

4/22/07

The Apostles' Last Meeting With Jesus
Acts 1:4-11

The earthy ministry of Jesus has come to an end as He has ministered to His disciples for forty days by commandments and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

1. Jesus had begun to teach and do until the day He was taken up which had limited Him by His physical presence as well as the disciples.
2. Jesus was now going to continue to teach and do through His apostles and Church an unlimited work by and through His Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus in His earthly ministry lived for the cross.
4. The apostles and Church in their earthly ministry were to live through the cross.

The apostles having been with Jesus and heard Him for over three years, now they are standing on the Mount of Olives with Him for the last time, the most important meeting, marking the transition of the life of Jesus on earth to heaven, in order for Jesus to live through the church on earth.

We want to look at the apostles' last meeting with Jesus, which is characterized by:

- I. The apostles' last instructions by Jesus.
vs. 4-5

- II. The apostles' last question to Jesus. vs. 6-8
- III. The apostles' last sight of Jesus. vs. 9-11

I. The apostles' last instructions by Jesus. vs. 4-5

- A. Jesus reminded the apostles about the proclamation of the promise of the Father.
vs. 4
 1. Jesus was assembled together with the eleven apostles. vs. 4a
 - a. Luke said Jesus had told them that He was going to send the promise of the Father upon them at Jerusalem, the Third Person of the Godhead. Lk. 24:49a
 - 1) The Father is the First person, who sent the Son.
 - 2) The Son is the Second person of the Godhead.
 - 3) One God in three persons.
 - b. Luke now adds more details. vs. 2-3
 - 1) Jesus had given them commandment already. vs. 2
 - 2) Jesus had presented Himself with many infallible proof. vs. 3a
 - 3) Jesus for forty days had been speaking the eleven about the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. vs. 3b

2. Jesus commanded the apostles not to depart from Jerusalem, this is the negative. vs. 4b
 - a. The word commanded “parangello” is a military term and means to give strict orders. vs. 4b
 - 1) It is used of the leaders commanding the apostles to not speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:18
 - 2) It is used as they were brought before the council for disobeying and said, “Did we not strictly command you no to teach in this name”. Acts 5:28
 - 3) It is used for the same command to not speak in the name of Jesus, after they beat them. Acts 5:40
 - c. Perhaps Jesus saw in their hearts the desire to return to Galilee, as they did prior to the resurrection.
 - 1) The very mention of “do not depart”, could imply it.
 - 2) Even as when God says, “don't be afraid”, implies the presence of fear.
 - 3) Jerusalem “Hierosoluma” is the Hellenist name for Jerusalem.
3. Jesus told the apostles to wait for the promise of the Father, “which”, He said, “you have heard from Me”. vs. 4c-e

- a. The night before Jesus was betrayed, He taught the apostles about the “Comforter” and is recorded for us in the Gospel of John. Jn. 14-16
 - b. Jesus would send the Comforter, that they not leave them orphans, “I will come to you”, Jesus said. Jn. 14:18
- B.** Jesus gave to the apostles the interpretation of the promise of the Father. vs. 5
1. Jesus distinguishes the baptism of John from His own baptism by the Holy Spirit.
 - * “For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
 - a. John baptized with water for a witness of repentance from sin.
 - 1) Water baptism symbolizing death.
 - 2) Water baptism also symbolizing cleansing.
 - 3) Water baptism is identification with the life of Christ by being immersed in water and an answer to a good conscience but forgives no sin. Rom. 6:4-7, 1Pet. 3:21
 - b. John declared the difference between his baptism of water and the baptism of Jesus with the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) John said, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier

than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
Matt. 3:11, Lk. 3:16

- 2) John said, "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" Jn. 1:33
2. Jesus declared they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from then, 10 days.
 - a. Jesus had been with them 40 days, they would have to wait 10 more days.
 - c. Jesus would fulfill the Old Testament Feast of weeks as a counterpart to the giving of the law 50 days after Passover at the Exodus. Lev. 23:15-22
 - d. Jesus would be true to His promise about the coming of the Comforter, they were to patiently wait.

Illustration

Jacob obeyed his mother, instead of waiting on God to see how He would give him the blessing and he added much hurt to his own life! Gen. 27

Application

1. How important it is that each of us not make our own decisions without seeking Jesus.
 - a. Believers get impatient with waiting on God for a mate, so it becomes a driving force, rather than being directed by God.
 - * Rather than developing normal progressive relations, we are looking for the lightning and thunder.
 - b. Young and carnal Christians become impatient and get caught up in sexual sin with their future wife or husband and ruin their relationship and at time the wedding never takes place.
 - * Then they say, "Why did God bring her or him to me?" God did bring them but you drove them away!
 - c. Believers get ahead of God and bail out of their marriages, instead of waiting on God and not departing.
 - * Believing the lie, that it is going to be bad forever!
 - c. Some times Christians let go of their jobs without having another one to replace it, thinking they are stepping out in faith.
 - * Then when there is no job, they ask, "Why did God do that", He didn't, you did!
- 1) But those who **wait** on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint." Is. 40:31*

2) “Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And
He shall direct your paths. Do not be
wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD
and depart from evil. It will be health to
your flesh, And strength to your bones.”
Prov. 3:5-8

2. The promised of God for the child of God are many.

- a. He says, “He will never leave us or forsake us”. Heb. 13:5d
- b. He say He will give to us wisdom if we ask, “If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” Ja. 1:5
- c. He says, He will give us a way out, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of **escape**, that you may be able to bear it.” 1Cor. 10:13
- d. He says, “His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having

escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2Pet. 1:3-4

The apostles’ last instructions by Jesus were in preparation to reach the lost!

II. The apostles last question to Jesus. vs. 6-8

- A. The apostles asked Jesus if He was going to restore the Kingdom to Israel when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit? vs. 6
 - 1. The apostles were Jews and still had the Old Testament mindset of the present age and the age to come.
 - a. That is why James and John sought the right and left hand. Mk. 10:35-45
 - b. The Kingdom Age was to be characterized by the pouring out of God Spirit. Jer. 31, Ezk. 36, 37, Joel 2
 - c. The word restore “apokayistemi” means to its former state, the “Age to come”, under God’s theocratic rule, putting their enemies under His footstool. Ps. 110:1
 - d. The apostle were expecting a political earthly kingdom, as promised by God, the Millennium. Is. 2:2-3, Ezk. 40-48
 - 1) They said, “at this time”,
 - 2) The word time “chronos” means running or linear time, expecting

- the Kingdom, immediately. We get our word chronological from it.
2. The apostles didn't understand the church age completely, the Holy Spirit or what God was about to do.
 - a. Jesus before His resurrection told them they would not understand many things till the Holy Spirit came, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." Jn. 16:12-14
 - b. Jesus after His resurrection opened their understanding about His death and resurrection, as necessary to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins, "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." Lk. 24:45
 - c. But they did not comprehend the timing!
 3. The Kingdom had already come in the person of Jesus and the gospel.

- a. Jesus told the Pharisee, "The Kingdom of God has come upon you". Matt. 12:26-29
 - b. Jesus said the Kingdom is within you. Lk. 17:20-21
 - c. The Kingdom of God is present and yet to come, in its complete form, at the return of Jesus to the earth to set up the Kingdom Age promised to Israel, an earthly kingdom.
 - d. The church is part of the Kingdom of God but, in contrast, is looking for a heavenly kingdom and will reign with Jesus during the Millennium.
 - e. The word Kingdom "basileia" appears 144 times in the four Gospels and 31 times from Acts to Revelation.
 - f. "The Kingdom of God" and "The Kingdom of heaven" are synonymous.
- B.** The Lord answers the apostles by telling them two things. vs. 7
1. The Lord's first answer focuses on the date of the restoration of Israel. vs. 7
 - a. The genitive used means, it did not belong to them, the Kingdom Age, was not their concern or business.
 - b. The word to know "ginosko" means to lean, get knowledge or understand, the aorist infinitive, Lenski tells us means "actually to know".

- c. The apostles inability to comprehend the program of God for the Kingdom Age was reinforced by two words.
 - 1) The word for times “chronos” duration or linear running time.
 - 2) The word seasons “kairos”, which means a specific season of period.
 - 3) They were Hebrew Christians, the church.
- 2. The second answer of Jesus focuses on the authority of the Father for the restoration of Israel.
 - a. Father had put it in His own authority, “exousia”, which describes the ability and right to do something, instead of the power to accomplish it.
 - b. The sovereignty of the Father is perfect and He has kept certain things secret and a mystery.
 - * “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those *things* which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.” Deut. 29:29
 - c. No man knows the day or hour of His Coming.
 - 1) “But of that day and hour no one **knows**, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Matt. 24:36

- 2) “But of that day and hour no one **knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Mk. 13:32
 - 3) “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” 1Thess. 5:1-2
 - 4) “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” 2Pet. 3:10
* The believer is to be living for Jesus, depending on Jesus and pointing people to Jesus, not trying to figure out the coming of Jesus!
- C. The Lord reveals their distinction from Israel and mission. vs. 8
1. The apostles would receive power when the Holy Spirit would come upon them, something Israel never experience. vs. 8a
 - a. The word “But” marks the sharp contrast between the “Kingdom Age” they asked Jesus about and who they were.

- b. No Old Testament passage tells us that all of the nation of Israel had the Holy Spirit of God “in them”.
- c. Only the Priest, Prophets and Kings were endued with the Spirit for service and a few others, like for the work of the tabernacle.
- d. The apostles in contrast would all be baptized with the Holy Spirit and receive power for service.
 - 1) Jesus told His disciples before His resurrection that the Holy Spirit would be with “para” them and in “en” them. Jn. 14:17
 - 2) In fact Jesus came to the disciples after the resurrection, the door being shut and listen to what John tells us happened, “Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. And when He said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Jn. 20:21-22
 - 3) But the disciples were still to wait on the “epi”, experience, the genitive making it a personal.
 - 4) The third preposition “epi” is associated with the imparting of power for service and is synonymous with the “Promise of

- the Father” and “Being baptized with the Holy Spirit”, the very words of Jesus.
- b. The word power “dynamis” means might, explosive energy for ability to fulfill their commission.
 - 1) Every time we see the “epi” experience in Acts, we see an effective witness by the apostles.
 - 2) John tells us, “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” Jn. 7:37-39
 - 2. The apostles would be witness to Jesus, going out to reach all mankind, which Israel never was called to do. vs. 8b
 - a. The word witnesses “martus” means one who is bears testimony of something as credible and true, as in our court system.
 - b. But the focus is a testimony to Jesus, implying that they would be like Him,

living out their lives through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and then sharing Christ with others.

- 1) Israel was called to bring people in by proselytizing the Gentile as Jews, Israel was centripetal.
 - 2) The church was to go out to the nations and preach salvation through Jesus, the church was to be centrifugal.
 - 3) The church is the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, “That in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Gen. 12:3
 - c. The word “martus” also means a martyr, one who dies for is believed.
 - * Every one of the disciples, with the exception of John, died a martyrs death, not denying the faith.
3. The apostles commission was outlined for them by Jesus Himself. vs. 8b-d
- a. They were going to reach Jerusalem, with the gospel, affirmed by their transformed lives by the power of the Spirit. vs. 8b
 - * Peter was the spokes man at Pentecost, in Jerusalem, where 3,000 were saved. Acts 2
 - b. They were going to reach all Judea and Samaria with the gospel, affirmed

by their transformed lives by the power of the Spirit. vs. 8c

- 1) Saul persecuting the church, caused all to scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles, preaching the word and Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ and they believe. The church sent Peter and John and the Holy Spirit fell upon “epi” them, like the Jews at Jerusalem. Acts 8:1, 4-5, 14-17
 - 2) Peter went down to the house of Cornelius and preached Christ and as he was preaching Jesus, the Holy Spirit fell upon “epi” them, being Gentiles. Acts 10:44-46
- c. They were going to reach the end of the earth with the gospel, affirmed by their transformed lives by the power of the Spirit, not rule on earth. vs. 8d
- * Paul taught the church at Antioch for 1 year with Barnabas and went on four missionary journeys to the ends of the world. Acts 13-28

Illustration

The National Guard sea rescuers must have a clear and focused mind in the midst of the weather and danger to themselves to save the lost.

Application

1. We must understand what the Bible says about the nation of Israel.

- a. The nation of Israel is the wife of God, who has been put away by divorce.
- b. The nation of Israel was given up by Jesus and He pronounced judgment over her. Matt. 23:37-29
- c. The nation of Israel is blind in part until the fullness of the Gentile comes in. Rom. 11:25
- d. The nation of Israel is back in the land but is yet to be dealt with by God, to prepare them for their Messiah, Jesus Christ, through the Great-Tribulation. Matt. 24, Rev. 6-19, 2Thess. 2
- e. The remnant will be saved, not all that say are Israel are Israel. Rom. 9-11

2. We must equally understand what the Bible say about the church.

- a. The church is the bride Christ, that is looking to be wed to Jesus. Eph. 5:26-27
- b. The church is comprised of Jew and Gentile “in Christ”, no difference is seen. Eph. 2:11-16, Col. 3:11
- c. The church is looking for the “Blessed Hope”, the Rapture. Tit. 2:13
- d. The church in and by this hope, is living in purity. 1Jn. 3:3

3. The church has not replaced Israel as the majority of churches teach today.

a. This is called “Replacement Theology”, that all the promises to Israel are now for the church.

b. The apostle didn’t believe “Replacement Theology”, listen to James at the first church council. Acts 15:13-18

* “And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: “Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. “And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.’ “Known to God from eternity are all His works.”

4. The church is to be occupying till Jesus returns for His bride.

- a. Being light and salt to the earth. Matt. 5:13-14
- b. Being example of a believer, wherever we are or go. 1Tim. 4:12
- c. Being ambassadors for Christ by the ministry of reconciliation. 2Cor. 5:18, 20

- d. Being filled continuously with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18
- e. Not being preoccupation with setting dates and attempting to figure the day and hour out is unbiblical and a waste of time!

The apostles' last question to Jesus was answered to keep them focused and empowered to reach the lost!

III. The apostles' last sight of Jesus. vs. 9-11

- A. The apostles saw Jesus ascend up into heaven. vs.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. Jesus having terminated all that He had to say to the apostles, as they watched Him, He was taken up. vs. 9a-b
 - a. All eleven apostles were present listening to Jesus and while they watched Jesus, they saw Him taken up.
 - * The word watching “blepo” is in the present and emphatic, looking straight at Him.
 - b. Five times it says that Jesus ascended to heaven. vs. 2, 9, 11 (2x's), 22

- 2. Jesus was received in a cloud, taking Him out of their sight. vs. 9c-d
 - a. Luke tells us very normal and naturally that a cloud received Jesus.
 - 1) There is no poetical or figurative language, it is literal. a miracle.
 - 2) The word receive “hupolambano” means it appeared under Him, in order to raise or carry Him.
 - 3) Clouds often represented heavenly glory in Scripture and to the Jew. vs. 9c-d
 - a) Evident at Mount Sinai, the tabernacle, the temple of Solomon and the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - b) The ascension is so important, one commentator stated, that it is mentioned in the Gospels and Acts, no less than 20 times, using 13 different words to describe it! (Phillips:32)
 - b. Luke tells us the ascension was progressive.
 - 1) The manner is given, the word out “apo” means separated of distance.
 - 2) The affirmation is given by the word sight “ophthalmos” indicates the faculty of the eye to perceive the accuracy.

- B.** The apostles saw two men standing by them, who told them Jesus would return from heaven again. vs. 10-11
- 1.** The apostles had their eyes fixed on Jesus ascending farther and farther, were unaware of two men besides them. vs. 10
 - * “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel.” vs. 10
 - a.** They being human, were attempting to see Jesus as long as they could. vs. 10a
 - 1)** This is indicated by the phrased “looked steadfastly”, refers to strained and earnest looking.
 - 2)** The word is used by Luke for focused intensity, 12 of the 14 times is appears in the New Testament.
 - b.** The two men are angels, indicated by their white apparel. vs. 10b-c
 - 1)** Angels had announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Lk. 2:14-15
 - 2)** Angels ministered to Jesus at His temptation. Mk. 1:13
 - 3)** Angels told the women at the tomb, He had risen. Lk. 24:23
 - 4)** Angels now are present at the ascension of Jesus. Acts 1:10

- 5)** The two angels appeared, the number for a legal witness. Deut. 19:15, 17:6-7
- 2.** The apostles were rebuked by the angels for gazing up into heaven. vs. 11a-c
 - * “Who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?”
 - a.** The angels called them Galileans, the place of their origin.
 - b.** They knew Jesus had given them instructions once He had ascended.
 - 1)** To wait for the promise of the Father, in order to receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Acts 1:8a
 - 2)** To be witnesses to Jesus in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8b-d
- 3.** The apostles were assured by the angels Jesus would return. vs. 11d-f
 - a.** They said, “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”
 - b.** The Jesus who left in a miraculous ascension will be returning in “like manner” a descending to the earth.
 - * Note the emphatic words!
 - c.** Jesus will return in His glorified body that He was taken up with.

- d. Jesus will return in the clouds and all will see him.

* Dan. 7:13, Zech. 14:4, Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21, 1Thess. 4:15-18, 1Pet. 3:19-21

Illustration

Have you ever taken someone to the airport, who is going to be gone for a long time? You do all you can to keep eye contact with them and you stay as long as you think you will be able to see them.

Application

1. The ascension of Jesus can not be denied, it verifies the resurrection of Jesus and is recorded throughout Scripture.
 - a. Some think Luke contradict the ascension of Jesus in his gospel by Acts but it supplements it with greater details. Lk. 24:50-53, Acts 1:4-11
 - b. Both his Gospel and Acts attest to being at the Mount of Olives. Lk 24:50, Acts. 1:12
 - c. Peter preached He was at the right hand of God at Pentecost and the temple. Acts 2:25, 33, 34, 5:31
 - d. Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God to receive him into glory. Acts 7:55
 - e. The book of Hebrews tells us Jesus us out High Priest, “Who is seated at the **right** hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.” Heb. 8:1, 1Tim. 3:16

2. The church is to be occupied in two things as it waits for the Coming of Jesus.
 - a. The church is to fulfill its ministry to the saints, teaching them the word of God, for when He ascended He gave gifts unto men, for the perfection of the saints and the work of ministry. Eph. 4:8-16
* You must know the word of God, to give answers about God! 1Pet. 3:15
 - b. The church is to fulfill its mission, “The Great Commission”, to evangelize the lost, reaching them for Christ. Matt. 28:20
 - 1) We are to proclaim that Jesus came the First time to die for the sins of the world and that salvation is only in His name.
 - 2) We are to proclaim that Jesus is coming again to judge the world and every person for their sins.
 - c. Some important questions must be asked!
 - 1) Are You being more concerned about dates than God's will?
 - 2) Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - 3) Are you gazing or working for the Kingdom?
 - 4) Are you confident Jesus is coming?
3. Jesus will return, you can be sure of it.
 - a. Zachariah tells us, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in **two**, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the

mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.” Zech. 14:4*

- b. “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the **clouds** of heaven with power and great glory.” Matt. 24:30
- c. “Behold, He is coming with **clouds**, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.” Rev. 1:7
- c. John ends Revelation with, “He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” Rev. 22:20-21

* Any attempt to teach the Second Coming of Jesus as fulfilled by the coming of the Holy Spirit or anything else, is foolishness!

The apostles last sight of Jesus ascending to heaven was to be looking for His Coming, while reaching the lost!

Conclusion

We have looked at the apostles’ last meeting with Jesus, which is characterized by:

- I. The apostles’ last instructions by Jesus were in preparation to reach the lost!
- II. The apostles’ last question to Jesus was answered to keep them focused and empowered to reach the lost!
- III. The apostles last sight of Jesus ascending to heaven was to be looking for His Coming, while reaching the lost!