

## ACTS 1:4-6

Intro: We have seen that the book of Acts is a continuation of the book of Luke.

Luke 24:44-49 - And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things. Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

\*Acts is still about Israel, their Messiah, coming Kingdom, and the Holy Spirit to take Jesus' place to **en**lighten and **em**power the apostles.

A.

Acts 1:4 - And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

1. Jesus is giving His disciples last minute instructions so they would know how to **pro**ceed. They are to wait in Jerusalem for the coming promise of the Holy Spirit.

2. The disciples were from north in Galilee, so why wait in Jerusalem?

a. Answer: Remember, it is in the Kingdom that the blessings of God will flow from Jerusalem - Israel.

Isaiah 2:2-3 - And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. Isa. 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

b. Jerusalem will be the administrative center of the Kingdom (Matt. 19:27-28). The hope was that they would win over the Temple's religious leaders to accept Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah.

\*Remember, their evangelistic pattern would be the world, but it had to be Jerusalem **first**. Why?

c. As we will see, the main leaders of the Little Flock, Peter and James, didn't get much beyond mainly Jerusalem.

(1) Acts 8:1 - And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

(2) Peter - **20** years later - Acts 15:7 - And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

- (3) James - **25** years later - Acts 21:17-18 - And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. Acts 21:18 And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.
- (4) Paul - Galatians 1:18-19 - Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. Gal. 1:19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

Galatians 2:9 - And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

3. Another reason the disciples were to wait in Jerusalem was because in **10** days time it would be the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost means **50**. This feast came 50 days after Passover (Lev. 23:15-21). Christ was crucified at Passover. For 40 days He had shown He was alive, and during that time, He also instructed His disciples. Now the disciples were to wait **10 days** longer for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

\*God has never commanded anyone today to tarry in order to receive the Holy Spirit. Today, we receive the Holy Spirit the **very** moment we believe the Gospel (Eph. 1:13).

4. Also, God's timing is always right! What better time could there have been than Pentecost to proclaim the risen Messiah-Kingdom message?!

\*Male Jews were **required** to yearly be at 3 Israel Feasts, and Pentecost was one of those Feasts. There would be hundreds of thousands attending at the Temple, which was at this time still standing.

## B.

1. The promise to be baptized with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost as they waited in the upper

Acts 1:5 - For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

room.

2. When the word baptism is mentioned most usually think of **water** (dunking-sprinkling-or pouring). Most fail to recognize that the Bible mentions at least 10 **dry** baptisms. Jesus in one verse mentions **3** different baptisms.
  - a. But first: Mark 1:4-5 - John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1:5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.
  - b. Context: Matthew 3:5-8, 10 - Then went out to him (*John*) Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, Matt. 3:6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. Matt. 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Matt. 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: Matt. 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

- c. Now: Matthew 3:11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

\*In this one verse, we have water baptism, Christ's baptizing with the Holy Ghost, and with fire baptism. Acts 2 is Christ baptizing with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the baptizer, and He is going to baptize these believing Jews into the **power** of the Holy Spirit.

3. Note: I Cor. 12:13 [For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles,].

- a. \*Some try to say Acts 2 and I Cor. 12 are the **same** Spirit baptism. This is to try to help them say the Body Church began in Acts 2. But these two baptisms are not the same one. Good people can say this, but that does not make it **true**!

- b. Acts 2 is the promise that the Holy Spirit would be **poured** out upon them (baptized with the Holy Spirit) so they would have power to live godly, preach, and perform the miraculous.

Joel 2:28-29 - And it shall come to pass afterward, *that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh*; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Luke 24:49 - And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

\*Without this special Spirit empowering, they would be **inadequate** for their task to prove Jesus is Christ, to win Jerusalem and Israel - let alone the world.

- c. Also, it is important to remember that **all** three baptisms in Matthew 3:11, water- Spirit - and fire, are associated with the **Kingdom**.

4. Here in Acts 1-2, Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is an enduement of **power** from on high to help these Jews to be worthy **representatives** of their King, the Lord Jesus Christ. This power was, and will be, part of the N.T. - New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31, 33 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Jer. 31:33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:24-27 - For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Ezek. 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. Ezek. 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. Ezek. 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

**\*\*Note:** Hebrews 9:17 - For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

\*After Christ's death, the promised N.T. - New Covenant could go into place/into operation after the Tribulation, if Israel would **believe** Jesus was the Christ-Messiah. But we know their final rejection of the Holy Spirit culminated in Acts 7. This put the New Covenant on **hold** for Israel until Jesus returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation.

**\*\*Christ**, in Acts 2, was also showing what it will be like at the end of the Tribulation, when believing Israel receives the Spirit.

5. So just remember, I Cor. 12:13 is completely different from Acts 1-2.

\*I Cor. 12:13 is in reference to when one believes in the Gospel of Grace. They are placed into the Body of Christ, into spiritual **union** in Christ, and are then **identified** with being in Christ. We are not at all associated with Israel or any Covenant.

C. 1. As the disciples all meet together (for the last time here on earth until He returns), they intensely

<p><u>Acts 1:6</u> - When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?</p>
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enquired - actually **pestering** Him to answer their question: When will the Kingdom be again? [at this time]? Lord, are You going to do it right **now**?

2. Christ's chosen apostles always looked for Messiah to bring in the Kingdom. To be out from Roman authority and to have Christ reigning was their hope and obsession. Jesus even had to **slow** that thinking down a bit!

a. Luke 19:11-12 - And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

\*So their question was not about **if** the Kingdom would be restored. They had multiple O.T. promises to that truth, and for 2 1/2 - 3 years Christ had been teaching them about the Kingdom. Their question is about the **timing**, and Christ had repeatedly told them the Kingdom would be **delayed** (Luke 19:11-15).

b. Matthew 25:14-15, 19 - For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. Matt. 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Matt. 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Example: We can count down to the day, when studying Daniel, about Messiah's coming and being cut off. But here, between Christ's ascension and when Daniel's 70th week (Tribulation, then Christ's return to earth and His setting up His Kingdom) begins, there is an **un**specified amount of time that is just called the "last days". The exact period of time between Christ's ascension and the beginning of the Tribulation is **not** specifically given.

3. So the question is not if He will restore the Kingdom, but it is to the timing (when) of the Kingdom. Also, their question was not about the **kind** of Kingdom to be set up, but it says [restore again the kingdom to Israel].

\*What kind of Kingdom did they have before?

\* They had a visible, literal, physical, earthly Kingdom and, because of idolatry and apostasy, they

the | \* **lost** it. They are going to get back a literal, visible, physical, earthly Kingdom - with Israel as  
\* **favor**ed nation of the world again - with David and Christ reigning!