

CHAPTER ONE

Acts 1

After the Cross

Overview

1. Waiting for the Promise: (Verses 1-5)

Luke addresses the book of Acts to Theophilus, a born-again Roman dignitary. Luke recounts the events following the resurrection of Jesus, including the forty days He walked among the disciples and His command for them to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus' Ascension: (Verses 6-11)

Jesus gave His final instructions to the disciples concerning the Holy Spirit, and they watched while He ascended into heaven. As the disciples stood gazing, two angels appeared, speaking to them of the Second Coming.

3. Man Chooses an Apostle: (Verses 12-26)

As 120 wait in the upper room, Peter addresses the disciples concerning the selection of two disciples to replace Judas and Stephen.

The Challenge of Chapter One:

Like Jesus, one day all believers will receive an eternal, resurrection body. Until that time, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses in the earth. No longer are we required to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit as the disciples did on the Day of Pentecost. Since that time, He is available to all who will receive Him. Those first disciples wanted to know when Jesus would come to establish His kingdom on earth. Today, many Christians ask the same question. But Jesus' answer remains the same, *"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power"* (vs. 7). Instead, Jesus pointed the attention of the disciples toward the promised Holy Spirit, which would enable them to be witnesses throughout the entire earth. We must be careful not to make the same mistake Peter did by making decisions according to the flesh and doing that which the Lord did not instruct him to do. It is easy to do things that *seem* good and right, but are not according to God's perfect plan and purpose.