

THE BOOK OF ACTS | GOD'S REVELATION OF TRANSITION

SESSION 3: ACTS 1:6-14 | JANUARY 27, 2019

THE KINGDOM INTRODUCTION | ACTS 1:1-8

- Verses 1-5 covered on Session 2
- Verse 6 –
 - A kingdom theology that does not deal with this verse is a deficient kingdom theology!
 - The apostles asked this question about the *timing* of the *restoration* of the Kingdom.
 - These apostles had just spent 40 days learning about the Kingdom.
 - Their understanding of the Kingdom was *better than any human being before, during, or since that time*.
 - They had learned from the best (the King Himself!).
 - Their understanding of the Kingdom was that it could be *restored* (because it had previously existed), that it was centered in **Israel** (and not in their hearts), and that it had not at that time been established.
- Verse 7 –
 - Jesus did not correct any of the assumptions of the apostle's questions. He only let them know that He would not reveal **the times or the seasons**.
 - If Jesus allowed the apostles to begin their post-ascension ministry in error, then Jesus is sinfully and willfully negligent.
- Verse 8 –
 - Jesus would not tell them the timing of the restoration of the Kingdom.
 - He did, however, tell them that the **Holy Ghost** would come upon them and empower them to be **witnesses** of Christ, beginning at **Jerusalem** and going **unto the uttermost part of the earth**.
 - This is an echo of Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24:14 and a promise that they would perform their work under miraculous power from the **Holy Ghost**.
 - From the text itself, there is nothing to indicate that the apostles would be **witnesses** of the saving gospel. Rather, they would be witnesses of the Kingdom of God, for only the Kingdom is in view in the context.

THE ASCENSION | ACTS 1:9-12

- Verse 9 –
 - This had to have been both terrifying and thrilling.
 - There had been prophetic hints of Jesus' ascension, and now it was taking place before their eyes. The reason Jesus ascended was to "fulfill all things" (Eph. 4:10, Ps. 110:1).
 - What kind of **cloud received him**? Very possibly it is a "cloud of heavenly hosts" rather than an atmospheric cloud. See Psalm 24:7-10.
- Verses 10-11 –
 - The **two men** wearing **white apparel** are most certainly angelic beings, perhaps part of the **cloud** of v. 9.
 - He ascended with a cloud, and numerous references speak of His "session" (Mt. 26:64) and return in the clouds (Matt. 24:30, Rev. 1:7).

- In addition, the mention of clouds is given in the rapture of the church (1 Thes. 4:17) and of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:12).
- The Apostles had work to do and so were not to spend their time **gazing up into heaven** awaiting His return.
 - Their work was one of *earthly* importance, preparing the nation of Israel by the proclamation of the coming Tribulation and the Gospel of the Kingdom (Mt. 24:13-21). Theirs was a message about the Theocratic Kingdom.
 - On the other hand, the mission for the church is *heavenly* (see Phil. 3:20). Our message is not about the Kingdom, but about individual salvation.
 - Luke 19:11-28 speaks directly to the ministry of the Apostles.
- Note that **this same Jesus** is the one that shall return.
 - That is, the physical, resurrected Jesus.
 - Further, Zechariah the prophet has revealed that Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4), thus from the same place he departed (see v. 12).
 - Note that this return **in like manner** is not the rapture (which is not **in like manner**) but rather the Second Coming.

THE REPLACEMENT FOR JUDAS | ACTS 1:12-26

- Verse 12 –
 - A **sabbath day's journey** is slightly over 1 mile. Jesus did not ascend on the Sabbath (rather, 10 days prior to the Day of Pentecost, which was on a Sunday).
 - This length of measurement not only gives the distance but tells us that the Apostles were well-versed in Jewish law, and no hint is given that they were not fulfilling such law.
- Verses 13-14 –
 - Luke gives us an historical record of the names of the 11 (note that Luke himself is not an Apostle).
 - He tells us that they were **with one accord in prayer and supplication**. This will be insightful when we consider the modern allergy to Matthias' selection.
 - Altogether, there were about 120 in the upper room, awaiting the Holy Spirit, as instructed.
 - Note that in verse 14, the words **and supplication** are found only in the Textus Receptus, and thus only in the KJV or NKJV. While the inclusion of these words does not change the doctrinal or historical account, one should recognize that modern versions (based on the so-called Critical Text) have often omitted material with no alert to the reader that the majority of manuscripts contain such material.
- Verses 15-26 – *stay tuned!*