

Journey Through Acts
"All About Jesus!"
Acts 1:1-14

Introduction:

1. On Sunday Nights:
 - We Are Going To Continue Our Theme For This Year:
 - Of ***Moving Forward:***
 - Even As We ***Look Back:***
 - To The Examples God Has Given To Us:
 - All Throughout The History Of The Church!
 - As Hebrews 12:1-2 Tells Us:
 - "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, / Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God!"
 - This Morning:
 - We Started A Video Series:
 - That Will Take Us On A Journey:
 - Through 2,000 Years Of Church History:
 - And Will Help Us Understand & Appreciate More The Countless Numbers Of That:
 - "Great Cloud Of Witnesses" Who Have Gone On Before Us!
 - Tonight:
 - We Will Begin A Series:
 - That Will Take Us On A Journey:
 - Through The Earliest Recorded History Of The Church:
 - In The Book Of Acts:
 - Written By Luke - Who Experienced First-Hand Many Of The Events He Describes!
2. So - Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles To:
 - Acts 1 - Where Luke:
 - Introduces This Sequel:
 - By Reminding A Man By The Name Of:
 - Theophilus - Of How His Previous Book:
 - The Gospel Of Luke - Ended!
 - And So - We Read In:
 - 1:1-5 - "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, / Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: / To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: / And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. / For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence!"
 - Now - This Really Is Mostly A Summary:
 - Of What We Find Taking Place Back In:
 - Luke 24:36-53 - "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. / But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. / And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? / Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. / And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet!"
 - These Are Some Of Those "Infallible Proofs" That Jesus Provided To His Disciples For Those 40 Magnificent Days To Confirm That He Did, In Fact, Come Back From The Dead & Was Alive Before Them!
 - 24:41-49 - "And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? / And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. / And he took it, and did eat before them. / And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. / Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, /

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: / And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. / And ye are witnesses of these things. / And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high!"

- This Was The Command That Luke Mentions Again In Acts - To Stay In Jerusalem Until They Are "Endued With Power From On High" (Luke) By Being "Baptized With The Holy Ghost!" (Acts)

- And Then - He Concludes His First "Treatise" Or "Word" About The "Day In Which He Was Taken Up!"

- 24:50-53 - "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. / And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. / And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: / And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen!"

3. And Then - Back In Acts:

- Luke Begins Where He Left Off:

- At The Glorious Ascension Of Jesus:

- And Provides A Bit More Detail For Us As Well!

- 1:6-8 - "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? / And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. / But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!"

- 1:9-11 - "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. / And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; / Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven!"

- 1:12-14 - "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. / And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. / These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren!"

- And With These Words:

- Luke Builds Up The Anticipation:

- For The Fulfilment Of Jesus' Own Promise To Them!

4. But It Is Those Words:

- In Acts 1:8 That Luke Will Use:

- As A Rough Outline For The Remainder:

- Of His History Of The Early Church!

- When Jesus Said To His Disciples:

- "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!"

- These Final Words Of Jesus:

- To His Disciples On Earth:

- Are What Changed Them:

- From A Group Who Scattered:

- At The Arrest Of Jesus:

- When "They All Forsook Him And Flew!" (Mark 14:50)

- Into A Church - Who Threatened:

- The Very Establishment Of The Existing World Order:

- Because They Became Known As "They That Have Turned The World Upside Down!" (Acts 17:6)

- What Was So Significant:

- About These Words Of Jesus?

First - They Revealed:

1. ***Jesus' Special Provision For His Disciples!***

- Acts 1:8 - "But Ye Shall Receive Power!"

- The Word Power Here:
 - Refers To Might & Strength & Ability!
 - But Jesus Is Not Talking About:
 - Their Own Natural Abilities & Strength!
 - He Is Talking About:
- A Supplied Power!
 - One That Will Be *Given* To Them:
 - As A Gift - In Order To Accomplish:
 - Everything Else That He Will Call Them To Do!
 - But He Is Also Talking About:
- A Sovereign Power!
 - One That Will Not Be Taken Away From Them!
 - It Will Remain With Them:
 - And With His People - Throughout The History Of The Church!
- Now - This Power May Display Itself:
 - In Different Ways At Different Times!
 - For Example - We Saw This Morning From 2 Corinthians:
 - How The Apostle Paul Was Able To Perform “Signs & Wonders & Mighty Deeds” - As A “Sign Of An Apostle!”
 - But The Same Power:
 - Is Still On Display Today:
 - Even Through The Ordinary Gifts Given To Us By The Holy Spirit:
 - To Serve The Lord & Each Other!

* These Words Of Jesus Also Reveal:

2. *Jesus’ Special Presence With His Disciples!*

- Acts 1:8 - “But Ye Shall Receive Power, After That The Holy Ghost Is Come Upon You!”
 - In The Life Of Jesus:
 - There Was A Precedent To This:
 - Because When Jesus Was Baptized By His Cousin, John The Baptist, What Happened?
 - Matthew 3:16-17 - “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: / And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”
 - In A Similar Way - Jesus Says That:
 - The Same Spirit Of God:
 - Will Come Unto Them - And Will Abide With Them - And With Us:
 - Forever! And:
- This Presence Will Comfort Us!
 - Even In The Absence Of The Person Of Christ!
 - As Jesus Said In John 14:16 - “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever!”
 - But Also:
- This Presence Will Change Us!
 - Because - As Jesus Said In John 14:17 - When The Holy Spirit Comes Upon You:
 - “He Dwelleth With You, And Shall Be In You!”
- And So - All Throughout The History Of His Church:
 - From The Very Beginning Even Until Today:
 - The Special Presence Of Jesus:
 - Through The Holy Spirit:
 - Remains!
 - Jesus Continues To Keep His Word:
 - As Recorded For Us In Matthew 28:20:
 - “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen!”

* These Words Of Jesus In Acts 1:8 Further Reveal:

3. *Jesus’ Special Plan For His Disciples!*

- Acts 1:8 - “But Ye Shall Receive Power, After That The Holy Ghost Is Come Upon You: And Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me Both In Jerusalem, And In All Judaea, And In Samaria, And Unto The Uttermost Part Of The

Earth!”

- Now, We’re Not Really Sure What The Original Disiples:
 - Had In Mind During The Interval Between:
 - The Resurrection Of Jesus & The Ascension Of Jesus!
 - Perhaps They Were Thinking About Just Going Back To Their Old Lives - And Serving The Lord In Their Previous Professions!
- We Get A Glimpse Of This:
 - In John 21:3 - When - “Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee!”
 - But We Do Know - That After The Ascension Of Jesus:
 - The Professions Of Those Original Disciples Dramatically Changed! Because:
- The Lord’s Plan Was Compelling!
 - They Were Now To Be Jesus’ Own *Witnesses*:
 - To The World!
 - They Were To Share All That They:
 - Saw In Jesus & Heard From Jesus & Learned About Jesus!
 - John Gill - They Were To Be Witnesses:
 - “Of The Person Of Christ, Of His Deity And Sonship, Of His Incarnation, His Ministry, And His Miracles, Of His Suffering And Death, Of His Resurrection From The Dead, And His Ascension To Heaven! This Was To Be Their Work! Their Business Was [Now] To Testify Of The Sufferings Of Christ, And The Glory That Followed, And To Preach A Crucified Jesus, As The Only Savior Of Lost Sinners!”
 - What A Compelling Plan! And There Was No Turning Back! Because:
- The Lord’s Plan Was (Also) Comprehensive!
 - It Was To Begin In Jerusalem:
 - Right Where They Were!
 - But Then - It Was To Continue!
 - “In All Judaea, And In Samaria, And Unto The Uttermost Part Of The Earth!”
 - They Had A Long Way To Go!
 - And We Still Have A Long Way To Go!
 - In Spite Of All The Technologies That Have Helped Us In Our Missionary Endeavors:
 - There Are Still Countless Souls Who Need To Hear From Us - As Witnesses For Jesus!

Conclusion:

1. And What Are We To Tell Them?
 - The Same Thing That Luke Told Theophilus:
 - Back In Acts 1:1:
 - “Of All That Jesus *Began* Both To Do And Teach!”
 - And So - In A Very Real Sense:
 - The Book Of Acts:
 - And Really - The Entire History Of The Church:
 - Is The Continuation Of Jesus:
 - Ministry & Message:
 - *Through Us* - As We Strive To Be Faithful Witnesses!
2. And This Will Be Our Goal This Year:
 - As We “*Journey Through Acts*” Together!
 - To Remember That The History Of The Church:
 - From The Very Beginning - Even Unto Today:
 - Is Really - “*All About Jesus!*”

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com