

Acts 1 Bible Lesson with Scripture from NKJV

Acts 1 launches the story of the early Church by showing Jesus alive after His resurrection, teaching His disciples, and preparing them for their mission. Instead of sending them out in their own strength, Jesus commands them to wait for the Promise of the Father—the Holy Spirit—who will empower them to be bold witnesses. This chapter also records Jesus' ascension and the believers' united prayer as they get ready for what God is about to do next.

Acts 1

¹ The former account 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 He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit Promised

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be ^[c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus Ascends to Heaven

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

The Upper Room Prayer Meeting

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Matthias Chosen

¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ “Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”

¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’

²¹ “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” ²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Review:

Acts 1 is the “bridge chapter” between the Gospel story and the Church’s mission. Jesus has risen, He’s still teaching His disciples, and He’s preparing them for what comes next—not by giving them a schedule, but by giving them a promise: **power from the Holy Spirit**. This chapter shows us that God doesn’t call believers to do ministry in human strength. He calls us to **wait, pray, receive, and then witness**. Acts 1 also records Jesus’ ascension (His visible return to glory) and the disciples’ obedient response: they return to Jerusalem, unite in prayer, and replace Judas—showing that the early Church was serious about holiness, unity, and readiness.

What We Just Learned from Acts 1

1. **Jesus gave “many infallible proofs” of His resurrection** and taught the disciples for forty days.
2. **The disciples were commanded to wait** in Jerusalem for “the Promise of the Father” (the Holy Spirit).
3. **Acts 1:8 lays out the mission:** power from the Spirit and witness from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.
4. **Jesus ascended into heaven**, and angels promised that He will return in the same manner.
5. **The believers stayed united in prayer** and took spiritual responsibility by choosing Matthias to replace Judas.

Life Applications for Christians Today

1. **Don't run ahead of God—learn to wait with purpose.** Waiting isn't wasted when God told you to wait.
2. **Prioritize prayer and unity.** The early believers didn't start with a platform—they started with a prayer room.
3. **Be a witness where you are.** Your "Jerusalem" is your daily life—home, work, community—start there and let God expand your reach.

Questions

1. **Q: What were the disciples told to wait for in Jerusalem?**
A: The Promise of the Father—the baptism/power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Q: What does Jesus promise the disciples will receive when the Holy Spirit comes?**
A: Power to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
3. **Q: How did Jesus leave the disciples physically?**
A: He ascended into heaven and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
4. **Q: Who was chosen to replace Judas among the twelve apostles?**
A: Matthias.

Definitions (Acts 1)

1. **Ascension** — Jesus physically rising into heaven after completing His earthly ministry (Acts 1:9–11).
2. **Apostles** — Chosen witnesses commissioned by Jesus, sent with authority to proclaim Him (Acts 1:2).
3. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** — The empowering work of the Spirit upon believers for witness and ministry (Acts 1:5, 8).
4. **Witness** — Someone who testifies to what they have seen and know; in Acts, a person who proclaims Jesus' resurrection and lordship (Acts 1:8).

Cross-Reference Scriptures (for Bible Mapping)

1. **Luke 24:49 (NKJV)** — Jesus speaks of the promise and power from on high (ties directly to waiting for the Spirit).
2. **Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)** — The Great Commission (ties directly to being witnesses and making disciples).

Faith Seeds to Declare (from Acts 1)

1. “I receive Holy Spirit power to live boldly and witness for Jesus wherever He sends me.”
2. “God’s timing is perfect—when He says wait, I will pray, prepare, and trust His promise.”

Wisdom Nuggets to Remember

1. **Waiting is not weakness, when God commands it—waiting is obedience with expectation.**
2. **The mission of Jesus never depends on our personality—only our surrender and the Spirit’s power.**

Holy Highlights

1. **Jesus didn’t leave His followers powerless—He promised divine help.** You are not expected to “figure it out.” You are empowered to live it out.
2. **The same Jesus who ascended is the Jesus who will return.** Your faith is not in a moment—it’s anchored in a King who reigns and is coming back.

Conclusion

Acts 1 reminds us that God builds strong believers before He builds big ministry. Before the streets of Jerusalem heard preaching, heaven heard praying. Before the Church went public, the disciples went deeper. And that's our encouragement today: **God is preparing you for what He's called you to do.** If you're in a waiting season, don't get discouraged—get aligned. Pray, stay unified, stay obedient, and trust the promise. The Holy Spirit still empowers believers, and Jesus still sends witnesses. Your "Acts" journey is not over—it's just getting started.

Notes:

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