

## ACTS 1:7-8

Introduction: Verse 1 - Luke is the author of both the Gospel of Luke and Acts.

Verse 2 - Instructions and Christ's teachings concerning Israel will continue after Christ ascends, through the Holy Spirit.

Verse 3 - This verse shows that Christ indeed did rise from the grave.

Verse 4 - They were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit's arrival.

Verse 5 - The Holy Spirit will empower them to do their ministry.

Verse 6 - The disciples ask about the timing of their "again" Kingdom.

\*The word [again] is important. Remember, Israel had an earthly, literal, visible kingdom, but lost it.

1. Past: Ezekiel 16:13-14 - Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment *was of* fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. Ezek. 16:14 And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

\*The point is they were in a kingdom - a literal, physical kingdom that God had given them.

2. But! Ezekiel 21:25-26 - And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity *shall have* an end, Ezek. 21:26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this *shall not be* the same: exalt *him that is* low, and abase *him that is* high.

\*Their Kingdom was taken from them because of their sin.

- a. Daniel 1:1-2 - In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. Dan. 1:2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

\*God took Israel's Kingdom away, and Babylon began the "times of the Gentiles". This time period will end when Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation, defeats all Israel's enemies, and restores again Israel's literal and visible Kingdom. He will reign and rule over all.

- b. Ezekiel 21:27 - I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no *more*, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it *him*.

Daniel 2:31-35, 44 - Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible. Dan. 2:32 This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, Dan. 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Dan. 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Dan. 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. Dan. 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

- c. Just don't be fooled by what much of Christendom teaches. God is not through with Israel.

3. Just don't be fooled by what much of Christendom teaches. God is **not** through with Israel.

Luke 23:34 - Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Acts 3:15, 17 - And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. Acts 3:17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as *did* also your rulers.

\*\*By God's divine decree, it is changed from murder to manslaughter - from willful murder and rejection of Christ to manslaughter and the sin of **ignorance**. So God is not done with Israel, based upon the crucifixion of Christ in our context.

\*God is actually getting ready to extend another call of repentance to the nation of Israel. Israel will get a new opportunity in their thinking of Jesus Christ as Messiah. Now, He is a resurrected Messiah!

A. 1. The Lord does not answer yes or no. It was not for them to know.

Acts 1:7 - And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

\*The reason for His answer was that Christ knew, for that moment in history, there was still a kept **secret**...the mystery!

a. I Chronicles 12:32 - And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them *were* two hundred; and all their brethren *were* at their commandment.

\*Issachar was the smallest of the tribes. Yet often the leaders of the nation would come to them, because they understood the times and seasons, to help tell Israel what to do.

b. I Thessalonians 5:1-2 - But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 1Thess. 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

\*Why **could** these Gentiles know the times and seasons, but Israel in Acts 1 couldn't? Why not?

(1) \*Answer: Between Acts 1 and Acts 17-18 (Thessalonica), there had to be a **change** that took place. Something had to happen for the Thessalonians to have been taught correctly the times or the seasons.

(2) \*It was not for the Apostles in Acts 1-7 to know the times and seasons; whereas, later Gentile converts could know the times.

2. [which the Father hath put in his own power.]

a. There is a situation going on in early Acts where there is a Kingdom offer being extended to the nation of Israel. It is **con**tingent upon what their **re**sponse would be whether certain things would happen or not. Yes, God knew what would happen. But remember, God's eternal, overall purpose and plan will always be fulfilled!

- b. It was after the fall of Israel and the Mystery Grace Gospel had begun (Acts 9-28), that in Acts 18 or I Thessalonians 5, the Body believers were taught about why the Prophetic Program had been **post**poned. The Mystery Body had **started**, giving believers in the Dispensation of Grace an understanding of the times and seasons.
- c. In Acts 1:6-7, there were things that could **not** be told to the disciples but were **hidden** in God the Father Himself. There were secrets He kept. He did not share with them all the facts of His wisdom and counsel. So there were things they could not know about at that time. But God later did reveal His hidden truths to Paul and the Body.

Note: Daniel 2:20-21 - Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: Dan. 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

\*From scripture we now know that God did change the times and seasons in order to place **us** (the Body of Christ - His hidden mystery) into history.

\*God would not tell His chosen disciples about us in Acts 1:6-7.

- 3. It is important to grasp this so we never become **con**fused by Christendom's schools, commentaries, seminaries, churches, traditions, and wrong opinions about **int**erpretations of Scripture.

- a. Jesus Christ is omniscient. He 

Recap:
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 knew the Mystery was **still**, at that time, a secret. He also knew Israel would reject Him again, even after His resurrection.

- b. He also knew, because of Israel's unbelief in the Kingdom offer in early Acts, they would be **tem**porarily set aside while the coming of Paul's Gospel of Grace would be rising **up**. Israel's rejection of Messiah would give place to the Church Body that is for today.

- c. If Christ had revealed this truth then to His disciples, they could/would not have made such a passionate plea, as they did in Acts 3-6, for Israel to accept Jesus as their Christ-Messiah. The setting aside would have **dis**couraged them and knocked the wind out of their sails. They would have had little heart in their message.

- d. No doubt some Jews would complain, that not knowing the Kingdom hope was to be set aside-then finding it out, that the 12's Kingdom offer was **unfair** or even untrue. They would say it wasn't an earnest call to repentance nor a bona fide offer of the Kingdom.

- (1) \*But that is not true. What would happen was **dependent** upon **their** response of faith or unbelief.

It Question? Since God is omniscient, He knows **who** will be saved and who won't. Does that **nullify** the offer of salvation to people and make it not genuine? Of course it does **not**.

shows that all are without excuse.

- (2) Remember, God is all knowing and eternal. He is timeless, but He is also the God of time in order to fulfill His overall purpose and plan! At times, God **hides** things in a certain time period until He knows it is time to reveal them.

\*EX: Progressive Revelation - God does not tell **every**thing He wants man or believers to know in Genesis. More revelation was revealed to Abraham - more than Noah knew, then more to Moses, then more to the prophets, then more to John the Baptist, then more to the **12** (here in early Acts 1-7), then more to **Paul** with the Revelation of the Mystery (Acts 9-28; Romans-Philemon).

\*EX: Truth revealed went from **animal** sacrifices, then the **cross**, then the Kingdom offer-rejection (Acts 2-7), to the Mystery Body, and Rapture up to heaven.

Deuteronomy 29:29 - The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Romans 16:25 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

- e. So in early Acts, and especially Acts 1:6-7, Peter and the others did not know about the Gospel of Grace and the raising **up** of the Apostle Paul at a later time (one year later in Acts 9). They had no concept of God turning **from** them to the Gentiles (so far, it's been 2000 years). The reason for this secret was to give the nation of Israel every opportunity to repent and believe in Jesus Christ Messiah.

- B. 1. This actually is part of **one** commission given to the disciples over 40 days before Christ's ascension.

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.

It is one of several accounts of the **same** commission. Each account supplements the other. They are found in Matthew 28:20, Mark 16:16-20, John 20:23, and Luke 24:47.

2. As we will see, if we keep our understanding of our **context**, this commission is **not** for us the Body of Christ today. Remember, our Apostle, the Mystery, the one new man, and the Gospel of Grace had not been revealed yet!
3. So when churches and schools say: Jerusalem is our Whiteland, Judaea is our surrounding communities (Greenwood-Franklin-Center Grove-Bargersville), Samaria is our country, and the uttermost part of the earth is world missions - is that **right?**

Question? Then why don't we begin in Jerusalem to spread the Kingdom message-gospel? Also, do we spiritualize scriptures, or do we interpret **literally?**

\* You think of a reason why this verse is not for the church today.

More Next Week: