



## *ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus*

### Acts 1

### Lesson 1

The book of Acts is the second book written by Luke, who was known as the beloved physician. Both the books of Luke and Acts were written to Theophilus, a man we know nothing about. The book of Acts picks up where the book of Luke left off. Truly, it is one continuous story. I am so very thankful that Theophilus saved these two books. They reveal to us how believers performed Jesus' great commission and inspire us to continue their work.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Acts 1**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus*, the *Father*, the *Holy Spirit*, and the *apostles*.  
Key Words: *Father*, *Jesus*, *Holy Spirit*, *baptized/baptism*, *witnesses*, and *apostles*
3. Underline the phrase *taken up* and any references to *Peter*.
4. The contrasting word *but* was used three times in Acts 1. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
5. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in verses 6 and 21. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of the times; record the conclusion and what it is based upon.

## THE FORMER ACCOUNT: Read Acts 1:1-3

1. Luke began the book of Acts referring to a former account which we know to be the book of Luke. Read Luke 1:1-4. What words convince you of the reliability of Luke's words?
  - a. What is important for you to know before you obey someone's instructions?
2. According to Acts 1:2, what did Jesus do before *He was taken up*?
3. We find Jesus' final commandments to the apostles in the final chapters of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. What were Jesus' final words to the apostles before His ascension? See Luke 24:46-49.
  - a. Notice the words *thus it is written* which precede the words *thus it was necessary*. Why was it *necessary* for Jesus to fulfill all that was *written* for Him to be the Messiah?

Challenge: List some of the prophecies of the Messiah which Jesus fulfilled.

4. According to Luke 24:47, what two things are to *be preached in Jesus' name*?
  - a. Define:  
*repentance*  
  
*remission of sins*
5. What was Jesus' final instruction to the apostles? Luke 24:49
6. What does Matthew 28:18-20 add to Jesus' final words before His ascension?
7. Using the instructions from Matthew and Luke, summarize Jesus' instructions. (Include Mark if you have time.)

8. According to Acts 1:3, how long did Jesus remain on earth before He was *taken up*?
  - a. According to Mark 16:9,12, and 14, to whom did Jesus present Himself after His resurrection?
  - b. What do you think it was like for them to see Jesus again?

### **THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER: Read Acts 1:4-8**

1. Acts 1:4 reminds us of one of Jesus' final commands. What additional insight does Luke 24:49 add?
2. Let's park on Jesus' words, *which you have heard from Me* (Acts 1:4). The Holy Spirit is the *Promise of the Father*. According to the following passages, summarize or list the *words* that the apostles *heard from Jesus* about the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-17

John 16:5-15
3. Luke had conscientiously done his homework. Read Acts 1:5. What did John the Baptist say about Jesus in Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:16?
4. Acts 1:6 begins with the word *therefore*. *Therefore* is typically a word based upon prior statements. Yet, this *therefore* does not really relate to the sending of the *Holy Spirit*; possibly revealing to us the need the apostles had for the *Holy Spirit* as they displayed their misunderstanding of what Jesus had said. What was their concern?
  - a. How does their concern differ from Jesus' purpose for them?
  - b. Ponder their reaction. Share a time when you were about your agenda and thus, misunderstood God's Word.

5. Record Jesus' response in:

a. Acts 1:7

1.) What do you think Jesus was saying to them?

a.) In what ways does He say something similar to us (or to you personally) today?

b. Acts 1:8

1.) Jesus brought them back to the *Promise of the Father*. What does this verse teach us the *Holy Spirit* intends to do in the life of the believer?

a.) Why do we need *power* to be *witnesses*?

#### **THE ASCENSION OF JESUS: Read Acts 1:9-11**

1. Again, we find parallel verses in the book of Luke. Combine the two accounts (Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9-11) by summarizing them.

a. According to Mark 16:19, what did Jesus do when He arrived in heaven?

1.) What can we know about the One who sits at the *right hand of God*? 1 Peter 3:22

a.) How is this a comfort to you?

2. The Luke account of the ascension tells us that the apostles *worshipped* Jesus. What do you think that moment was like for them?

3. What was the message of the *two men* to the apostles? Acts 1:10,11

a. What do you think they wanted the apostles to understand?

4. What does Matthew 24:30 teach us about Jesus' return?
5. How does the reality of Jesus' ascension assure you of Jesus' return?

### **THE CHOOSING OF MATTHIAS: Read Acts 1:12-26**

1. What did the apostles do after Jesus' ascension? Acts 1:12-14
  - a. What changes do their attitude and actions in verse 14 reveal that did not seem to be present when Jesus was physically with them?
  - b. Why is unity so important amongst believers? Challenge: Use scripture to support your answer.
2. Peter will prove to be a leader amongst the disciples. The first 12 chapters of Acts speak much of him. Read Acts 1:15-20 and express Peter's concern.
3. Peter quoted from the Psalms (69:25 and 109:8) in Acts 1:20. Although David, when inspired by the Holy Spirit to write these Psalms knew nothing of Judas, Peter applied these verses to Judas. Jesus did the same in John 13:18, quoting Psalm 41:9. The rest of the apostles were in agreement. What did they do in response to Peter's statement? See Acts 1:23,24,26
  - a. Their action has provoked much controversy within Christian circles as believers debate whether or not they did the right thing. As you consider what they did, what do you think was right and what was questionable? Why?
4. What common word was used to describe both *Judas* and *Matthias*? Acts 1:17,26
  - a. This does not imply that Matthias was not God's choice. However, it is a reminder to us that not all who are *numbered* amongst believers are truly believers. Why is this important to know?

## REVIEW: Read Acts 1

1. What is the importance of Jesus' final promise and commands to you?
2. Share a time you wanted to move on or begin a project or even walk away from someone /something difficult, but were held back by God's leading?
  - a. What have you discovered to be the benefits of waiting on God?
3. What are some of the evidences of Jesus' existence that are most meaningful to you?
4. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?
5. After studying Acts 1, what are you looking forward to learning more about in this book?

*The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.  
Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues  
and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.  
Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them.  
Indeed they know what I said."  
- John 18:19-21*

(In the book of Acts, many of those who heard began speaking – and they changed the world)

## Observation Worksheet

### Acts 1:1-26

<sup>1</sup> The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, <sup>3</sup> to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup> Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." <sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." <sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. <sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. <sup>15</sup> And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, <sup>16</sup> "Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; <sup>17</sup> for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." <sup>18</sup> (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> "For it is written in the book of Psalms: '*Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it*'; and, '*Let another take his office*.'" <sup>21</sup> "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." <sup>23</sup> And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." <sup>26</sup> And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.