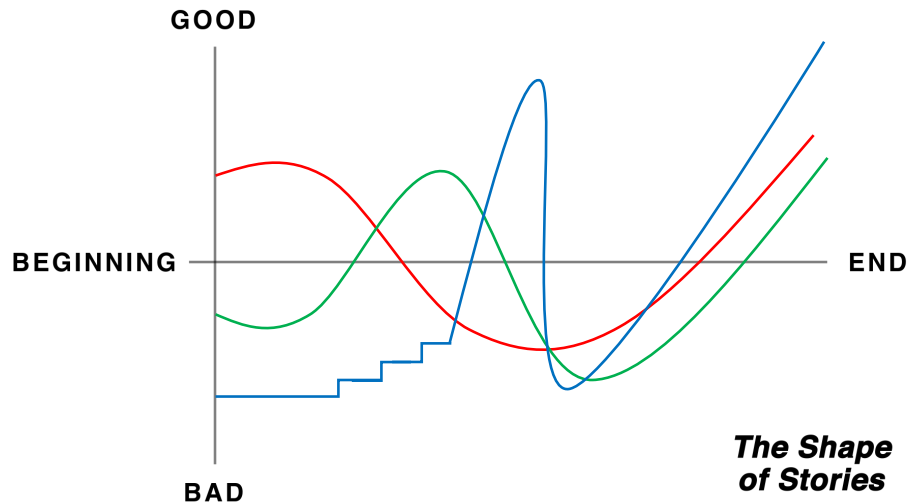
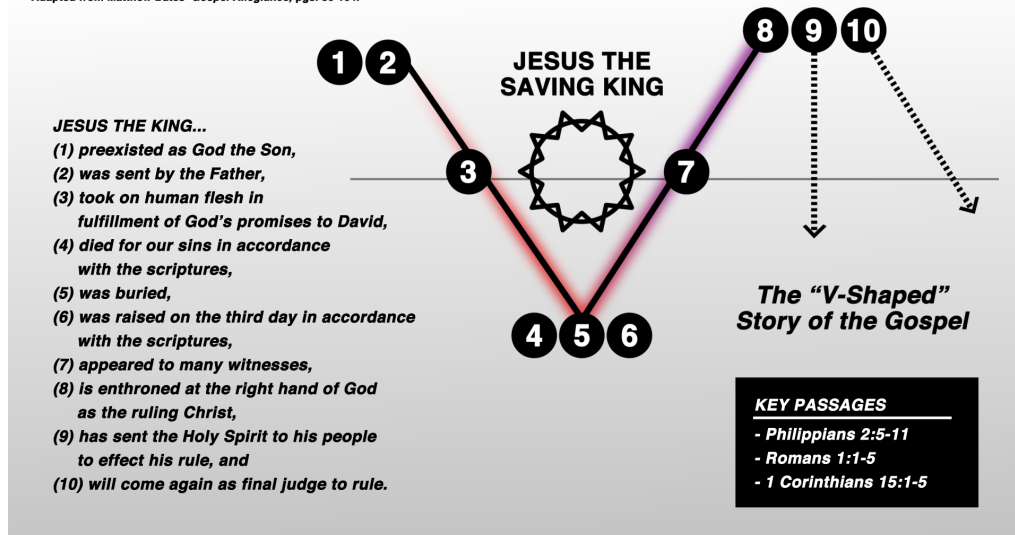


Witnesses | The Ascended Christ  
Acts 1:1-11 | May 16, 2021



Adapted from Matthew Bates' *Gospel Allegiance*, pgs. 86-104.



## ACTS 1:1-11

I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While he was with them, he commanded them

not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "Which," he said, "you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority." "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven."

### THE ASCENSION

1. It depicts Jesus' cosmic exaltation and his present lordship.
2. It is Jesus' departure that results in the sending of the Holy Spirit.
3. It foreshadows the return of Jesus from heaven to earth when God will restore all things.

### AS WITNESSES TO JESUS...

1. We must be patient, dependent, Spirit-filled witnesses.

The popular notion that the first obligation of the church is to spread the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth is false. Her first obligation is to be spiritually worthy to spread it. Our Lord said 'Go ye,' but He also said, 'Tarry ye,' and the tarrying had to come before the going.

- A. W. Tozer, *Of God and Men*, pg. 35

2. We must be witnesses for the cosmic Christ.

What's the solution to such a dilemma? It starts with a diagnosis: politics has become an idol. The need of the hour, then, is to counter the disease with ruthless intensity: dethrone politics, by any means possible. We are not to play footsie with idolatry. Anything that captures our minds and hearts and rises to a level of primacy that competes with the kingdom of Christ must be destroyed.

- Trevin Wax, "Dethrone Politics," TGC

3. We play a key part in the next chapter of the story.

### PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

#### PRAYER & FASTING

- Daily Prayer Guides
- Fast on Monday