



“God’s Plan for Reaching the World”

Acts 1:4-11

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Acts 1:1-2 – “The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.”

Luke 1:1-4 – “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; ⁴so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.”

- Luke wrote both his gospel, and its sequel, which is the book of Acts.
- He wrote to Theophilus, who was Luke’s master.
- Luke is a doctor (Colossians 4:14).
- Luke writes in the third person all the way up to Acts 16, then switches to first person.
- Scholars believe this is where Luke was released by Theophilus to travel with Paul.

Acts 1:3 – “To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.”

So today, in (Acts 1:4-11), we’re going to see four things happen...

- The Holy Spirit is promised (vv.3-5)
- The disciples ask a question (vv.6-7)
- The Holy Spirit’s power is poured out (v.8)
- Jesus ascends with a promise to return (vv.9-11)

So let’s look at the first one...

1. The Holy Spirit is promised (vv.3-5)

Acts 1:3-4 – “To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me.’”

1 Corinthians 15:6 – “After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time.”

1 John 1:1-2a – “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life - ²and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life.”

Acts 1:4-5 – “Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”

Mark 16:15 – “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”

2. The disciples ask a question (vv.6-7)

Acts 1:6-7 – “So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’⁷He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.’”

3. The Holy Spirit’s power is poured out (v.8)

Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

4. Jesus ascends with a promise to return (vv.9-11)

Acts 1:9-11 – “And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’”

- 1 Thessalonians 4 says Jesus comes close to the earth in the clouds...not all the way down...
- Verse 17 says “we will meet the Lord in the air”.

But there’s coming a day...when He will come all the way back down to the earth.

- Revelation 19 is the second coming...when every eye will see Him.

Zechariah 14:4-5 – “In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the East; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. ⁵You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.”

Jesus ascends from the Mt. of Olives, but not the top. He ascends from Bethany (Luke 24:50-51).

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. What instruction did Jesus give His disciples before He left (v.4)? Why is this important?
2. What does it mean to be baptized by the Holy Spirit (v.5)?
3. What were the disciples focused on (v.6)? What should they have been focused on instead?
4. Where do our own expectations differ from God’s purposes, and how can we align them?
5. What message did the “two men in white” deliver (v.11)? How does Jesus’ return affect you?