

# Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Jerusalem

## *The call and purpose of the New Testament Church*

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

**Introduction:** Acts chapter 1 records the events after the resurrection of Jesus Christ and sets the stage for the early 1st century church. We will see Jesus Christ charging the disciples and preparing them for the following 27 chapters of work in Jerusalem, in Judea, and in Samaria, and eventually across the entire known world. In this chapter, we will see the emphasis on the unity of the early church and obedience to Jesus Christ's command and commission. As we look at the book of Acts we will see snapshots of critical events that occurred in the spread of the Gospel.

### I. The Introduction to a Transitional book

#### a. (V1) Ties to the Gospels (Looks Backward)

- i. A "treatise" is a tract or a written composition on a particular subject
- ii. "Theophilus" - means lover of God
  1. **Luke 1:1-3**
- iii. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) were recordings of what Jesus began to do (Work) and to teach (Doctrine)(Specifically the reference to Luke)
  1. His work is still going on today
  2. God's plan was from the beginning

#### b. (V2) Ties to the future (Looks Forward)

- i. This transition statement lays the foundation for the book of Acts
  1. "Until the day"
  2. We are waiting for our "until the day"
- ii. His work is through the Holy Ghost
  1. He is a risen Saviour
    - a. **Matthew 28:6 He is not here: he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**
  2. He is still accomplishing His work
    - a. **Rev 1:10-17**
  3. He is working through the Holy Spirit and "the chosen" (believers)
    - a. **1 Corinthians 2:10 Holy Spirit**
    - b. **1 Corinthians 12:6-9 Holy Spirit**
    - c. **Titus 2:14 Believers**
    - d. **Ephesians 2:10 Believers**

II. (V3) Proofs of a Resurrected Savior

- i. What were these infallible (**exempt from liability to mistake**) proofs?
  1. Recorded appearances – See handout
  2. The kingdom of God
    - a. **Mark 1:15**
    - b. **Mark 4:26-32**
    - c. **John 3:3**

III. (V4-5) Promise of the Holy Spirit

- i. They were commanded to wait
  1. We should be waiting on the Lord's direction in our lives
    - a. **Psalm 27:14**
  2. We need the power of the Holy Spirit upon our lives
    - a. **John 15:5**
  3. The mark of a believer is the Holy Ghost
    - a. **Romans 8:9**

IV. (V6-8) Program of the Early Church

- a. (V6) This is an honest question
  - i. God wants us to come to him with what we do not understand
    1. **Matt 17:10**
    2. **Mark 9:24**
- b. (V7-8) Jesus redirects their attention
  - i. It is simply not for us to what know God's complete timing
  - ii. This verse is linked with what our focus should be on
    1. **Luke 24:44-53**
    2. So what is our focus? What should our lives be concerned with?
      - a. We should be concerned with seeing people saved
      - b. He says, I will enable you to be witnesses to the entire world
        - i. **Mark 16:20**
      - c. Our life focus should be His work

V. (V9-11) The Ascension

- a. (V9) This verse and those that follow mark a short amount of time between Jesus departing and the Holy Spirit's arrival
  - i. Imagine the Spiritual withdrawal that must have been felt
- b. (V10-11) Which way do we go?
  - i. Sometimes we get so focused on Heaven that we forget the work to done here
    1. There is nothing wrong with looking forward to eternity
    2. Nothing wrong with being watchful
      - a. **Mark 13:23-37**
  - ii. If he left for a season the prepare a place he will return
    1. **John 14:3**
  - iii. The angels' proclamation must have been--
    1. Encouraging and comforting

2. A wake up call to be busy about the Lord's work

**VI. (V12-15) The Obedience**

i. Earmarks of the Church / Believers

1. Perseverance

- a. "These all continued"

2. Unity

- a. We see the unity of a common cause, unified by the leadership of Jesus Christ

3. Prayer

- a. **Supplication** - Petition; earnest request.

4. Peter taking a leadership role in the early church

- a. He has been tried by fire, always the spokesman

ii. More Earmarks of the Church / Believers

1. **Psalm 69:25**

2. **Psalm 109:8**

3. There is a need and desire to adhere to the Scriptures

- a. **Matthew 26:54**

4. There is fulfillment of the Scriptures

- a. **Luke 24:44**

- b. **Luke 9:22**

- c. **Luke 18:31**

- d. **Luke 24:7**

**VII. (V21-26) The Requirements for Apostleship**

1. Eyewitness of Jesus' ministry on earth

- a. Before crucifixion

- b. After crucifixion

2. God's choosing

- a. Casting lots

- i. **Prov 16:33**

- ii. **No casting lots recorded after Pentecost**

**\* Paul's selection was by the will of God/ not our first inclination**

Questions for Chapter 1

1. How many were in the early church according to Chapter 1?

2. How many Apostles were there in Chapter 1 of Acts?

Summary - The preparation of the early church had begun. They had a **leader** (*under-shepherd*) and they were **unified**. They were concerned with the Scriptures and obedient to God's call upon their life.