

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Acts 1 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Acts 1

Acts 1:1-2

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had given orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.

† Luke reminds Theophilus that Acts continues from his first account (the Gospel of Luke). The focus is what Jesus began to do, now continued through His Spirit in the apostles.

† Early church tradition (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.14.1) affirms Luke as the faithful companion of Paul and historian of the church.

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 things regarding the kingdom of God.

† The resurrection was verified by many proofs. For forty days, Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God, not a far-off earthly empire, but the New Covenant reign.

† Josephus records false messiahs around this time, but none produced evidence like the risen Christ.

Acts 1:4-5

Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

† The promise of the Spirit is central. John's baptism pointed to Christ's greater baptism in the Spirit. Pentecost would fulfill this promise.

Acts 1:6

So, when they had come together, they began asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

† The disciples still misunderstood, expecting a political restoration. Jesus would reveal the kingdom's true nature was spiritual, covenantal, and fulfilled in their generation.

Acts 1:7-8

But He said to them, "It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority; 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 as far as the remotest part of the earth."

† The kingdom's restoration was not tied to earthly timetables. The apostles' mission was Spirit-empowered witness, beginning in Jerusalem and expanding outward.

† This corresponds to Isaiah 49:6, "I will also make You a light of the nations."

Acts 1:9

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up out of their sight.

† The ascension is described with cloud imagery, recalling Daniel 7:13 where the Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days in glory. This is not a departure to a far-off heaven, but an enthronement scene.

† Chrysostom taught that Christ's ascension was His exaltation to kingship, fulfilling Psalm 110:1.

Acts 1:10-11

And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

† The angels assure them Jesus will return in the same covenantal manner He ascended - in the clouds, in glory, in

judgment against Jerusalem within that generation (Matthew 24:30).

† Josephus (Wars 6.5.3) records eyewitnesses seeing armies in the clouds in AD 66, a fulfillment of Christ's coming in judgment.

Acts 1:12-14

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upstairs room where they were staying; that is, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. All these were continually devoting themselves with one mind to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

† The apostles obeyed, returning to Jerusalem. They gathered in unity, devoting themselves to prayer. Mary and Jesus' brothers were present, showing the inclusiveness of the new covenant community.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.1) records the early devotion of the Jerusalem church in unity and prayer.

Acts 1:15-17

At this time Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (a group of about 120 people was there together), and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry."

† Peter interprets Judas' betrayal as fulfillment of Scripture. The Spirit had foretold even this tragedy.

Acts 1:18-19

(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who lived in Jerusalem, so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

† Judas' death was seen as divine judgment. Matthew records his hanging, Luke records the gruesome fall. Together they testify to the horror of betraying Christ.

Acts 1:20

"For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'May his residence be made desolate, and may there be none living in it'; and, 'May another take his office.'"

† Peter applies Psalm 69:25 and 109:8 to Judas, showing God's word ordained both his judgment and replacement.

Acts 1:21-22

Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us - 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.

† The qualifications for apostleship were eyewitness knowledge of Jesus' ministry and resurrection. Apostolic authority was grounded in direct witness.

Acts 1:23-26

So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all people, show which one of these two You have chosen to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias;

and he was added to the eleven apostles.

† The replacement of Judas is Spirit-led. Casting lots was a biblical method of discerning God's will (Proverbs 16:33). Matthias joins the eleven, restoring the number twelve to symbolize the renewed Israel.

How it applies to us today

† The kingdom is not political restoration, but the reign of Christ through the Spirit.

† The ascension is Christ's enthronement. He reigns now, fulfilling Daniel 7 and Psalm 110.

† The Spirit empowers the church to witness to all nations, fulfilling God's covenant promises.

† Judas' fate reminds us of the seriousness of covenant betrayal, but Matthias' appointment shows God's faithfulness to restore.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.14.1 – Luke as historian of the church

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.5 – False messiahs in Israel

† Isaiah 49:6 – Light to the nations

† Daniel 7:13 – Son of Man coming to the Ancient of Days

† Psalm 110:1 – Christ seated at God's right hand

† Chrysostom, Homilies on Acts – Ascension as exaltation

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.3 – Armies seen in the clouds

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.1 – Unity of early church in prayer

† Psalm 69:25; 109:8 – Judas' desolation and replacement

† Proverbs 16:33 – Casting lots reveals God's choice

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.