

## Acts 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 given orders by the Holy Spirit 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 things regarding 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."

6 So, when they had come together, they began asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 But He said to them, "It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."

## The Ascension

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, 11 and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

## The Upper Room

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went up to the upstairs room where they were staying, that is, Peter, John, James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. 14 All these were continually devoting themselves with one mind to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 At this time Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (a group of about 120 people was there together), and said, 16 Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17 For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry."

18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 19 And it became known to all the residents of Jerusalem; as a result that field was called Hakeldama in their own language, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'MAY HIS RESIDENCE BE MADE DESOLATE, AND MAY THERE BE NONE LIVING IN IT'; and, 'MAY ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE.'

21 Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us 22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." 23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all people, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they drew lots for

them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul Helpful insights

1. Luke is writing to Theophilus giving an account of Jesus' life.
2. The writer of Acts is Luke, it is his second letter to Theophilus, the gospel was his first.
3. Luke is an historian of high regard among intellectuals and academics. He is often referred to for his historical accuracy.
4. Luke wants Theophilus to know all that Jesus Christ did after he had been raised from the dead, and so, he uses stories and testimonies of real people who were still alive to verify those testimonies.
5. Do you believe this really happened? Verse 1-3
6. Throughout Jesus ministry on earth the theme of His message is the Kingdom of God.
7. Jesus Christ instructs His disciples to wait for power from God.
8. Baptism with water is to be fully immersed in water so that you are fully covered. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is exactly the same.
9. John the Baptist is known as 'John the dipper', 'John the drencher' – John the Baptist.
10. Apostles misinterpret the restoration of Israel to its former glory.
11. The phrase 'restore the kingdom to Israel', was a misunderstanding on the part of the Jews and the disciples. Why?
12. Jesus Christ's response to this confused phrase was to ask them to trust that God knows best.
13. How are you in trusting 'God knows best'.
14. It was Jesus Christ himself that said, 'You will receive power', the word power means dynamite, explosive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
15. One of the reasons for this power encounter, upon Christian disciples, was to enable them to be witnesses to the whole world, starting from where they were to where He would take them.
16. The ascension of Jesus Christ is Him, leaving the earth to return to God in heaven, until His return to the earth to judge the world.
17. The two angels clothed in white who talked to the disciples, refocus the disciples of the mission set before them.
18. The question asked, 'why do you stand looking to the sky?' by the angels, is a question that could be asked today. We live in a world where we see flaky Christians with a lack of godly, kingdom enterprise.
19. The neglect in the church of gathering of praying, of discipling, of evangelism, of service and mission.
20. The angels reveal how Jesus Christ will return to the earth from the sky in the clouds.
21. Having returned to the city of Jerusalem they return to the upper room for the purpose of prayer. They were of one heart and mind, focussed on kingdom purposes.

22. Peter quotes psalm 109 to appoint a new Apostle to replace Judas.
23. There were one hundred and twenty people in the house listening to Peter talking and attempting to resolve the vacancy left by Judas who betrayed Jesus.
24. Peter knew the scriptures revealed twelve disciples, so he took the steps to replace Judas in the only way he knew how - the drawing of lots guidance.
25. Peter explained what had happened to Judas and how he had died a terrible death. The field Judas died in is known as 'the field of blood'.
26. David, in the book of Psalms, had prophesied the betrayal and the kind of end Judas would have, the replacement disciple was needed.
27. Peter lists the credibility factors of those who could be considered candidates.
28. They needed to be those who were with them in the beginning, at the baptism of John to the ascension, that is Jesus departure.
29. Peter calls the replacement a witness.
30. There were two candidates, Joseph and Matthias, the disciples asked God to show them the right one, but they used a process of chance and uncertainty. Not unlike what was used in the book of Jonah.
31. But God had entered into a new way of fellowship with human beings, it was as Adam had known before he sinned.
32. Through Jesus death God had reconnected to man.
33. Chance and uncertainty were the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but conviction and assurance were the fruit of the tree of life.
34. The lot fell on Matthias and so he was chosen as one of the twelve apostles.
35. There is another level of apostleship that comes later in the epistles as Paul begins to plant new churches, which is slightly different from the criteria that Peter used in appointing Matheus.