

# Acts 1 - The Beginning And Jesus' Charge To The Apostles

Sunday AM 08/02/20

## Introduction:

To the Acts of the Apostles. Begins with the end of Jesus on earth and ends with Paul in Rome. Covers over thirty years and shows the growth of the church.

### A) Luke wrote the Book of Luke

1. ***Acts 1:1*** *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,*
2. Theophilus – “lover of God” or “most excellent one” was this a real person or a name commonly used and hence to anyone who would think of themselves as being a “lover of God” or a “most excellent one.”
3. The Gospel of Luke covers the birth of John and Jesus and ends with the “Great Commission”

***Luke 1:1*** *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,*

### B) When Acts Begins

***Acts 1:2*** *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.***

1. Luke gives the reader a spoiler by telling us right off Jesus ascended.
2. There was a forty-day time period between the resurrection and the ascension.
  - a. He appeared to numerous people on the day of His resurrection. Mary Magdalene, Peter, etc.
  - b. Appeared to the disciples in **John 20** (Thomas as absent)
  - c. Appeared a week later when Thomas was present.
  - d. At the Sea of Galilee, **John 21**.
  - e. On the Mount, **Matthew 28**.
  - f. Over 500, **1 Corinthians 15.7**
4. They were eyewitnesses- personally saw and spoke with Jesus. The strongest witness one can have is an “eyewitness” otherwise it is hearsay.
5. One will notice the use of “we” which includes Paul and these witnesses including Luke.

**C) Given commands – the Great Commission**

1. Preach the Gospel to every creature, **Mark 16.15**
2. Make disciples of all nations, **Matthew 28.19**
3. He who believes, **Mark 16.16a**

4. Repentance was preached, **Luke 24.47**
5. Is baptized – act of obedience, **Mark 16.16; Matthew 28.19**
6. Shall be saved, **Mark 16.16b**; Luke remission of sins, **Luke 24.47b**
7. Teaching them to observe all things I say to you, **Matthew 28.20**
8. He who does not believe will be lost, **Mark 16.16**

**E) Many infallible proofs**

1. Infallible- without any doubt, can not be disputed.
2. Proofs- evidence provided to prove a point.
3. Think of the sacrifices these men will make- reputations ruined, cast out of Jewish society, hated, hunted down, imprisoned, and killed. Why? There was no doubt in their minds as to the truthfulness of the Gospel.
4. At one time every Christian had to be convinced as to the truthfulness of the accounts in Acts. Study the events recorded, examine the events as to what actually happened.

**F) The Holy Spirit**

1. John's baptism was one of preparation.
2. Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit. **Luke 3:16**  
***John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.***

3. **Acts 1:4-5** *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."*
  - a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit had not occurred yet, still future event.
  - b. The kingdom and the Holy Spirit baptism were connected in **Mark 9.1**.

#### G) The kingdom

**Acts 1:6** *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

1. They still believed the kingdom was going to be “restored” referring back to the earlier kingdom of Israel.
  - a. One of land
  - b. One of military might
2. Some people today still look for such a kingdom but that is not the kind of kingdom Jesus came to establish. **John 18.36**
3. There had to come a point where these men realized the spiritual nature of the kingdom.
4. Another thing the Jews had often wondered had been the timing of the kingdom.

**Acts 1:7** *And He said to them, "It is not for you to know*

*times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*

5. The timing was always under God's control.

#### H) Being witnesses

**Acts 1:8** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

1. Jesus prohibited His disciples from telling the crowd He was the Messiah.
  - a. **Matthew 16:20** *Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.*
  - b. **Matthew 17:9** *Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."*
2. Now they were going to be sent out to preach about the kingdom and Jesus being the Messiah.
3. Misconception about the Messiah- military leader, would not come from Galilee, would not come from a carpenter, would not spend His time with sinners, etc.
4. **Verse 8** serves as an outline of the preaching in Acts- Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the world.

#### I) Jesus' ascension

**Acts 1:9** *Now when He had spoken these things, while they*

***watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.***

1. Imagine being there and seeing Jesus as He was lifted up toward the heavens. What that must of looked like.
2. Recently we had fireworks and millions of eyes looked up toward the stars but how many look toward God.
3. This was the last time they (or anyone else) would see Jesus until His return.

**J) The message of the angels**

***Acts 1:10 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."***

1. They had task to do- go to Jerusalem, select someone to take Judas' place, wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, preach the Gospel, go to other places, etc.
2. What would the angels say to us today? We have things to do!
  - a. Obey the Gospel of Christ
  - b. Learn
  - c. Grow
  - d. Preach to the lost