

Final Charge and Ascension

Acts 1: 1 – 11

2 May 2021 A.M.

Series: From Resurrection to Pentecost

Acts 1: 1 - 5

¹ The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 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 the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Introducing the Mission. Vv. 1 – 5.

- Luke's Second letter to Theophilus.
 - Probably a Gentile Christian or seeker.
- Verse 2 summarizes this Book.
 - Note the ascension, and charge with Holy Spirit power.
- Many convincing proofs.
 - More than enough evidence of His resurrection.
 - Coming and going over forty days.
 - Teaching of the kingdom of God.
- The Command to wait for the Holy Spirit.
 - A command to wait until baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1: 6 - 8

⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”
⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ 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 even to the remotest part of the earth.”

The Right Focus. Vv. 6 – 8.

- An honest question in light of the times and teachings of Jesus.
- Jesus' response does not invalidate the question only focus on not predicting the time.
- Instead they were to focus on the mission.
 - They would be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - This took place on the day of Pentecost.
 - They, and we, were (are) to be witnesses.
 - The mission begins at home and extends to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1: 9 - 11

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also 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 just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Jesus Glorified. Vv. 9 – 11.

- As Jesus finished the charge, He is taken up to heaven.
 - The disciples saw it first hand.
 - He left in the Shekinah glory of God (the cloud).
 - The disciples are left focused on the sky.
- The message of two angels.
 - Time to focus on the sky is over.
 - They are assured that just as Jesus left He would return.
 - This is prophesied in Zechariah 14: 4.
 - Then the kingdom they sought would be established.
 - Meanwhile they and we have a mission to accomplish.

Conclusion

- Jesus gave us one last charge or commission to be His witnesses, a work that will only be complete on His return.
- We are not to attempt to predict the date or time of His return but to be focused on Witnessing.
- Jesus has given us the indwelling Holy Spirit Who empowers us to witness and works in the hearts of those witnessed to.
- Jesus has returned to Glory, at God's right hand interceding for us. (Hebrews 4: 14 – 16)