

AFTER THE RESURRECTION –
WHAT NEXT?

The
ASCENT

Acts 1:1-14



Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.



6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;



11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James.

14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,** with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.



This morning we celebrated the *Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ*. Now, what do we do? This evening we will leave the Book of Revelation and, Lord willing, return to chapter 11, next week. Tonight, we will observe what the first church in Jerusalem did after the resurrection.

I. THE LORD CONSIGNED COMMANDMENTS TO THE FIRST CHURCH

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that **he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:**



3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

A. Jesus Emphasized the Importance of the Holy Spirit

Jn. 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him **must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**



1 Cor. 6:17 But **he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.**

B. Jesus Emphasized the Influence of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:6 **When they therefore were come together**, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**



- ❖ This truth was revealed during a church meeting – “When they therefore were come together...”
- ❖ Jesus deflected the apostles’ question, placing the emphasis on the Great Commission.

Acts 1:8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**



II. THE LORD COMMENDED THE CHURCH TO HIS COMMISSION

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.



A. The Lord Jesus Left the First Church

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ...**

19 So then **after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven**, and sat on the right hand of God.

B. The Lord Jesus Labored with the First Church

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following.

Amen.



III. THE LORD'S CHURCH CONTINUED TO COMPLY TO CHRIST

Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13 And **when they were come in, they went up into an upper room**, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James.

14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.



A. The Believers Participated Together at Church, vs. 12-13

B. The Believers Prayed Together at Church, v. 14

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Summary

- ❖ After the resurrection, before His ascension, the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned His first church in Jerusalem to the preach the Gospel to every creature.
- ❖ After assembling together, the first church “...continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...”



- ❖ The first church had a roll (120 members according to Acts 1:15) and conducted a business meeting to elect a new treasurer to replace Judas.
- ❖ After the business meeting, the first church was empowered by the Holy Ghost in order to be effective witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The commission to the first church is also given to us to implement for His glory.
- ❖ The resurrection of Christ is now over – “...why stand ye gazing up into heaven?”
- ❖ Let's get busy – *Arise and Build* – for His glory!



Conclusion

Neh. 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: **for the people had a mind to work.**

Titus 3:8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that **they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.

...

14 And **let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.**