

ACTS OF THE BELIEVERS

Part I: Prologue to the Birth of the Church

The Study

*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.*

Acts 1:8 NIV

Doctor Luke shares this story with his kindred spirit, Theophilus, as a continuation of his recordings of Jesus' life (the Gospel of Luke) and a prologue to the birth of Christ's body, the church.

Luke is intentional about the place and power of the Holy Spirit in all the events shaping the church and His mission; Jesus' giving instructions through the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:2**), the baptism of the Holy Spirit (v. 5), the movement of the Holy Spirit on the apostles (v. 8) and Peter's address to the group of believers concerning the work and place of the Holy Spirit in the fulfillment of prophecy regarding the traitor, Judas, one of the twelve. So, it will come as no surprise to the readers of the Acts of the Apostles (the Book of ACTS) when the presence of the Holy Spirit remains constant and prominent throughout the telling of the establishment of the Body of Christ in the world. There are great crevasses of truth often passed over that we'll try to highlight in this study for weeks to come. Let us begin.

Read the entire first chapter of Acts and take this quiz below:

1. How many days did Jesus remain after His "suffering" (death and resurrection)?
2. What did he do during that period of time?
3. Why do you suppose Jesus wanted the Apostles to wait for the Father's gift before leaving Jerusalem? (Refer to **John 16:8-15.**)

ACTS OF THE BELIEVERS

4. Instead of knowing God's timing in kingdom restoration, Jesus diverts their attention to the process of God's restorative work. What is that process?

5. Is there any significance for allowing the Apostles to witness the Ascension of Jesus?

6. Name the eleven apostles.

7. For the sake of representing the fullness of spiritual order and alignment with the 12 tribes of Israel, there were to be 12 apostles. Each of the apostles was to have his name written on one of the 12 foundations of the New Jerusalem in the newly established Kingdom on the new earth (**Rev. 21:14**). Who was chosen to be the twelfth apostle?

8. What are the requirements for an apostle of Jesus Christ?

9. How did the apostles decide upon the one who was to be the 12th apostle?

Lots are cast. Each candidate's name is written on a stone, which is then placed in a container. The container is shaken and turned upside down until one of the stones springs or falls out. This method for discerning divine choice had a long history in Israel (Josh 18:6; 1 Chron 24:5; Prov 16:33). [The IVP New Testament Commentary]