM!
- The earthly, Messianic Kingdom would come
 - *"...the predominant eschatology of our days, INSISTS that the Kingdom will not be restored to ethnic Israel...that it must be spiritualized along with the approximately 28% of scripture that deals with this subject."*⁴ [emphasis his]
- It would come only in the Father's timing
 - Notice how Jesus is still submissive to God the Father
- *This is not to be your present concern*⁵

⁴Merryman

⁵my paraphrase

Can I get a witness?

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

- *But* [greek = *alla*] – a sharp contrast
 - *Rather than focus on that, here is what you should focus on*⁶
- *You shall receive power*
 - *Power* [Greek = *dynamis*] – see especially Colossians 1:9-12
 - *“Power of the kind which God has and exerts”*⁷
- *When the Holy Spirit has come upon you* – that “Baptism of the Spirit” about which we have been speaking
 - This and the “power” are distinctives of the age of Grace
 - Baptism of the Spirit = Identification with Christ

⁶my paraphrase

⁷Wuest

Can I get a witness?

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

- *You shall be My witnesses*
 - *My witnesses* [Greek = *martys*] – root word for “martyr”
 - Not necessarily referring to their deaths (though all the disciples were martyred)
 - Witnesses = “*those who testify of what they have seen and experienced*”⁸
- *You will receive power and you shall be my witnesses* are predictions and not imperatives⁹
 - *It is a reality that you shall be my witnesses*¹⁰

⁸Wuest

⁹Future tense, Indicative Mode

¹⁰Merryman

Can I get a witness?

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Reference	Chief Person	Gospel To	Evangelism
Acts 1-12	Peter	Judea & Samaria	Jewish
Acts 13-28	Paul	The Uttermost Parts	Gentile

Table : Gospel Outreach in Acts¹¹

- We have here an outline of how the body of Christ will spread
 - Again, this is a prediction/prophesy, and not a command
- Jesus is talking specifically to the disciples about their specific ministry

¹¹from Constable

Topics for further study

A couple of doctrines that this passage touched on that we were not able to cover in depth¹²

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- The Gospel of the Kingdom
 - Specifically, when did the “Kingdom teachings” cease
- The Great Commission
 - What is it exactly, and who is it for?

¹²Most of these we will get a chance to look at more closely as the elective continues.

Acts 1:1-5 (Wuest)

The first historical narrative indeed I produced concerning all things, O Theophilus, which Jesus began and continued both to be doing and to be teaching until the day in which He was taken up, having previously given a commandment to the apostles through the intermediate agency of the Holy Spirit, those apostles whom He had selected out for himself, to whom also He presented himself as one who was living after His suffering by many indubitable proofs through a period of forty days, being seen by them at successive intervals and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them He charged them not to go away from Jerusalem, but to be waiting for the promise of the Father which you heard from me, because John indeed baptized by means of water, but as for you, by the agency of the Holy Spirit you will be baptized not many days from now.

Acts 1:6-8 (Wuest)

Then indeed having assembled together, they went to asking Him, saying, Lord, at this time are you restoring to its former state the kingdom to Israel? He said to them, It is not yours to know the chronological events in the passing of time nor the strategic, epochal periods of time which the Father placed within the sphere of His own private authority. But you shall receive power of the kind which God has and exerts after the Holy Spirit has come upon you. And you shall be those who testify of what they have seen and experienced, my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and in Samaria and to the end of the earth.