

Acts

“Leaving Earth”

Acts 1:1-5 (KJV)

“1 The *former treatise* have I made, O *Theophilus* [*friend of God*], 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:

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.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but *ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost* not many days hence”

Last week we looked at:

Acts 1: 1-5

* Luke is now writing to the same man [*Theophilus*] to whom he had written his gospel [Luke]

Very briefly, Luke was saying that the life of Jesus Christ continues on

- * The book of Acts is the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ
- * Acts 1:1-5 is a summary of the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth, a summary of the ministry of Christ covered in Acts

Now tonight we will look at Acts 1: 6-11

Acts 1:6-7 (KJV)

“6 *When they therefore were come together,* they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

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.

Acts 1:8-11 (KJV)

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.

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;

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”

- * This was Jesus' last day on earth
- * What He did is a most powerful and critical message for believers
- * Lets take a closer look at this incredible process to church life

Acts 1:6-7 (KJV)

“6 ***When they therefore were come together,*** they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

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.

- * A question is brought forth
- * Over five hundred disciples stood in some remote spot, probably on the top of a mountain

They surrounded Christ

- * One of the disciples asked Christ a revealing question:
"Was He now going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Was that the reason He had called everyone together, the reason for His stressing the importance of the meeting so much?

- * The **revealing thing** is this: the disciples were thinking in terms of an earthly, physical Messiah, of a physical and material rule and reign for themselves and their nation, Israel

We must always remember this: Christ is going to set up His kingdom on earth

* There is a present and a future aspect to His kingdom as well as a present rule and reign in human hearts.

* The Lord's Prayer assures this ([Matthew 6:10](#))

But the concern of the believer is not to have a carnal craving for...

- Position and influence
- Authority and power
- Money and possessions
- Recognition and prestige
- Rule and Reign

Kingdom principles - the material and physical is to be an influencer and changer a pace setter with Gods Authority and Power!

The believer's concern is to be service and ministry, proclaiming the glorious salvation of Christ and meeting the cry of a world buried in desperate needs

* Jesus is very direct, rebuking those who wish to pry into the timing of the Lord's return and the setting up of His kingdom upon earth

* Jesus had said that even He did not know when He was to return and set up the Millennial kingdom

He rebuked the question...

- "It is not for you to know"
- "The Father hath put [the times] in His own power"

Note

Believers are not to be focusing only upon prophecy and trying to setting of dates

It okay to study the subjects but not to be consumed by them

What believers are to do is to look for Jesus' return and long for heaven

* Even the love of Jesus' return—is not to get in the way of the believer's task, the task Christ discusses in the next point.

What is the task?

- * It is the task of witnessing
- * Believers are to focus upon witnessing, upon sharing the glorious gospel of salvation with the world
- * Simply the great commission

Mark 13:32

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father"

John 13:7

"Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter"

John 16:12

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now"

1 Corinthians 13:12

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known"

Revelation 5:3

"And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon"

It is the task of witnessing - Jesus is coming Back

Acts 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"

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

“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”

Marching Orders

Jesus assigned the believer's great task—the great commission

1. The believer's equipping power was to be the Holy Spirit

*** The disciples had asked about the kingdom, the positions of leadership and authority Jesus had promised**

The point is critical and to be noted with all diligence [GET THIS]

They were to receive power, but not the power of this earth, not the power of...

- * Position**
- * Recognition**
- * Supervision**
- * Fame**
- * Wealth**
- * Politics**

Their power was to be spiritual and supernatural

It was to be the very power... of God Himself, of the Supreme Being of the universe, of His presence, of His Spirit

*** God's very own Spirit was to dwell within the heart and life of the believer**

No greater power could ever be possessed by anyone

Note

This is clearly seen: once the early disciples experienced the coming of God's Spirit into their being, they never again asked about earthly power

Experiencing the presence and power of God within their lives was the summit, the supreme experience of their lives

Nothing else was ever needed

*** It is this for which the human heart craves, and once God's Spirit truly dwells within a person, that person is supremely fulfilled and satisfied**

Nothing else can ever satisfy—not position or authority, recognition or fame—not if the person has truly received the Spirit of God into his heart and life

The point is this:

*** The believer is given a task by God, a mission to carry out on earth**

*** The believer does not have the power to carry out that task**

*** The power of God Himself, of His Spirit, is needed**

Therefore, Christ promises, "Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you"

Both the Spirit of God and His power are promised

Note a critical point: The Holy Spirit comes upon believers as an equipping power – He is the Power we have the Authority

*** The major purpose for His coming is to equip the believer to carry out his task for God.**

The believer's task is the great task of witnessing for God

*** Now is not the time for believers to loving on Him and on others**

*** They shall be KNOWN by their LOVE**

To be KNOWN for something means you have to be that for which you are KNOWN for – It must be operating in your life!

This is the point Jesus is making, a critical point

It is time for...

- WITNESSING
- BEING WITNESSES TO CHRIST

This is understandable, clearly seen, for no greater truth exists in all the universe

*** Man can now live forever; man can now be delivered from sin, death, and hell. Just think about it!**

The perfect cure for...

- sin has been secured
- death is known
- hell now exists

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

“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”

There is no reason for the world—no reason for any person—to suffer any longer under the weight and bondage of...

- Selfishness and hoarding
- Bitterness and hatred
- War and Power
- Emptiness and Loneliness
- Fear and Anguish
- Inadequate supply and Hunger
- Insecurity and Low Self-esteem
- Guilt and Shame
- Ignorance and the unknown

**God have mercy upon all who know the cure and keep silent!
No greater indictment against a person exists**

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

“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”

The word "you"

- * It is the believer who is to witness
- * It is the believer who knows the cure, the truth of salvation

The words "unto me"

- * Jesus Christ is the message, not a man's ideas, not even the idea of religion

"Christ crucified" is the believer's testimony

(1 Cor. 1:23. - 1 Cor. 1:18, 24 - Galatians 6:14)

The word "witness" (Greek, martures)

This is the same word as martyr

- * The believer is to be so committed to reaching men that he is ready to die as a martyr if need be

The word "witness" is not a command

- * Rather, it is a natural result of the Holy Spirit within a person

So is power

- * The Lord says very simply that a Spirit-filled person has power and becomes a witness for Him throughout the world

This is important, for it makes power and witnessing trademarks of Christian believers

- * A genuine believer possesses both the Spirit and power in his life and becomes by nature a witness for the Lord

The believer's method

Jesus gives the Process that the believer is to follow in his witness and spread of the gospel

The believer is to witness where he is (Jerusalem) and move progressively outward (Judaea and Samaria) until he is having a part in reaching the uttermost part of the earth

Every believer...

- Is to go as far as he can personally go
- Is to give as sacrificially as he can for others to go
- Is to use and support every means he can to reach the world

What a difference world evangelization would experience if each believer would simply do what Christ says

Acts 1:9 (KJV)

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

Jesus' ascended before the disciples' very eyes

- * Now I don't care what you say, this is a demonstration – this is an event – this is a take place and teach you moment – things happened!
- * When Jesus is in our midst Things – Physical Things Happen.

Note Jesus' last words on earth

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

“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”

- * His concern was reaching the world for God
- * Now note what happened
- * Immediately after speaking the words, the most dramatic event began to happen

Jesus Christ began to slowly arise from the earth, ascending ever upward toward the sky above

*** The disciples were shocked and spellbound, gazing at the spectacular sight**

They were beholding one of the most dramatic and phenomenal events ever experienced: the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ - the return of God's Son into heaven, into the spiritual world and dimension of being

*** There is a spiritual dimension my friends, fact, take it to the bank, eye witnesses can account for this fact**

Acts 1:9 (KJV)

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

Note the words "beheld" (Acts 1:9) and "while they looked stedfastly"

*** They saw with their own eyes – it was so powerful they took steadfast!**

Mark 16:19

"So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God"

Luke 24:51

"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven"

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"

Hebrews 4:14

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession"

Hebrews 9:24

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"

1 Peter 3:22

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and power being made subject unto him"

Experience – Acts 1:9 tells us that they “beheld” – simply they saw with their own eyes!

Acts 1:10-11 (KJV)

“10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
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”

There was the prophecy of Jesus' return

- * Note that God had two men appear, standing by the disciples
- * They were dressed in white clothing which is the color of angels' clothing

These two messengers from God said three significant things about Jesus' return

1. This "same Jesus" shall return just as He left

- * He shall not return in some strange way, in a way that He might be unrecognized and missed
- * He shall return in the clouds of heaven and every eye shall "see Him"

Revelation 1:7 (KJV)

“7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen”

Note exactly what Scripture says about how Christ ascended

* [Acts 1:9](#) says a cloud received Him

The **Greek** word literally means took, lifted - supported Him

* [Luke 24:51](#) says He was "carried up" into heaven

The **Greek** means borne up, taken up

* [Acts 1:2](#) - [Acts 1:11](#) - [1 Timothy 3:16](#) says He was "received up"

The point is this: it is as though the cloud received and took Him

The cloud was apparently the *Shekinah glory* - Christ had said He would return to earth in the clouds of heaven

([Matthew 24:30](#); [Matthew 26:64](#); [Mark 13:26](#); cp. [Rev. 1:7](#))

Seeing such a dramatic ascension confirmed for the disciples (and for us) that Jesus' promise of returning to earth will take place just as He said

[Acts 1:10-11](#) (KJV)

“10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

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”

* This "same Jesus" is the One who will come back

* He will not be different, either in Person or in attitude

* He will be the same

[Matthew 16:27](#)

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works"

[Matthew 24:27](#)

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be"

Matthew 25:31-32

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats"

Matthew 26:64

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven"

Luke 12:40

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not"

Luke 21:27

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory"

1 Thessalonians 5:2

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night"

This same Jesus who will return is the One who ascended into heaven. The Jesus in heaven is the same Jesus the disciples knew—the One who was their Lord and Savior; the One who came to earth to be their close companion, their Advocate, their Mediator, their Representative before God.

*** Therefore when He returns, He will be coming back to receive all believers unto Himself. He will be coming back that we may all be where He is**

John 14:2-3

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words"

Conclusion**Acts 1: 6-11**

We find that Jesus prepared his Disciples for his ascension and for the coming of the Holy Spirit

- * We must be understand what this preparation was for**
- * Are We prepared to carry this message on**
- * Are we looking for His return**