

PPT Study of the Book of Acts – Lesson 1
“Kingdom Power Appears”
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The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts were written by Luke.

- The content of the two books added together equals 1/3 of the writings in the New Testament.
- Luke was a doctor.
- Luke was a Gentile. Colossians 4:10-14
- Luke wrote both books to a man called Theophilus.

The Book of Acts was written to:

- To provide an account of the beginnings of the Christian church.
- To record eyewitness testimonies given by credible men.
- To explain how the church spread from Jerusalem to Rome, encompassing both Jews and Gentile.

One key to understanding Acts is to see that it is a transitional book.

- Acts shows how the worship of God moved from the Jewish temple, to the hesitant acceptance of Gentiles into the Jewish church, and finally to the Christian worship of predominately Gentile churches all over the Roman empire.
- Acts shows us how God went from working primarily with the Jews as a nation to working with the church, comprised of Jews and Gentiles on equal footing.

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

POWER TO GO ON

Acts 1:1-3 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that **Jesus began both to do and teach**, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by **many infallible proofs**, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

- The key word for understanding the relevance of the book of Acts is the word "began."
- Over 40 days Jesus appeared to them several times. 500 witnesses in 1 Corinthians 15:6

POWER TO GO ON (cont.)

Acts 1:4 – 5 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- WAITING! This is often the hardest thing to do!

THE KINGDOM AND ITS WITNESSES

Acts 1:6 – 8 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times

or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- They needed a power outside themselves to make the Lord Jesus real to lost men and women blinded by Satan and enslaved by sin.
- The church is empowered to do soul winning work by the Holy Spirit.
- Being witnesses is the main purpose of the church.

THE GLORY OF DEPARTURE AND THE GLORY OF RETURN

Luke 24:51 – 53 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:9 – 11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- The Ascension of Christ marked the conclusion of His ministry on earth in His bodily presence.
- Jesus had to return to the Father so that He could send the Holy Spirit.
- The Ascension meant that the continuing work of Christ on earth was now placed in the hands of His disciples.