

- 1) Any comments, questions, at all on the 40 day study?
- 2) O.k. we will begin our dive into Acts.
- 3) As I indicated before, I will be for the most part reading from the NIV.
 - a) The edition I will be using was released in 2011. It is the latest.
 - b) NIV was originally released in 1978 with a minor revision in 1984.
 - c) The 2011 revision is considered a “major” revision, so if you are using an earlier edition (1978 or 1984) you will may find some differences as we read.
 - d) I have not researched the differences but would not think they would be a problem, however, feel free to bring them up when we encounter them,
 - e) In fact, it will probably be good for discussion.

Acts 1:1–5 (NIV)

- 4) Luke, as we have discussed, opens with a statement of his purpose in writing his Gospel.
 - a) This leads some to call this book, Acts, a sequel to or continuation of that gospel.
- 5) Again, the primary recipient is Theophilus, a friend; and by the title “most excellent” in his introduction to the his Gospel, a high ranking official.
 - a) What type of high ranking official, we are not told.
 - b) One comment I read regarding Theophilus was that by Luke’s title, he would have been in a position money wise and authority wise to see that this book and the Gospel for that matter, once completed could be sent to as many churches as they wanted.
 - i) Remember, no internet, email, or social media – copies had to be made by hand (paid for scribes) and then distributed.
 - ii) The Romans at this time had a reasonably sophisticated postal system.
 - iii) This same source alluded to the fact that historically, they were as fast over the distances that were normally covered, as our postal service is today. (Makes you wonder, huh?)
- 6) Luke then refers to the period of time – the 40 days – which we just studied and basically ends up with, what might be, the last time the disciples see Jesus before the accession.
- 7) From Jesus’ comment, this would be “not many days from now” meaning exactly that.
 - a) We know that the apostles had been in Galilee for the better part of a month.
 - b) They had met with Jesus on many occasions and have now returned to Jerusalem for the Pentecost celebration.

8) When we look at these verses concerning being baptized with the Holy Spirit, we must remember that Jesus had, before his crucifixion, told the disciples about receiving the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 (NIV)

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

9) The concept of baptism is to dip or immerse. I'm sure they may have had a question as to exactly what that meant in the literal sense.

10) However, the word also carries with it a sub meaning of **“to use water in a rite for purpose of renewing or establishing a relationship”**. In this case, the Holy Spirit would be renewing or establishing the relationship.

11) None the less, they now know what is coming as far as that part is concerned.

12) So, now we are set for the final conversation and Jesus' departure.

Acts 1:6–8 (NIV)

12) This then becomes the last big switch for the disciples!

a) **When** are you going to **restore the kingdom of Israel**?

b) What's the thinking – still earthly? still Israel? still Jewish? ... (definitely not Gentile)!

c) Answer – That's not coming now BUT... **“you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”**

d) In other words you will establish the kingdom that must come first – my kingdom here!

e) At this point hearing **“ends of the earth”** I would bet that these guys are thinking Diaspora Jews as the kingdom space.

i) They are not really thinking Gentiles/Romans/Egyptians ????

f) As we know and will see again, they really don't get that part until Peter's experience and Paul's emergence on the scene.

i) And even then, there will be struggles trying to get things right.

ii) Even Peter himself on a visit to Antioch tries to slip back into that “Gentile vs. Jew” comparison syndrome.

iii) This precipitated an “in your face” confrontation with Paul at one point, several years down the road. (Galatians 2:11–14)

13) This is not news, Jonah, as you know was sent to a Gentile people to preach and bring them to repentance.

- a) After a struggle, he did – but – he also **by his story**, set an example for and prophesied to the people of Israel about their treatment of Gentiles.
 - b) Even after 700 plus years, they still don't seem to get it quite yet.
- 14) O.k. it is time to say so long for now – Jesus has completed his task and now things must take their course as God and He have planned.
- 15) Before we move on, it is important that we get our location straight.
- a) This conversation and what is going to happen next is NOT a continuation of the conversation Luke reported in vs. 4 and 5 where they were eating together.
 - b) This is another occasion and is on a hill (Mount of Olives) in Bethany.

Acts 1:9–11 (NIV)

So, where did Jesus go? Mars? Galaxy HD1? Heaven?

- a) A galaxy named HD1 has been crowned the new farthest object in the cosmos. Located some 13.5 billion light-years away, HD1 existed only about 330 million years after the Big Bang.

So, where is Heaven?

Is Heaven our final home?

13) Moving on

Acts 1:12–14 (NIV)

- 1) I think it is significant for us to realize that, what we are now seeing is a coherent group – a group of men and women who now are ready to serve a risen saviour.
- 2) On their return to Jerusalem they assembled as a group and were obviously preparing for what was coming.
 - a) The idea of devoting themselves “with one mind” to prayer along with the women and Jesus’ mother says they are in preparation.
- 3) One comment here regarding the prayers of these gathered together here.
 - a) They were not praying for the Holy Spirit – that had already been promised and they had been told to wait for him.
 - b) They were likely praying prayers of thanksgiving for their risen Lord and what they had experienced over the last 40 days.
 - c) They were also likely praying for guidance in all things that they would be doing until the promised day when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.
 - d) They had to be excited and, at the same time very uneasy about what was ahead of them.

- e) Again, “one mind”, “of one accord”, truly in harmony and anxiously awaiting what was to come.
- f) I would also expect that they were also praying about the situation that we encounter next – the replacement of Judas.

4) Continuing...

Acts 1:15–20 (NIV)

- 5) Peter seems rather “matter of fact” about the situation with Judas.
- 6) Many of you may have vs. 18 and 19 in parenthesis.
 - a) This is indicating that there are some variations in this section of the verses based at least in part on some of the early Latin translations.
 - b) Additionally, the Balor Handbook of the Greek NT comments here:

The fact that the fate of Judas would not have been new information to the followers of Jesus, and the explicit reference to “their language” in vs. 19 suggest that vv. 18-19 are the narrator’s comments rather than that of Peter.

- c) Basically, what they are saying is that this information is being added by Luke, probably for the benefit of Theophilus.
- 7) Considering this, Peter and the writer Luke are still simply tying this altogether with prophesy and what has actually happened.
 - a) Additionally, they are showing that there is a prophetic/scriptural reason for replacing Judas at this point.
- 8) The end result is the same – Judas has to be replaced for them to return to the full strength of the original 12.