

## I. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

- A. The Book of the Acts provides us DOCTRINE (teaching) on Church Work
  - 1. There are people who do not like the word “doctrine”
    - a. They confuse it with what the word “indoctrinate” has become
      - i. By the way, “doctrine” simply means teaching
      - ii. “Indoctrinate” simply means the application of it
      - iii. MATT. 7:28 – “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:”
      - iv. It isn’t a “bad” word
    - b. Some say they like the “stories” but not all that doctrine stuff
    - c. Pull out doctrine and what’s left. “And then they traveled?”
  - 2. That feeling does connect with the category of the book of the Acts
    - a. Many have seen the 60’s drawing of the Bible books on a shelf
    - b. Old Testament has 4 basic divisions
      - i. Law – Genesis to Deuteronomy
      - ii. History – Joshua to Esther
      - iii. Poetry – Job to Song of Solomon
      - iv. Prophecy – Isaiah to Daniel (maj) / Hosea to Malachi (min)
    - c. New Testament has 4 basic divisions
      - i. Gospels (notice, OT starts with Law but NT with GRACE!)
      - ii. History – The Acts
      - iii. Epistles – Romans to Jude (many subdivisions)
      - iv. Prophecy – The Revelation
  - 3. Without the Acts, we would know “what” to do in many cases
    - a. But would have no examples of HOW to do it
    - b. For instance, the calling of God on man’s life to the mission’s field
    - c. 2 TIM. 1:9 – “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”
    - d. But would never see it applied – ACTS 13:1-3
- B. Time period of the book of Acts
  - 1. Overall in duration, about 30 years passes from beginning to end
  - 2. In chapter 1, we cover a period of about 50 days (Pentecost)
  - 3. PENTECOST – “A solemn festival of the Jews, so called because celebrated on the fiftieth day after the sixteenth of Nisan, which was the second day of the passover. It was called the feast of weeks, because it was celebrated seven weeks after the passover.”
- C. These first 11 verses cover provide us a uniquely powerful summary

1. The Resurrection of the Lord
2. The Commission of His Church
3. The Ascension of the Savior
4. The Declaration of His Return

## II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (vs. 3-7)

### A. Proof of His Resurrection (vs. 3)

1. Given over a period of about 40 days
  - a. Many people were involved – these are called WITNESSES
  - b. He was seen by above 500 at ONCE 1 COR. 15:6 tell us
  - c. The total number could be thousands over that 40-day period
  - d. Either they were under mass delusion or truly believed it
  - e. It is a sociological impossibility to get >500 people to keep a lie
2. He was SEEN and He was HEARD of them (ACTS 1:3)
3. He was ALSO TOUCHED - JOHN 20:27 – “Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.”
4. He also ATE
  - a. LUKE 24:41-43 – “And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? (42) And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. (43) And he took it, and did eat before them.”
  - b. Ghosts don’t eat, btw.

### B. He spoke commands and promises to His church (vs. 4-5)

1. Commands:
  - a. Remain in Jerusalem (as He also told them in LUKE 24)
  - b. Wait to be immersed by the Holy Ghost
  - c. Remember: We want to be careful with that word “baptize”
  - d. EPH. 4:5 – “One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”
2. Promise:
  - a. The sending of the COMFORTER (vs. 4)
  - b. JOHN 14:16-17 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”
  - c. Complete agreement – the Father and the Son both involved!
3. And they will obey this command!
  - a. What do you think would have happened if they hadn’t obeyed?
  - b. What if THEY had treated Christ’s commands like SOME do today?

### C. The question of the Kingdom

1. Some of the members hadn’t quite gotten the memo
  - a. Jesus refused MANY times when the Jews wanted a political king

- b. He even told the same thing to Pilate!
- c. JOHN 18:36 – “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”
- 2. He answered that it wasn’t for them to know (a very gentle rebuke).
  - a. My grandfather had a saying, “Mind your own rat killing.”
  - b. Hatcher’s dad, “Never mind the mule, just load the wagon.”
  - c. Sergeants throughout history: “Shut up and soldier, Soldier!”
- 3. We know from our study of the Book of Revelation that He WILL RULE!
  - a. For 1000 years on this Earth, from Jerusalem
  - b. After the Rapture, Tribulation, and Battle of Armageddon
  - c. But we don’t know when that catching up will be
  - d. Therefore, we don’t know when His Kingdom will begin
  - e. He tells what they NEED to focus on (and US too!)

### III. THE COMMISSION OF HIS CHURCH (vs. 8)

- A. The most important “church-related” doctrine there is!
  - 1. Without these marching orders we are simply a slightly odd social club
  - 2. We have no direction or guidance and most importantly: NO POWER
  - 3. The Holy Ghost EMPOWERS our church to fulfill our ORDERS
  - 4. We are to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit! (We studied on Sunday PMs)
- B. We are to do 3 things in 4 places
  - 1. Five times the Great Commission is given
    - a. Once in each Gospel and here in the Acts
    - b. MATT. 28:19-20 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
    - c. If we respect when Jesus repeats “verily, verily”
    - d. How much more if He repeats something FIVE times!
  - 2. The 4 places:
    - a. Jerusalem (our city)
    - b. Judea (our area)
    - c. Samaria (our nation)
    - d. Uttermost part of the Earth (everywhere else)
  - 3. The 3 things:
    - a. Preach the Gospel and see people get Saved
    - b. Baptize them into the membership of a church body
    - c. Disciple them in all that Jesus commanded us to do
- C. Paul was not the first Missionary. Jesus is. It is HIS program!

#### **IV. THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST (vs. 9)**

- A. He defies the Laws of Gravity and ascends into the sky (not Heaven)
  - 1. He needn't "ascend" like He didn't have to "walk" to Emmaus
  - 2. He "walked" to walk with the two disciples on the road
- B. He "ascended" to show us how He would return
- C. The Bible teaches us of "three" heavens
  - 1. The air where the bird's fly
  - 2. Space where the planets orbit the sun
  - 3. The true Heaven where God is

#### **V. THE DECLARATION OF HIS RETURN (vs. 10-11)**

- A. The two messengers (angels) declare the promise of God
  - 1. He will return JUST AS HE WENT AWAY
  - 2. That means: Bodily, Personally, Visibly
  - 3. And He will catch His saints away in the Rapture
  - 4. And He will setup His kingdom after He wins the battle of Armageddon
- B. And no one knows the time when those things will happen
  - 1. If anyone says they do, then they are denying the Word of God
  - 2. MATT. 24:36 – "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."
  - 3. It could be today!
- C. Are you ready? Are you looking for Him?
- D. Be Saved today!