

THE FUTURE

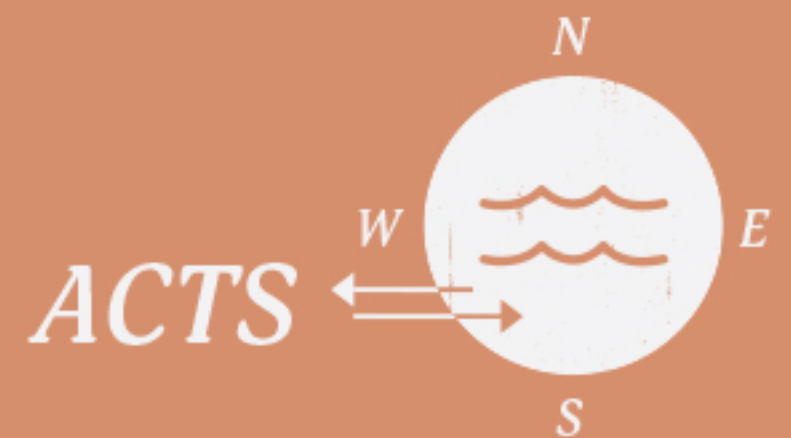


BEGINS



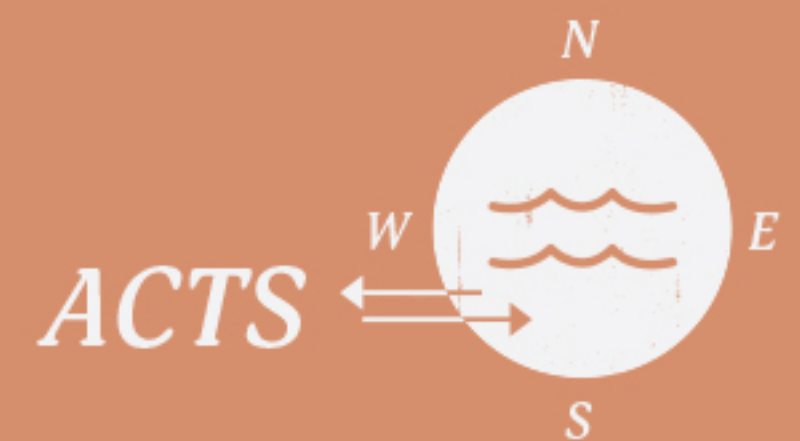
**THE
FUTURE
BEGINS**

**Our future will be founded on what
Jesus accomplished in the past, and
animated by His present power.**



THE FUTURE BEGINS

1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven

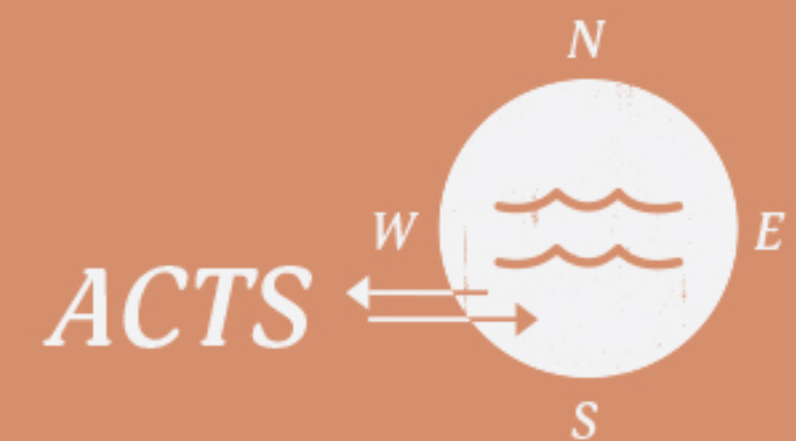


THE FUTURE BEGINS

“As you read [Acts] you’ll wonder—are these the same guys? The ones who doubted in Galilee? The ones who argued in Capernaum? The ones who ran for their lives in Gethsemane? You’ll wonder, “Are these the same men? The answer is no. They are different. They have stood face-to-face with God. They have sat at the feet of the resurrected King. They are different. Within them dwells a fire not found on earth. Christ has taught them. The Father has forgiven them. The Spirit indwells them. They are not the same. And because they are different, so is the world. Read their adventures and be encouraged. Read their adventures and be listening.

What God did for them, he longs to do for you.”

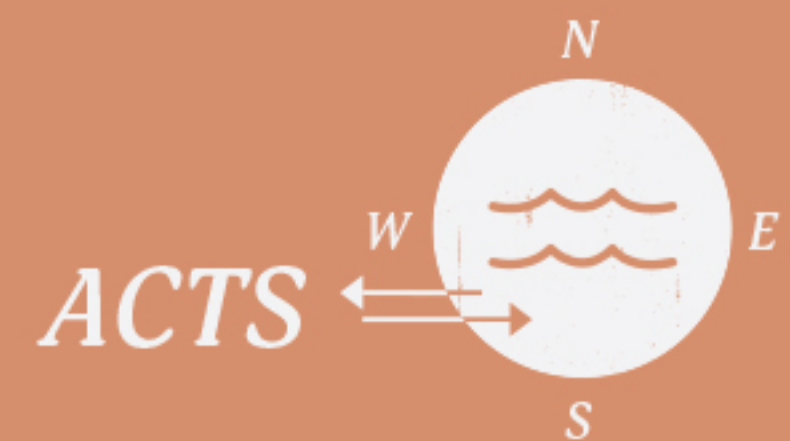
—*Max Lucido*



THE FUTURE BEGINS

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

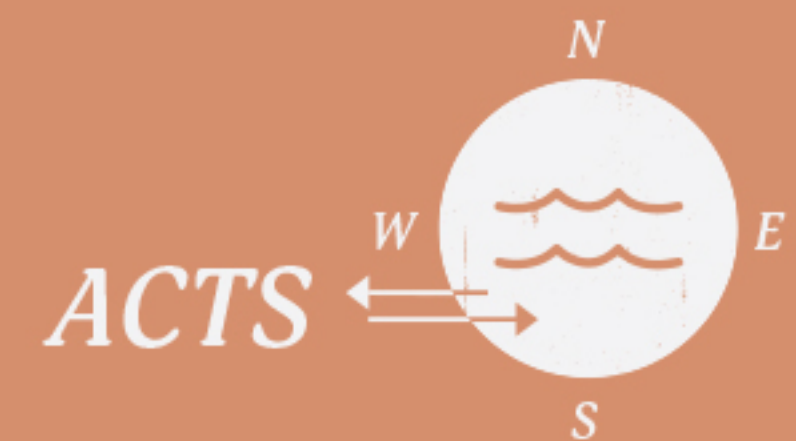
— *Romans 8:11*



THE FUTURE BEGINS

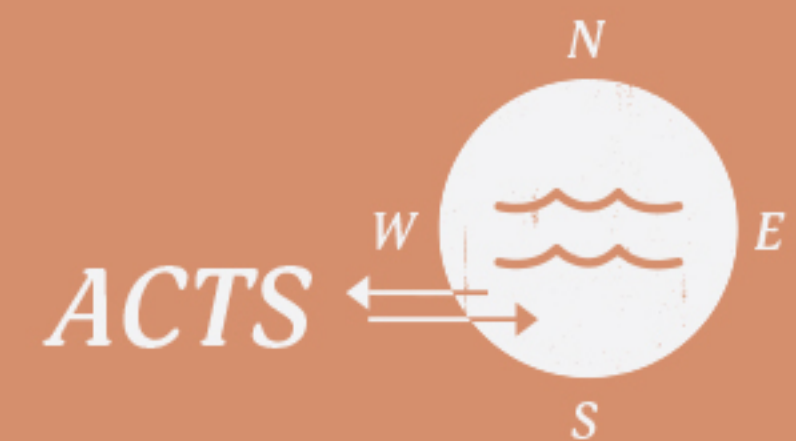
1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. **3** During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. **5** John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”



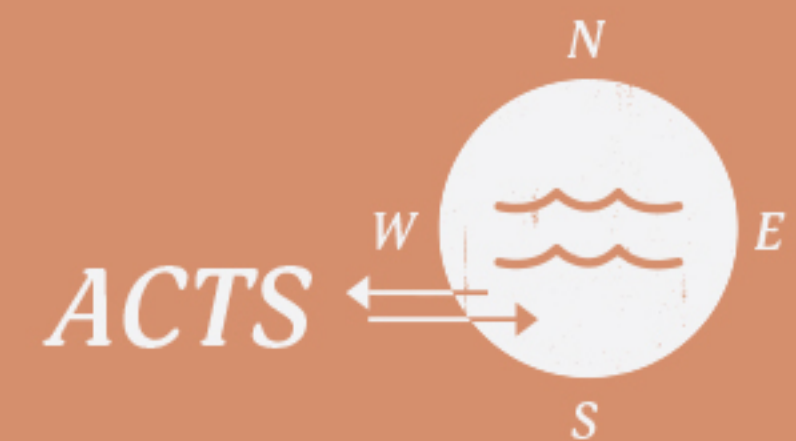
THE FUTURE BEGINS

9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, **10** or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **11** Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)



THE FUTURE BEGINS

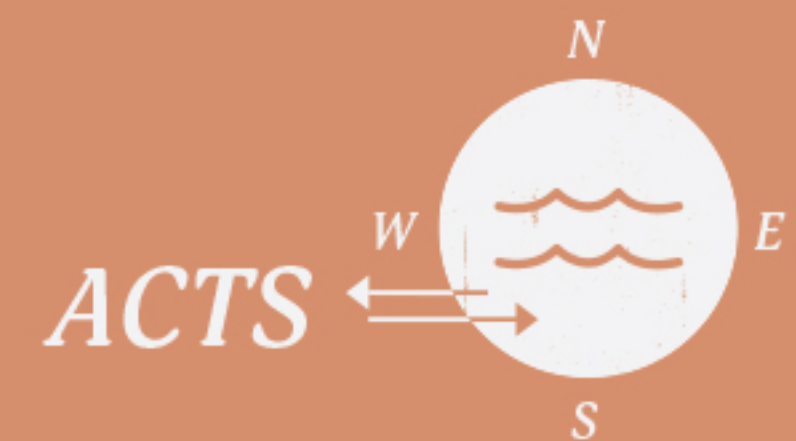
5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. **6** Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. **7** So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ (John 3:5-7)



THE FUTURE BEGINS

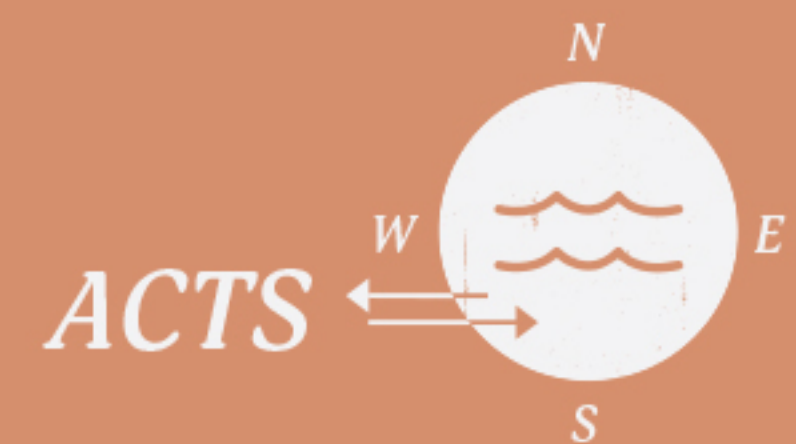
6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, **telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



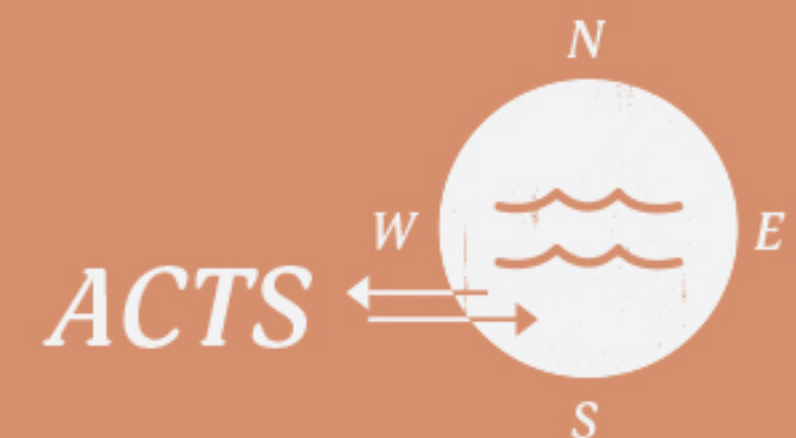
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9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. **10** As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”



THE FUTURE BEGINS

1. We have our instructions in the New Testament
2. We have our proven, resurrected King Jesus
3. We have the Kingdom of God begun but not yet consummated
4. We have the power in the promise of the Father by the Holy Spirit



THE FUTURE BEGINS

“The kingdom really has arrived. The King has dealt with sin once for all in the sacrifice of himself. The King sits at the Father's right hand and reigns now until all his enemies are under his feet. The King's righteousness is now already ours by faith. The King's Spirit is now already dwelling in us. The King's holiness is now already being produced in us. The King's joy and peace have now already been given to us. The King's victory over Satan is now already ours as we use the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. The King's power to witness is now already available to us. And the King's gifts—the gifts of his Spirit—are now already available for ministry.”

—John Piper. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/is-the-kingdom-present-or-future>

