

Believe: The Book of Acts

ACTS 1:1-11: Commissioning of the Disciples

Acts 1:1-11 "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

1**QUESTION**

According to Acts 1:2-5 what was the purpose of the 40 days that Jesus spent with His disciples after the Resurrection?

2**QUESTION**

Considering what Jesus said in Acts 1:6-8 why wasn't it important for the apostles to know precisely when Jesus would finish bringing God's reign to earth?

3**QUESTION**

According to Acts 1:11 what conviction was going to sustain the apostles as they fulfilled their mission while Jesus was physically absent? Why would this have been encouraging?

ACTS 1:12-26: Recruiting a new Disciple who had witnessed the Resurrection

Acts 1:12-26 "Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷He was one of our number and shared in our ministry." ¹⁸(With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they

called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.'" ²¹Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²²beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." ²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

4

QUESTION

According to Acts 1:22 how did Peter describe the chief function of an apostle? And according to Acts 1:21-22 what were the qualifications of such a person?

5

QUESTION

According to Acts 1:14,24-25 what role did prayer have among the believers between the Ascension and Pentecost? How is this a model for us?

YOUR RESPONSE

Summarize:

Take a moment to summarize what Acts 1:1-26 is about.

Meditate:

What is the church's mission? What is the Holy Spirit's role? How should we respond?

Worship:

Thank Jesus for giving His church its mission and promising power to accomplish that mission

ANSWERS:

Question #1- to make them witnesses and give proof to the resurrection and many evidences that He was alive

Question #2- It was irrelevant to them, they needed to focus on sharing the gospel

Question #3- Jesus would return; He would rule again once He returns

Questions #4- To be a witness of Jesus; They had to have been a witness to Jesus death and resurrection

Question #5- The disciples joined together in prayer CONSTANTLY, we are to pray daily