

Sunday Sermon 5-17-2020

Acts 1:4-8

The Apostles' Question of the Kingdom / the Promised Holy Spirit / the Apostles' Commission

Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

He dedicated them to Theophilus.

They are a 2-volume set of a broad history of Christianity from the time of Pentecost until the imprisonment of Paul the Apostle in Rome.

Luke ends with the Lord Jesus' ascension, and the book of Acts basically begins with the ascension.

Acts begins with Pentecost and the ministry of Peter and the other apostles, including the selection of Matthias to take Judas Iscariot's place, and the seven chosen deacon/servants.

It transitions to the sharing of the gospel with Gentiles, the final rejection of Jesus being the Messiah by the nation of Israel, the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, and finally his ministry and the focus of the gospel mostly being accepted by Gentiles.

Last week we looked at the first 3 verses of chapter 1 in Acts as well as the first 4 verses in chapter 1 of Luke.

Today we begin with Acts 1:4 and will hopefully be able to get thru verse 8.

**Acts 1:4** [4](#) 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;**

- In the old KJV, verse 4 is finally the end of the first sentence of chapter 1. In the NKJV, it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence.
- Jesus had spent time with the Apostles and some other disciples during a 40-day period after His resurrection. On this 40<sup>th</sup> day, He will be ascending into heaven.
- We know He is assembled with His apostles (only 11 at this time), and there may have been a few other believers
- Jesus' final instructions—don't leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father—the Holy Spirit
  - John baptized with water, but they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now—in fact, in 10 days on the day of Pentecost, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a 7-day Jewish Feast, the lone Feast in late spring, between the 3 early spring feasts and the last 3 fall feasts
  - Jesus had taught about and promised the Holy Spirit coming
    - **John 14:15-18** [15](#) "**If you love Me, keep My commandments. [16](#) And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— [17](#) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot**

receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. [18](#) I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

- **John 14:25-26** [25](#) “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. [26](#) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
- **John 15:26-27** [26](#) “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. [27](#) And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.
- **John 16:7-15** [7](#) Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. [8](#) And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9](#) of sin, because they do not believe in Me; [10](#) of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; [11](#) of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. [12](#) “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. [13](#) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. [14](#) He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. [15](#) All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

**Acts 1:5** [5](#) for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- They will be baptized with the Holy Spirit—a one-time thing
- **Luke 3:15-17** [15](#) Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not, [16](#) John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [17](#) His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”
  - This ties right in with the kingdom parables we have been considering on the Thursday Biblelifetoday studies
    - God’s people—those who have believed and trusted in Jesus as God’s Son and our Lord and Savior, are growing right alongside the tares, the weeds, the children of the devil, the chaff—until the time of harvest (which Jesus said in the parable was the end of the age)—then the children of God, His Christ followers will be gathered into His barn, the Millennial kingdom, and the children of the devil (all who are not Christ followers) will be cast in to the fire of torment and judgment

**Acts 1:6** [6](#) Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

- This was a legitimate question—Jesus did not rebuke them for asking it—His answer even indicated that at some time that will happen, but their immediate focus is to be on their job at hand
- **Acts 15:14-18** [14](#) Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. [15](#) And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:  
[16](#) *‘After this I will return  
And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
And I will set it up;  
[17](#) So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD,  
Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,  
Says the LORD who does all these things.’*  
[18](#) “Known to God from eternity are all His works.
  - We will see in Peter’s sermon on Pentecost that he speaks in his 2<sup>nd</sup> sermon (**Act 3:11-26**) about heaven must receive Christ Jesus until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began
    - The church was still a “mystery”—Peter talked of prophecy by the prophets of old, since the world began—Paul will talk about the “mystery” of the church, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit (**Ephesians 3:5** an **8-12**)
      - Prophecy has to do with Israel—the mystery has to do with the church
        - Prophecy has to do with Israel and the Jews, and has dates and times—the mystery has to do with the church and is not given dates nor times
- **Luke 21:24** “. . . and Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”

**Acts 1:7** [7](#) And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

- But we recall from Mark’s account of the Olivet Discourse in **Mark 13:32-37**  
[32](#) “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33](#) Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. [34](#) *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. [35](#) Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— [36](#) lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. [37](#) And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

- This is the 18<sup>th</sup> parable in our list of now 40 parables that we're considering on Thursday afternoon's Biblelifetoday
  - The instruction, which covers the entire time until Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (which includes our day and time), is that we are to be watching and ready for His Return

**Acts 1:8** 8 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."

- Earlier, they had been sent only to the house of Israel when they were first commissioned. That's even what Jesus told the woman of Tyre and Sidon, the Syro-Pheonician woman who pleaded with Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter—Matthew's account said Jesus said to her, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- Now they will be sent to the ends of the earth

From our passage today, which was only 5 verses, we consider:

- The apostles asked about the kingdom being restored to Israel
- Jesus indicating by His answer that it will happen, but they were not to worry or think about that at that time
- In a few short years from the time of the events in the passage, the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed and the nation of Israel completely scattered to all the nations of the world. Yesterday we considered them to be the treasure hidden in a field in parable # 9
- The kingdom cannot be restored to Israel until they are a nation again—enter Biblelifetoday! In our lifetime, Israel has become a nation again and we now read and hear of their wanting to build the 3<sup>rd</sup> temple
- Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, speaking of the coming of the Lord as a thief in the night said of Christ followers in **I Thessalonians 5:1-11**
  - 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.
  - 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
  - 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
  - 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
  - 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.
  - 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.
  - 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.
  - 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.
  - 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
  - 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.