

## **ASCENSION AND APOSTLESHIP**

### **Acts 1**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. Acts is the fifth book in the New Testament.**
- 2. It follows the four Gospels which record the life of our Lord.**
- 3. Acts picks up where the Gospels leave off.**
  - a. It tells of the Gospel going into the whole world.**
  - b. It answers the world's most important question.**
  - c. It reveals the church as it was in the beginning.**
  - d. It provides the perfect pattern for the Lord's church today.**
  - e. It is the first history of the church.**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. THE BOOK BEGINS (1:1-3).**
  - A. Luke is the inspired author of Acts.**
    - 1. He was a Gentile, a physician, and the traveling companion of Paul (Col. 4:11-14).**
    - 2. Acts is the sequel to the book of Luke.**
  - B. Both Luke and Acts are addressed to Theophilus.**
    - 1. "Theophilus" means "lover of God."**
    - 2. It may be the actual name of someone.**
    - 3. If it is generic, it means Acts is addressed to all Christians.**
  - C. Luke wrote "all that Jesus began both to do and to teach."**
    - 1. We must practice correctly before we can preach effectively.**
    - 2. Jesus presented many infallible proofs to His disciples during the 40 days after His resurrection (John 20:19-28).**
- II. THE COMMISSION OF CHRIST (1:4-8).**
  - A. Jesus told His apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father:**
    - 1. "John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."**
    - 2. John came to prepare a people for the Lord (Mark 1:1-8).**
    - 3. John said One would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.**
    - 4. Jesus promised the Spirit to His apostles (John 14-16).**
  - B. The apostles asked, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"**

1. The Jews had a physical concept of the kingdom.
  2. The apostles shared this erroneous view (Matt. 20:20-28).
- C. The Holy Spirit would give the apostles power (Mark 9:1).
1. They would be the witnesses of Christ (Acts 2:32).
  2. Their work would spread out until the whole world was covered (Mark 16:15).
- III. THE ASCENSION OF THE SAVIOUR (1:9-11).
- A. Jesus ascended in plain view of His apostles.
1. His return will be as visible as His going.
  2. “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.” (Rev. 1:7).
- B. Daniel prophetically saw the ascension from Heaven’s view.
- “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:13,14).
- IV. THE APPOINTMENT OF AN APOSTLE (14-26).
- A. The apostles assembled in Jerusalem with 120 disciples.
- B. Peter pointed out that a replacement must be made for Judas.
1. He described Judas’ death.
  2. Matthew 27:3-10 gives a fuller account.
  3. There is no contradiction, but each supplements the other.
- C. Peter mentions the qualifications for an apostle.
1. He must be a witness of the resurrection.
  2. This is why the Lord appeared to Saul (1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8).
  3. This is why there are no living apostles today.
  4. Matthias was chosen (Prov. 16:33).

**Conclusion:**

1. Acts one is a transitional chapter.
2. Acts two will unfold the first preaching of the Gospel in its fullness.
3. Have you obeyed the Gospel? (Acts 2:36-41).

