

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study: The Acts of the Apostles Series
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Keyword: Witness

I. Assurance from Jesus

A. Confirmation of who he was and what he would do next.

Acts 1:1-3 (KJV) *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

Jesus confirmed he is risen and alive not a ghost!

B. Command for what they should and what would happen next.

Acts 1:4-5 (KJV) *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. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

1. Jesus commanded that the disciples wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit which would empower them.

Acts 1:6 (KJV) *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

2. The disciples where confused about the timing, not the ultimate Kingdom rule. Jesus will return and rule earth from Jerusalem for a millennium.

Acts 1:7 (KJV) *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.*

3. Jesus clarifies that God, the Father, knows and will be the only one to determine when that will occur.

Acts 1:8 (KJV) *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.*

4. Jesus reiterates the “**Great Commission**” telling the disciples to be witnesses throughout the world.

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

3 of our 5 Church purposes are found here. Evangelism, Fellowship, and Discipleship

II. Ascension of Jesus

Acts 1:9-11 (KJV) *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

- A. The disciples **witnessed** Jesus ascending into heaven.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

- B. The angels assured the disciples of the **2nd Coming**. Jesus is coming back to fulfill the scriptures and claim His Kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (proceed) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

C. Just as the angels comforted those who saw Jesus ascend, that he is coming back, we can comfort others with their witness and account through scripture that Jesus is coming back.

Revelation 1:7-8 (KJV) *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

D. Jesus' return will be literal, **physical**, **personal**, and **powerful**.

III. The **Prayer** Meeting of the disciples

Acts 1:12-13 (KJV) *Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.*

List Apostles of Jesus Christ

<u>Apostle Name</u>	<u>Places Witnessed</u>	<u>Manner of Death</u>
Peter (Simon Peter)	Rome/Pope	Crucified (inverted)
James (Zebedee)	Local/Regional	Beheaded (Acts 12:1-3)
John (Zebedee)	Asia	Natural
Andrew	Local/Regional	Crucified
Phillip	Turkey (Laodicea)	Stoned/Crucified
Thomas	India	Spear
Bartholomew	India & Armenia	Crucified/Beheaded
Matthew	Ethiopia & Egypt	Spear
James (the Less)	Local/Regional	Crucified
Simon (The Zealot)	Africa & England	Crucified
Judas (Thaddeus)	Greece	Clubbed
Judas (Iscaiot)	--	Suicide Hanging
Matthias	Judea/Colchis	Crucified/Beheaded
Paul (Saul)	*See Journeys	Beheaded

A. There are no more Apostles until Jesus comes back!

Acts 1:14 (KJV) *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

- B. **Unity** is the earliest **tradition** of the church. IV. The **Business** Meeting of the Apostles

Acts 1:15-26 (KJV) *And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.*

18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

- A. The Apostles sought a replacement for Judas Iscariot because he **defected**/betrayed Jesus, not simply because he **died**.

Psalm 109:1-10 (KJV) ...*10 Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places.*

Reference Also Matthew 27:9-10; Jeremiah 32:40-44; Zechariah 11:12-13

Acts 1:21-23 *Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.*

- B. To be an **Apostle** one must have **Walked** and **Witnessed** Jesus teachings and works from his **baptism** to his **death** and through his **resurrection** and **ascension**.

Acts 1:24-26 *And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

- C. In unity, they voted and **agreed** Matthias would be included among them as an Apostle.

Next Week: Read Acts Chapter 2