

The Book of Acts



Acts 1:1-11

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

BACKGROUND

AUTHOR

The Gospel writer Luke. Acts is seen as a continuation of his Gospel.

Both are written to Theophilus

DATE WRITTEN

Not known but probably before AD 60

TITLE

Technically this book is untitled but the Church has given this book various titles throughout the years:

The Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

THEME

The Gospel spreading out to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the outermost parts of the world

KEY VERSES

Chpt 1:8

Introduction

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6 So when they met together, they asked him, **"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"** 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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Luke 24:50-52

50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and **was taken up into heaven.**

Preparing for the Ascension

The Meaning of the Ascension

Acts 1:1-2

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Ephesians 4:20-21

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 **when you heard about Christ** and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:17

17 **He came and preached peace to you** who were far away and peace to those who were near.

How the Ascension is the Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

What are the implications of the Ascension?**1) Humility****Acts 2:42**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching **and to fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2) Community**John 21:1-3****Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples**

1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples **were together**. 3 Simon Peter said to them, **"I am going fishing."** They said to him, **"We will go with you."** They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

6 So when they met together, they asked him, **"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"** 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

3) Patience

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."