

## Acts 1:1-11 Preparation For the Kingdom

### I. Luke's Introduction (1:1-5)

#### A. Preamble – Continuing Luke's Gospel (1-3)

##### 1. Luke – All Jesus Began to Do and Teach

###### a. Assumption is That Acts Continues Luke's Gospel

- i. Jesus' ministry continues into Acts
- ii. Jesus empowers His Apostles to do and teach
- iii. Jesus opens hearts and minds of hearers
- iv. Jesus' name is power by which ministry is done  
(3:6, 16; 4:10, 12, 30; 8:12; 9:15, 21; 10:43; 16:18; 22:16)

##### 2. Jesus Continued His Ministry After the Resurrection (3)

- a. Jesus Appeared over 40 days to the disciples
- b. Jesus continued teaching the Kingdom of God
  - i. Acts is the inauguration of that Kingdom
  - ii. The OT promises are being fulfilled

#### B. Awaiting the Coming Fulfillment (4-5)

##### 1. Jesus Commanded them to wait in Jerusalem

- a. They were to wait for the promise of the Father
- b. This was commanded in Luke 24:49

##### 2. The Promise they await is The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- a. This is the summary of Luke (1-5)
- b. They were not to go off on their own
  - i. Jesus would empower them
  - ii. Acts is a continuing of what Jesus did and taught
- c. The Kingdom of God is coming among them

### II. The Promise of A New Kingdom (6-8)

#### A. The Kingdom Misunderstood (6)

##### 1. The disciples still expected political military kingdom

- a. Jesus does not answer their question
- b. Some take this to mean
  - i. Jesus implicitly affirmed the idea
  - ii. However, now was not the time

###### c. The Kingdom is no longer ethno-centric

- i. In the OT nations must come to Jerusalem to meet God
- ii. Now the Kingdom of God itself goes out to the nations

##### 2. The Disciples Assumed Fulfillment of Kingdom Meant The End of History

- a. The curse came in two stages (Adam)
  - i. Spiritual death came first (separation from God)
  - ii. Physical death came second (the fall led to death)
- b. The cure also comes in two stages

- i. Spiritual life comes first (regeneration – born again)
    - ii. Eternal life comes second (removal of death and the curse)
  - c. The disciples didn't understand the stages of the Kingdom
- B. The Kingdom Promise is Explained (7-8)
  - 1. Disciples should not be concerned with times and seasons (7)
    - a. Eschatology is not our centerpiece
    - b. Faith in Father's authority and timing
  - 2. Disciples will receive the promise of the Kingdom (8)
    - a. They will receive power
      - i. Spiritual strength
      - ii. New hearts
      - iii. In order to advance the kingdom
    - b. The Holy Spirit Will Come Upon them
      - i. This is the Fulfillment of Isa. 32:15 - *...until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high*
      - ii. This is repeated in Luke 24:49 – *tarry in Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high*
      - iii. See also Isa. 44:3; Ezek. 39:29; Joel 2:28
  - c. They Will Be Jesus' Witnesses
    - i. This is Fulfillment of Isa. 43:10, 12; 44:8
    - ii. In Isa. 41-45, God brings a lawsuit against idols. He calls them to court – they are not true gods
      - But there is a problem – His witnesses (Israel) are blind witnesses (Isa. 42:18-19) – blind eyewitnesses are no good
      - Solution: He promises to cure them and make them witnesses to the Gentiles (42:6-7)
      - How Will He do this? – Isa. 44:3 – by pouring out His Spirit and (44:8) making them witnesses
    - iii. Witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus –
      - In Isa. The witnesses testify to the one true God
      - The Spirit produces witnesses
      - Fulfillment of the OT Kingdom Prophecy
  - d. The Movement of the Kingdom
    - i. The Kingdom will Go out from Jerusalem
    - ii. The Kingdom will extend from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth

- This is the outline of the entire book of Acts
- Jerusalem – chapters 1-7 – focuses on Peter and Stephen
- Judea and Samaria – chapters 8-12 – focuses on Philip, Peter, and Saul's Conversion
- The Uttermost Parts of the Earth – chapters 13-28 – Focuses on Peter first bringing the gospel to the Gentiles and then Paul's mission

iii. "The ends of the earth" – is a fulfillment of Isaiah 49:6 – in fact this verse is quoted word for word in Acts 13:47

### 3. The Promised Fulfillment of the Kingdom

- a. Notice that all this is awaiting the fulfillment of Isaiah and other OT prophecy
- b. The Promises of the OT are coming to fruition in Acts

## III. The Ascension of the King (9-11)

### A. He was lifted up body and spirit (physically ascended) (9)

1. They knew this was his departure – he would appear to them no more – His physical presence on earth was ended
2. This is a Fulfillment of Daniel 7:13-14 *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom*
  - a. Matt. 28:18 – Jesus said all power and authority was given unto Him

### 3. The Father Received and Accepted Jesus' Sacrifice and Mission

- a. Clouds often accompany the presence of God in the OT
- b. Jesus was received into a cloud – the language is not accidental.

### B. The Ascension is Explained to Them (10-11)

1. The Disciples stood gazing – (Is He really gone?)
2. Two men in white explained the event
  - a. Just like after the resurrection, 2 men in white ask them why they seek the living among the dead
  - b. Don't just stand around – do what He said!
3. Jesus will return in the same way He departed
  - a. Physically
  - b. Visibly