

ALL JESUS CONTINUES TO DO AND TO TEACH

Pentecost #5, Acts 1:1-11

May 9, 2021

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (with help from Resonate's Global Mission Summit)

Writing to a "friend of God"

¹ In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Acts 1:1

- 1) We already know Dr. Luke – this volume is a continuation of his gospel!
- 2) Luke writes to those who desire to follow God even more completely

One step closer to Pentecost

³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority"

Acts 1:3-7

- 1) During these forty days, they did a lot of eating together (probably fish!)
- 2) Key point: Acts believers will be identified by _____
- 3) The story of the "Acts of the Holy Spirit" (Bruce's title) begins with God's sovereignty

The Great Commission

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1

- 1) Luke transitions from concerns about the kingdom to the story of the church in God’s plan

- 2) We don’t need to know times and “seasons” because we are in the last days

- 3) Luke begins both his volumes with the work and power of the Spirit (see Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:2)

- 4) This will be our outline: Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, then to the ends of the earth

	geographic outline of Acts	the experience of the Acts church	my 21 st century mission	what I am learning from the Acts church
Jerusalem				
all Judea				
and Samaria				
to the ends of the earth				

Study challenge: One great way to really get the feel for Acts is to develop different outlines: by main character, by sermon, by opposition, by main audience, by journey, by how the power of the Spirit is revealed, by Judean and Roman administrations (Herods and Roman emperors)

Ascension Day (continued on Wednesday night!)

⁹ *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

¹⁰ *They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

Acts 1

- 1) Jesus ascended so that he could take his rightful place at the right hand of the Father
- 2) Jesus ascended so that the Holy Spirit could take precedence in God's economy of salvation
- 3) Jesus ascended so that we would watch for his return

Lessons from Luke's transitions

- 1) Believers (that's us!) are the disciples

⁷ *So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

Acts 6:1-7

- 2) We are in the last days

¹⁴ *Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

¹⁷ *“ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people*

²⁰ *The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’*

Acts 2:14-21

- 3) Transition from Jews to Gentiles: we are looking to the ends of the earth

⁴⁴ *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.*

⁴⁶ *Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us:*

“ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

⁴⁸ *When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.*

Acts 13:13-52

Resources for further studies in Acts

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Acts at <https://open.life.church/items/179224-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has a sermon on this text at <http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/sermons/2330.htm>

Deffinbaugh's introduction at <https://bible.org/seriespage/unique-contribution-book-acts>
and sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/2-preparation-pentecost-acts-11-26>

I have really appreciated John Stott's *The Spirit, The Church and the World: The Message of Acts* (IVP, 1990) and F. F. Bruce's work: *New Testament History* (Doubleday, 1980) and *The Book of the Acts* (Eerdmans, 1980).