

“The Ascension Of Jesus Christ”

Acts 1:1-12

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Teaching Aim: To examine the circumstances in **Acts chapter 1** that set the groundwork for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in **Acts chapter 2** and the establishment of the Church Age. To recognize the command that Jesus gave to His disciples to start sharing the gospel where they were and then spread out to the entire world still applies to us today. To realize the ascension of Jesus Christ was to His coronation as King of kings and Lord of Lords in heaven.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: A brief introduction to the Book of Acts (Acts 1:1-3)

1. What former account does Luke refer to in **verse 1**? To whom did Luke address the Book of Acts? What additional information can we learn about this individual from **Luke 1:1-4**? Do we know if this individual was a Jew or a Gentile? What do we know?
2. According to **verses 1 & 2**, what was Luke’s purpose in writing the Book of Acts? What was Luke referring to when he said, *“until the day in which He was taken up?”* (See **Acts 1:9-11**) What makes this event so important to understanding who Jesus is?
3. Jesus presented Himself ten or eleven times after the resurrection to His followers (**vs. 3**). Why was it important for Jesus to spend this time with His disciples, often eating meals with them? What was Jesus proving? Did Jesus reveal Himself to unbelievers in his post-resurrection appearances or to believers alone? (See **Matt. 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-18; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-31; 21:1-23; Acts 1:3:15; 1 Cor. 15:1-9**)
4. What was the central topic Jesus spoke about with His disciples during the 40 days following His resurrection (**vs. 3**)? As already mentioned, the Kingdom of God was a central theme in the teachings of Jesus. Why do you think the modern church doesn’t teach about the Kingdom of God more often? Where can we find Jesus teaching about the Kingdom of God in the New Testament? What is the meaning of the word *“parable”* and how do parables help us better understand the Kingdom of God? (See **Matt. 13:1-58; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15**)

5. It is important to note, *"The goal of history is not the cross, but the crown."* Why do so many Christians look back to the cross and not forward to the crown. Would it help us in our Christian walk today if we did look ahead to that future glory? Why? (See **Rom. 8:18**)

6. Have you noticed the number 40 is mentioned many times in Scripture? What examples come to mind? Note: The number 40 is used at least 146x in Scripture. What is the significance of this number and why is it used so often? (Hint: Search online)

Part II: The power of the Holy Spirit and His importance to ministry (Acts 1:4-8)

1. Who was assembled with Jesus in **verse 4**? Jerusalem was a dangerous place to be, Jesus had just been crucified there, and the disciples had been forced into hiding. What troubling command did Jesus give to His disciples in **verse 4**? Why did this require trust? What was the Promise of the Father? (See **Joel 2:28-29**) Had Jesus also promised the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit? (See **John 14:15-18,26; 15:26-27; 16:7-8**) How would you state the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity? What is the Holy Spirit's role within the Trinity?

2. What does **1 Cor. 12:12-15** teach us about the baptism of the Holy Spirit? According to these Scriptures, is the baptism of the Holy Spirit something that every born-again believer already has or something that they should seek? Rather than the baptism of the Spirit, what should every born-again believer continually be seeking? (See **Eph 5:17-21**)

3. What two baptisms are mentioned by Jesus in **verse 5**? What is the difference between the two? According to Jesus, when would this baptism take place? On what Jewish festival do we find the words of Jesus being fulfilled? (See **Acts 2:1-4**) How is the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age different from His work in the Old Testament?

4. As Jesus was preparing to leave earth and ascend into heaven, what question was on the mind of His disciples (**vs. 6**)? Were the disciples looking for a political kingdom (like that of Kings David and Solomon) to overcome Roman oppression, or were they looking for a spiritual kingdom? What kind of kingdom would Jesus bring in the immediate future?

5. How did Jesus respond to the apostle's inquiry (**vs. 7**)? Had Jesus already addressed this issue with them before? (See **Mark 13:32-33**) If Jesus is Immanuel (God with us), how could He not know the day nor hour? What is the meaning of the theological term: "*the hypostatic union of Christ*?" (Hint: Search online)

6. With everything happening in the world today, do you think the return of Jesus Christ is getting close? What are you doing in preparation for His coming? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your evangelism efforts? What are some ways that you can improve?

7. What did Jesus promise would happen once the Holy Spirit came upon His disciples? (**vs. 8**) What mission did He give to his disciples in **verse 8**? What Greek word for "*witness*" is used in this verse? (See Commentaries) What English word does this sound like? What was Jesus actually saying to His disciples? What is the message to us today?

8. The culture is rapidly changing in America today, a nation that was once friendly to Christianity is not so much anymore. What is the threat to Christianity as Marxism grows to greater prominence in our country? How do you see Marxism affecting our country today?

9. In "*the Great Commission*," Jesus called for every believer to be a missionary. (See **Matt. 28:18-20**) According to **verse 8**, what should be the order of our missionary outreach? If people refuse to act as missionaries at home, should we be spending thousands of dollars to send them out to be missionaries in other parts of the world? Why or why not? What should be a prerequisite for every missionary?

10. What kinds of missionary work are you doing today? What are your spiritual gifts? What do you see as your greatest three spiritual gifts? (See **Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 27-28; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**) How are you using these gifts today?

Part III: The ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven (Acts 1:9-12)

1. As He had spoken what things (**vs. 9**)? What had Jesus encouraged the disciples to do in **verse 8**? What miraculous event took place once Jesus had finished talking to His disciples? How do you think His disciples felt at this moment? Jesus ascended from earth following His First Advent, death and resurrection. Where did He disappear into? How will Jesus return at His Second Coming? (See **Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 24:30-31; 26:64; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 1:7-8**)
2. What event must have startled the disciples as they looked up at the clouds that Jesus disappeared into (**vs. 10**)? Why would the appearance of these two men startle them? What was the significance of the color of their clothes. Today angels are almost always portrayed as women. When we read our Bibles, are angels portrayed as women or men? How are they portrayed in this case?
3. What message did the angels bring to the remaining disciples of Jesus (**vs. 11**)? How do you think this message made the disciples feel? Are you looking forward to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? Why or why not? What major events will accompany the Second Coming of Jesus? (See **Dan. 2:44; Matt. 24:27-31; Rev. 11:15**)
4. On what mountain did the events of **Acts 1:9-11** take place at? What major world-class city is this mountain located next to (**vs. 12**)? How far away is the crest of the mountain from the city? Following the ascension of Jesus Christ, the disciples waited in the city ten more days until the baptism of the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. What organization officially began on the Day of Pentecost?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts to a man named Theophilus.
- **Acts chapter 1** picks up the story right where **Luke chapter 24** leaves off.
- **Acts chapter 1** addresses events that took place during the 40 days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- John's baptism was a national baptism of repentance from sin in preparation for the coming Messiah; this baptism was specifically focused on the nation of Israel.
- Today, the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of regeneration; this baptism brings those in Christ to spiritual life and empowers them for ministry.
- Jesus instructed His disciples to evangelize the world by starting right where they were at.
- Jesus ascended into heaven to His coronation as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Jesus could return at any moment to set up His kingdom on earth.