

## Acts 1

### Events of Preparation in the 50 days prior to the Beginning of the Church

#### I. Odds and Ends...

- A. Writer – *Luke the Physician*
  - 1. May have been a Gentile – Col. 4:14, Lk. 1:1-4
- B. Date – *60-90 AD*
- C. To whom... – *Theophilus*
  - 1. Means “friend of God”
  - 2. Could have been real name or a title
- D. Second Volume – Luke ends his Gospel record with a brief summation of the ascension (Lk. 24:50-53) and picks up in more detail of the same event

#### II. V.1-3 – Introduction

- A. Former account (Luke) was about Jesus up to His ascension
- B. He presented Himself alive by many infallible proofs, being on earth 40 days
- C. He was speaking the things pertaining to the kingdom of God
  - 1. He could have simply been saying that the rule of God was about to be established
    - a) Many of the saints may have wondered about what form it would take
- D. Jesus provided infallible proofs (tekmerion – a sure sign, a positive proof; the adjective “infallible” is superfluous) with which the saints could rest their hope upon, **1:1-3**
  - 1. He presented Himself alive to His apostles by many infallible proofs (witnesses, evidence)
  - 2. What proofs?
    - a) He was shown after His resurrection
    - b) He showed Himself to be alive
    - c) Met Mary Magdalene and the other Mary – **Matt. 28:9**
    - d) Two traveling to Emmaus – **Luke 24:13**
      - (1) Even stayed at their house and ate with them, **v.30**
    - e) The apostles
      - (1) The eleven at the Great Commission – **Matt. 28:16**
        - (a) Offered His hands and feet to those gathered together – **Luke 24:36**
          - (i) He ate in their presence, **v.43**
        - (2) The Sea of Tiberius – Miracle was provided with the catching of the fish – (disciples present also) – **John 21:1**
          - (a) He ate with them, **v.12**
      - f) He was seen by over 500 brethren at once – **I Cor. 15:6**
        - (1) In a context in which Paul is trying to prove Jesus’ resurrection
  - 3. How would this help the apostles and saints, and thus prepare for the kingdom?
    - a) These infallible proofs provided an understanding that Jesus was who He said He was – the Christ, the Son of God
      - (1) Proof implies certainty

## II. Directions from Jesus, 1:4-8

- A. Stay in Jerusalem
  - 1. He promised the Spirit would come upon them
    - a) They were to be baptized in the Holy Spirit
      - (1) Not many days hence
      - (2) This was the “promise of the Father”
    - b) Did they know what would happen when this occurred?
      - (1) He had said it would lead them into all truth – John 16:13
  - 2. He gave the order in which they would witness to Him
    - a) They would be witnesses first in Jerusalem
    - b) All Judea and Samaria
    - c) End of the earth
- B. The apostles asked if He would restore the kingdom to Israel
  - 1. The word “restore” is apokathistaneis” which means “to restore to its former state”
    - a) The apostles wanted to know if Jesus would restore the kingdom (political or possibly even spiritual) to the Jews as it was in the days of David and Solomon
      - (1) The Jews believed that prophecy pointed to the establishment of a physical kingdom with a physical king
        - (a) The King would descend from Judah – Gen. 49:10
        - (b) The King would sit on David’s throne – Is. 9:7
        - (c) The King would come to Jerusalem – Zech. 9:9
        - (d) The Kingdom would be established in the time of the Romans and it would never be destroyed – Dan. 2:44
      - (2) This is proof that the apostles needed the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth before they began to witness to Christ
    - b) This explains why they were so distraught after Jesus’ death, thinking all was lost
      - (1) They assumed that the plan to restore the kingdom had failed
  - 2. Jesus rebuked them, saying that it was not for them to know the times of the seasons that the Father has put in His own authority
    - a) Instead of addressing the nature of the kingdom, Jesus addresses their question of “at this time” (chronos)
    - b) Not only was it not for them to know the times (chronos – a period of determined time) but also the seasons (kairos - time marked by certain features)
      - (1) The Father had set within His own authority both the length of the time, and the events that would characterize the time, to Himself

## III. The Lord’s ascension, 1:9-11

- A. Imagine what it was like to watch the Lord ascend in a cloud toward heaven
  - 1. What would you have been feeling in seeing that?
    - a) Joy? The certainty of faith?
    - b) The anticipation of what was to come?
    - c) Confusion because He did not answer the question about the kingdom?
- B. Two men in white apparel address them

1. The apostles are told how Jesus shall return
  - a) He was taken away in the clouds
  - b) He shall return in the clouds, **Rev. 1:7**

#### **IV. The apostles followed the command and all continued in one accord, 1:12-14**

- A. The apostles returned to Jerusalem to wait
  1. Imagine the anticipation building, not knowing when the Spirit would come, nor when the kingdom would be established
  2. Imagine how bold they felt, having just seen their Master rise into heaven
    - a) They were ready and willing to do whatever was required
- B. There are four classes of people present in the upper room
  1. The eleven apostles
  2. Certain devout women, including Mary the mother of Jesus
  3. The brothers of Jesus
    - a) They had not believed in him before – Jn. 7:5
  4. Other disciples (as evidenced in the 120 of vs. 15)
- C. They continued (proskartereo – to be strong in, to be steadfast) in one accord (homothumadon – the same mind) in prayer and supplication

#### **V. The appointing of a new apostle, according to Scripture, 1:15-26**

- A. Scripture must be fulfilled – Ps.69:25, 109:25
  1. The first prophecy that Peter quotes was fulfilled – they were to fulfill the second
    - a) The disciples had no control over the circumstances surrounding Judas' suicide – there was no way for them to know the office would need filling
    - b) God knew what would occur, and therefore provided prophecy appropriately
- B. Qualifications of this man
  1. He had to have been with them the whole time, beginning from the baptism of John to His ascension
    - a) This did not mean he had to physically be with them at the place where Jesus ascended – only the apostles were present for this
    - b) This was in order that he could fulfill the office as an objective eye-witness to the things he had “both seen and heard”
      - (1) He was able to give objective evidence to others b/c he had been there with Him
      - (2) This would give impact to the apostles teaching as a whole – it was unified and in harmony
  2. Emphasis was placed on the fact that he would become a “witness with us of His resurrection”, v.22
    - a) While the ascension was an event that gave hope, all hope rested in the fact that Jesus was resurrected – if He was not, then nothing they did mattered (see I Cor. 15)
      - (1) The one who would fill the office would be able to claim and prove with testimony the resurrection of the Lord
- C. The Lord chose the one who would fill that position – lots were cast
  1. Two were chosen who met the qualifications – how to choose?
    - a) They prayed to God to choose

- b) They then cast lots, and the lot fell on Matthias
  - (1) We can rest assured that the appointment of Matthias was not by chance – God was in control of it
  - (2) This does not mean that Joseph (Barsabas) was not a good man; it simply means that the Lord chose Matthias for His own reasons

D. We can observe that another apostle was not just picked off of a street corner. There were very specific qualifications that needed to be met

E. We can see that God was in control of the appointment of Matthias; it was not by chance of odds

**Questions:**

1. What was important to Jesus during the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension?
2. What were the apostles and saints left with as they waited for the Spirit and the kingdom to come?
3. What “proof” did Jesus provide the apostles and disciples? Was it good enough?
4. Why were the apostles still thinking that the kingdom would be only for the Jews? Were they thinking of a spiritual or physical kingdom? Explain your answer.
5. Did Jesus answer the apostle’s question about the establishing of the kingdom? Why or why not? What might His answer say about the nature of the apostles’ question?
6. In what manner will Jesus return?
7. Why was Peter the one to take charge among the brethren? What does this mean in the context of claims that he was the first Pope?
8. Why does Acts 1:18 record certain details about Judas’ death when Matt. 27:5 records that Judas hanged himself?
9. Was Matthias chosen to fill the office of an apostle by chance? Why or why not?