ACTS 1

You Shall Be My Witnesses

forty days of proofs, a question about Israel, a cloud on Olivet, and a praying room in Jerusalem

> *"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 even to the remotest part of the earth."*
> ACTS 1:8

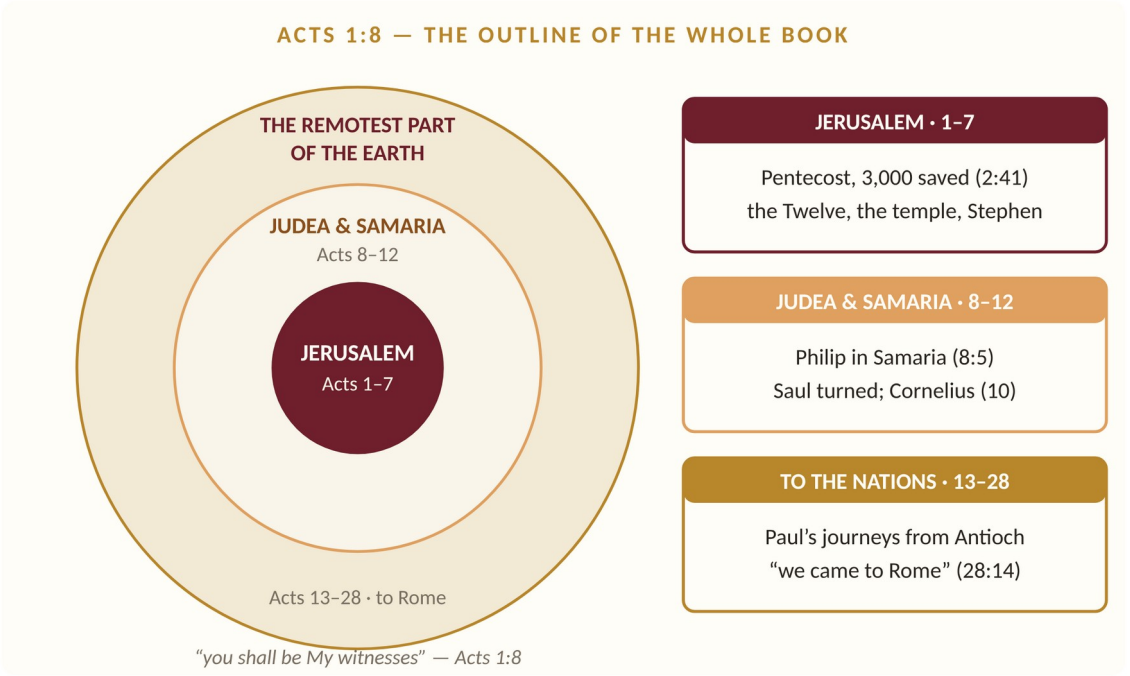
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where Luke has brought us

1. Acts is the second half of one work.

2. The reader is again “Theophilus” (Luke 1:3), a name that means “lover of God.”

3. Between Easter and the ascension were “forty days” (v. 3), the only place the Bible gives the length of that time.



All That Jesus Began

A second volume, forty days of proofs, and orders to wait for the Father's promise

ACTS 1:3

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 the things concerning the kingdom of God.

DAVID GUZIK

Acts is what Jesus continues to do; waiting was their only job until the Spirit came.

R.C. SPROUL

Luke the careful historian; Acts is a history of the Spirit's acts.

MATTHEW HENRY

Don't forget old books for new; Christ's choice comes with His charge.

τεκμήριον

TEKMĒRION · "CONVINCING PROOF"

Used only here in the New Testament.

Power, Witness, and a Cloud

A question about Israel's kingdom, the commission of 1:8, and the promise of the same Jesus' return

ACTS 1:8

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 even to the remotest part of the earth."

DAVID GUZIK

Fair question, wrong timing; no denial of Israel's restoration; He returns as He left.

R.C. SPROUL

Power for witness, not feelings; a coronation in the shekinah cloud.

C.H. SPURGEON

Look up, but do not gaze; He is coming in person — get to work.

MATTHEW HENRY

Good men dream of pomp; expect the cross here, the kingdom there.

ἀποκαθιστάνεις

APOKATHISTANEIS · "ARE YOU RESTORING"

From apokathistēmi, to restore to a former state — used of a withered hand made whole (Mark 3:5) and in the Greek Old Testament of God bringing Israel back to the land.

He went, He will come

"IN JUST THE SAME WAY" — ACTS 1:11

HE WENT · ACTS 1:9–12	HE WILL COME
"This Jesus" — the same Lord (v11)	"This Jesus … will come" (v11)
bodily, while they watched (v9)	"every eye will see Him" (Rev 1:7)
"a cloud received Him" (v9)	"with the clouds of heaven" (Dan 7:13)
from "the mount called Olivet" (v12)	"His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" (Zech 14:4)
to the Father's right hand (2:33)	the kingdom restored to Israel (1:6; Rom 11:26)

The angels did not say "someone like Him," or "in some way" — the same Jesus, the same way.

Each line on the left is how Jesus left in Acts 1; each line on the right is how Scripture says He will return.

With One Mind in Prayer

Back from Olivet to the upper room — eleven men, the women, Mary, and the brothers of Jesus

ACTS 1:14

These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

DAVID GUZIK

They obeyed; rivals united; Jesus' brothers now believe.

R.C. SPROUL

They waited obediently; we cannot stand alone; no one saved by another's faith.

MATTHEW HENRY

A praying frame is the best frame to receive blessing.

ὁμοθυμαδόν

HOMOTHYMADON · "WITH ONE MIND"

From homos, "same," and thymos, "passion, heart": of one passion, all together.

Another Man Takes His Office

Peter, the Psalms and Judas — and the lot that fell to Matthias

ACTS 1:22

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."

DAVID GUZIK

Judas fulfilled, not spoiled, God's plan; the office must be filled — Matthias.

R.C. SPROUL

Disciple vs. apostle; three marks; the Twelve filled out; no apostles today.

MATTHEW HENRY

Judas is hanged, but his bishopric is not lost; the lot is the Lord's.

ἐπισκοπή
EPISKOPĒ · "OFFICE"

An overseer's charge, from epi, "over," and skopeō, "to look."

The Twelve made whole



Sproul's three marks of an apostle: with Jesus from the start, an eyewitness of the resurrection, commissioned by Christ.

Eleven names from verse 13 and the one added in verse 26, with the three tests the apostles used to fill Judas' place.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Acts is volume two of Jesus.

“All that Jesus began to do and teach” (v1) means Acts is what He keeps doing.

2

The resurrection was checked, not felt.

Tekmērion (v3), used only here, is a settled proof.

3

Waiting was an order.

“Not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait” (v4).

4

Jesus corrected the timing, not the hope.

Asked about restoring the kingdom to Israel, He said, “It is not for you to know times or epochs” (v7).

More to carry

5

Power is for witness.

Sproul: “The reason for the outpouring of the Spirit is not to make you feel spiritual.”

6

The ascension was a coronation.

Sproul: “They were watching the King of kings going to His coronation.”

7

Look up — but don’t stand there.

Spurgeon: “It may be wise to look, but foolish to gaze.”

8

A Zealot and a tax collector prayed as one.

Homothymadon (v14) is Luke’s word for one heart.

Talk it through

1. Luke says Acts is what Jesus continues to do. Where in my life right now is Jesus continuing a work He began — and am I cooperating with it?

2. Jesus told them to wait. What am I trying to do for God in my own strength that I have not first waited and prayed for?

3. The disciples asked “when?” and Jesus answered “you shall be My witnesses.” Which do I spend more energy on — the timing of His plans, or the job He gave me?

4. Who is my “Jerusalem” — the people closest to me, who know my past best — and what would it look like to be a witness there this week?

5. The angels asked, “why do you stand looking into the sky?” Is my hope in Christ’s return making me busier and holier, or just more curious?

CLOSING

Acts 1 ends with a full room and an empty sky. Jesus is gone, but not absent — He is crowned in heaven, and He will come back the same way. Until then He has given His people one job and one promise: be My witnesses, and wait for the power. Pray with one mind, and get ready for Pentecost.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Acts study page.