

ACTS

Chapter 1

Note from Kathy

I want to encourage you to read the chapter at least 2 or 3 times. If you have the YouVersion app, try listening while reading along. Our desire should be to hear from our Father and see Him moving in our life. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and to help you understand and apply all you are reading. It is God's word that truly changes hearts and lives.



Bible Study Tools

Go online to www.biblestudytools.com. On the search line type Acts 1. Below the search line is a list of Bible translation options. Choose King James Version and click the Find It (yellow box)! Just above the chapter text you will see a little wheel on the right. Click it and a selection box will appear. Choose "one verse per line" and "Strong's Numbers." Close the selection box and enjoy looking up any of the words written blue. Often the meaning will clarify the author's intent.

Observation

1. Who was this letter written to originally?

What is the meaning of this man's name? See sidebar for instructions on searching word meanings.

2. Acts 1:1-11 details Jesus' last conversation with his followers. What instructions did he give them?
3. What was the "gift" mentioned in Acts 1:4-5?
4. When the disciples received this gift, what else did they receive that enabled them to do the work that God had given them to do?

¶ Acts 1:8

“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 1:9-11

“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.” ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”

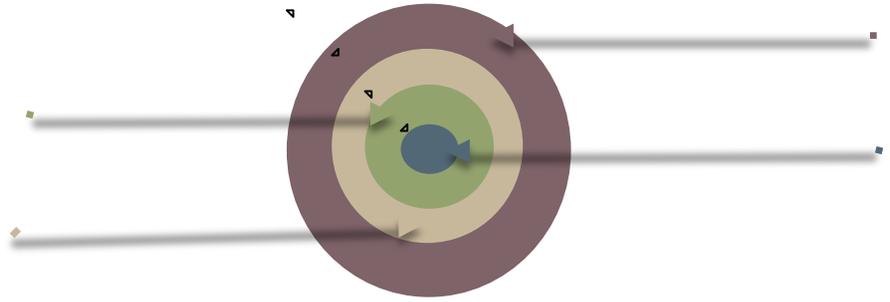
¶ Acts 1:20

“‘For,’ said Peter, ‘it is written in the Book of Psalms: May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it, and, May another take his place of leadership.’”

¶ Acts 1:21-22

“Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²²beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

5. Jesus instructed his disciples to be witnesses. Label the disciples outreach from verse 8.



6. Acts 1:9-11 describe what the disciples saw as they stood listening to Jesus. What amazing event took place?
7. The disciples left the Mount of Olives and returned to Jerusalem. They returned to the place where they had been staying. According to verses 13 and 14, who was present in the upstairs room?
8. I love to read Acts 1:14 in the King James Version, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.” The Greek word for one accord is *homothumadon*, which means one mind, one passion. The Greek word for prayer is *proseuche*, which means to address God. The Greek word for supplication is *deesis*, which means need, want, seeking, asking, request. Paraphrase verse 14 in your own words.
9. Peter stood up and assured the believers present that God was not caught off guard by Judas’ betrayal. Read Acts 1:15-19. What did Peter use as proof?
10. Because of Judas’ betrayal there were now only 11 apostles. There was no way for them to go out in groups of two as Jesus had previously sent them. Peter reminded them in verse 20 what Psalm 69:25 very clearly instructed them. What were they supposed to do?

According to Acts 1:21-22, what were the requirements or qualifications for someone who might be nominated?

▣ Casting Lots

According to biblestudy.org, in ancient Israel, the High Priest did use from time to time the tradition of casting lots for important, uncertain decisions. Casting lots was their way of consulting God for the answer. Proverbs 16:33 says, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." The book of Proverbs 18:18 also says, "Casting lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart."

▣ Romans 8:9

"You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

▣ 1 Corinthians 6:17

"But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in Spirit."

▣ Galatians 4:6-7

"Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So, you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

11. Who was nominated?

12. What two things did the disciples do that enabled them to make the decision between these two equally qualified men of faith?

a.

b.

Application

1. This letter was originally written to a man named Theophilus. After looking up the meaning of his name earlier, who might you suppose is the broader audience to whom this letter was written?

Considering that, how might it change the way you study this letter?

2. It had only been a little over one month since Jesus was crucified. What do you suppose was the mood of the Jews in Jerusalem toward Jesus' followers?

Would you find it difficult to remain in a place where tensions run hot against your beliefs? Have you ever been in a situation where your beliefs were opposed? If so, what did you do?

3. The disciples were instructed to stay in Jerusalem until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit from God. When they received the Holy Spirit they would receive the power to carry out the ministry God had given them. Read Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:17 and Galatians 4:6-7. What does the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life prove?

4. The disciples returned to Jerusalem to wait. How did they spend their time?

How do you spend your time while waiting on God?

This is a quote I heard in a sermon and jotted down in the margins of my Bible, "Just because you do not see God moving, it does not mean he is absent or inattentive, and you can be sure he is never late."

Are you asking God for something, and you are waiting on His answer?

How would you describe the attitude of your heart as you continue to pray?

5. Jesus specifically instructed his disciples to be witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Take a few minutes and think about what Jesus is asking them to do. As followers of Christ what will this look like for you?

Where should your ministry begin?

Does your area of ministry feel small and insignificant? Let me ask you a question: If you do the job you have been given well, what could be the result for God’s kingdom?

6. Acts 1:18 said, “Judas bought a field with the money he received for his wickedness.” Our actions are not without consequences. We must consider carefully what the outcome might be tomorrow for the actions we take today. Have your actions ever reaped you a harvest that you did not want? What might you do differently next time?
7. When the disciples were faced with the task of choosing the right man to replace Judas Iscariot they prayed seeking clear direction from God. They freely admitted that only God knows the heart of a man. So they asked the Lord to show them which man He had chosen. What steps might we take when making important choices?
8. The book of Acts is a record of the new work God is doing. What new insights have you gotten from your time in this chapter?
9. What would you say was the mission and message of the believers of Acts 1?
10. Has the mission and message of the church changed from the time of this writing? What part do you play in the church, the body of Christ, today?