

Acts 1

OUTLINE

I. THE PROLOGUE (1-8)

A. THE FORMER ACCOUNT TO THEOPHILUS (1-3) –

Gospel written by Luke

1. Appearing to disciples for 40 days after his resurrection presenting proofs of his resurrection and speaking about Kingdom of Heaven.
2. Asked them to remain in Jerusalem awaiting the Holy Spirit.

B. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (4-8)

1. The apostles question Jesus concerning the kingdom
 - a. Would He now restore the kingdom to Israel?
 - b. It is not for them to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority

1:6 - The disciples, just like any other Jews, were awaiting the restoration of the earthly Kingdom of Israel to the Jews. That was the concept of messiah. When Jesus was crucified that expectation was lost. But now that he is resurrected, that expectation is ignited again. So naturally, they ask Jesus about it. (After all, they were standing on mount olivet, where Jews believed the messiah would come). But Jesus explains that it is not a political kingdom to be usurped at this time. Rather, their task was to do work in the strength of spiritual power. Christianity expanding as a spiritual power and not a political kingdom.

2. When the Spirit has come upon the apostles...

- a. They shall receive power
- b. They shall be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth

1:4,5 – OT figures like Moses and Elijah had transmitted their “spirit” to their successors, Joshua (Deut 34:9) and Elisha (2 Kings 2:9,15) before their departure. Jesus does the same for his successors. His ministry of the Kingdom of God would be continued by the disciples and then the church.

II. THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST (9-11)

A. JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN (9)

B. THE PROMISE OF HIS RETURN (10-11)

1:7, 11 – “why do you stand looking toward heaven..?”

Jesus told the disciples not to spend time speculating about events. The 2 men in white robes told them not to spend time looking heavenward. Because between the time of Jesus’s ascension and his glorious return, there was a task for them to do. Jesus had taught them for the task and soon the Holy Spirit would come upon them to empower them for the task.

III. THE WAITING IN JERUSALEM (12-14)

A. THE APOSTLES RETURN TO JERUSALEM (12)

B. THEY CONTINUE IN PRAYER (13-14)

The time between ascension and Pentecost was to be a time of waiting and praying.

IV. THE SELECTION OF MATTHIAS (15-26)

A. THE COUNSEL OF PETER (15-22)

Stipulating requirements for one to be a witness of His resurrection with the apostles

- a. Having accompanied the apostles all the time Jesus went in and out among them
- b. Beginning from the baptism of John, until the day Jesus ascended to heaven

B. MATTHIAS NUMBERED WITH THE APOSTLES (23-26)

Special emphases and lessons from this chapter

1. Christianity expanding as a spiritual kingdom 1:6
2. Ministry passing on to the apostles
3. All believers having a part in ministry, not just the apostles
4. The growth of those who are faithful, the destruction of the unfaithful.

Acts 2.

Outline

I. THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT (1-4)

A. ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST (1)

Passover, Pentecost, feast of tabernacles – three festivals when every Jewish male within 20 miles of Jerusalem would visit the temple.

(cf. **Lev 23:15-22;**

Exo 23:14-18; 34:22)

Pentecost – 50 days after Passover.

B. WITH AUDIBLE AND VISUAL SIGNS (2-3)

1. A sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind

2. Divided tongues as of fire upon each of them

The great sound and fire of Pentecost signify the presence of God that fills and renews God's people with His Spirit.

C. FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (4)

1. Speaking with other tongues (known languages, cf. **Ac 2:8,11**)

2. As the Spirit gave them utterance

II. THE REACTION OF THE CROWD (5-13)

A. CONFUSED AND AMAZED (5-11)

B. TWO RESPONSES (12-13)

1. One of serious questioning: "Whatever could this mean?"

2. One of mockery: "They are full of new wine."

III. THE EXPLANATION BY PETER (14-21)

A. THEY WERE NOT DRUNK (14-15)

B. THE FULFILLMENT OF JOEL'S PROPHECY (16-21)

1. The events were those prophesied by Joel (cf. **Joel 2:28-32**)

2. Which foretold of the outpouring of the Spirit

- a. In the last days on all flesh
- b. Leading sons and daughters to prophesy, young men to see visions, and old men to dream dreams
- c. With signs and wonders in heaven above and earth beneath before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord
- d. With salvation to those who call upon the name of the Lord

IV. THE SERMON BY PETER (22-36)

A. PROPOSITION: GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD (22-24)

1. Jesus, a man attested to by miracles, signs and wonders
2. Jesus, crucified and put to death
 - a. According to the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God
3. Jesus, whom God raised from the dead

B. EVIDENCE: THREEFOLD TESTIMONY (25-35)

1. The testimony of David
 - a. For David prophesied of Jesus (cf. **Ps 16:8-11**)
2. The testimony of the apostles
 - a. They were witnesses
 - b. That God raised Jesus
3. The testimony of the Spirit's outpouring

C. CONCLUSION: JESUS IS LORD AND CHRIST (36)

V. THE CONVERSION OF 3000 SOULS (37-41)

A. THE RESPONSE OF THE LISTENERS (37)

1. They were cut to the heart when they heard the words "...this Jesus whom you crucified...has been made Lord and Messiah by God. (v36)
2. They said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

B. THE REPLY BY PETER (38-39)

1. Two commands
 - a. Repent
 - b. Let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ
2. Two promises
 - a. For the remissions of sins
 - b. You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
3. The extent of the promise
 - a. To them and their children
 - b. To all who afar off, as many as the Lord will call

C. THE RESULTS RECORDED BY LUKE (40-41)

That day about 3000 were added (cf. **Ac 2:47**)

VI. THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH (42-47)

Special Emphases from Acts 2

1. Work of the Spirit in Acts

Luke begins with the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary to conceive Jesus. Acts begins with the Holy Spirit coming upon the apostles.

- a. Holy Spirit is the source of all guidance
 - Holy spirit moves Philip to make contact with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:29)

- Prepares Peter to meet Cornelius and his emissaries (acts 10:9)
 - Inspires the church to set apart Paul and Barnabas to take the gospel to the gentiles (13:2,4)
- b. Holy spirit was the source of day to day courage and power

2. Gift of speaking in tongues

- a. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit
- b. It is given for the growth of the church and the believer
In the language of the hearer so that he may understand the Gospel (acts 2:8)
Praising God (Acts 10:46)
- c. There are other gifts also.
- d. It is not a gift that always comes with baptism
Jesus did not speak in tongues
Acts 10:44-47 Cornelius family spoke in tongues before baptism
Acts 8 – Philip and eunuch did not speak in tongues though they had the Holy Spirit
- e. Different gifts for different believers.
- f. Speaking in tongues is not the only sign of the Holy Spirit
- g. Greatest is love
1 cor 12, 13

3. The community of believers

Here church is a movement under the Jewish religion – not a separate religion. Most importantly it is a movement.

The believers form the new Israel, the new temple

The believers devoted themselves to

1. The Apostles teaching
2. The Fellowship and communal life
3. The Breaking of bread
4. The prayers

Shows that slowly some distinct practices were emerging.

- a. It was a learning church
- b. Praying and worshipping church
- c. Reverent awe in every person
- d. Signs and wonders
- e. Sharing church
- f. Church of fellowship
- g. Joyful and praising church
- h. So people kept increasing