

* ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

Theme of Acts

- *The work of the exalted Lord Jesus who employs His word and the Spirit to advance His saving purposes through faithful witnesses*

* Acts 1:1-5

Apostolic Preparations (pt. 1)

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³ To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

(Acts 1:1-5)

Apostolic Preparations

1. Jesus Convinced the Apostles
 - the apostles needed convincing; they were not inclined to believe in His resurrection
 - He gave them many convincing proofs – visible, tangible, repeated appearances

The foundation witnesses were eyewitness of the risen Jesus

Apostolic Preparations

2. Jesus Instructed the Apostles
 - He explained the significance of His death and resurrection for the present reality of God's kingdom
 - He taught them how to interpret the Scriptures christologically, especially as they predict His sufferings and resurrection

(c.f. Luke 24:44-47)

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

(Luke 24:44-47)

Apostolic Preparations

3. Jesus Promised the Spirit to the Apostles

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

(John 14:16-17)

⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

(John 16:7)

Apostolic Preparations

3. Jesus Promised the Spirit to the Apostles

- The coming of the Spirit is after and on the basis of Jesus' exaltation as Messiah and Lord
- This coming of the Spirit in an unprecedented manner inaugurates the eschatological age (i.e. “the last days”)

Apostolic Preparations

3. Jesus Promised the Spirit to the Apostles

➤ *The baptism with the Holy Spirit*

- The Holy Spirit brings the cleansing and power of this new age of the kingdom
- More than anything else the power of the Spirit is essential to accomplishing Jesus' mission