



40 Days Before the Ascension

Lesson 3 • Acts 1:1-8

*The ascension is the **HINGE** on which redemptive history turns! Acts 1:1-2*

*In the Ascension Jesus **BEGINS** His Ministry in Heaven (Luke 24:50-53) and **CONTINUES** His Ministry on Earth (Acts 1:9-11).*

Jesus' **40 DAY** Ministry Between His Resurrection and Ascension. Acts 1:3-8

Where Did Jesus Hang Out for 40 Days?

*Why 40 Days? Emphasizes **SUFFICIENT** time to accomplish God's intended purpose of testing and proving.*

1. The Risen King **PROVES** His Bodily Resurrection.

"To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days" (v. 3a)

2. The Risen King **TEACHES** Concerning God's Kingdom.

"and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God" (v. 3b)

What Did Jesus Teach About the Kingdom of God?

*In God's Big Story the Kingdom is **God's Presence** ruling with **God's People** over **God's Place** through **God's Person** by **God's Power** for **God's Purpose!***

Kingdom Expectation: *After the Humiliation of the Suffering Servant and Exaltation of the Sovereign Savior, Then...*

- **RECEIVING** the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant.
- **RESTORING** the Kingdom to Ethnic Israel.
- **REACHING** the Gentiles to the ends of the earth.

Read Isaiah's Servant Songs of Humiliation & Exaltation: 42:1-13; 49:1-13; 50:1-11; 52:13-53:12

3. The Risen King **REQUIRES** Waiting for the Spirit's Coming.

"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.'"

4. The Risen King **ANSWERS** the Question About Israel's Kingdom Restoration.

"Lord, is it at this time when You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

- The disciple's question is **CONTROVERSIAL**. (1:6)
 - Is there a **future** for the nation of Israel in God's kingdom plan of redemption?
 - Does Jesus **fulfill** all of God's covenant promises **in a way** that permanently sets aside ethnic Israel?
 - Does the Church **forever replace** Israel as God's covenant people?
 - Is there a **future restoration** for the nation of Israel even though the Church presently enjoys Israel's covenant blessings in Christ?

1. Many see the question as **CARNAL**: *The disciples were misguided or worse wrong-headed.*
2. Others see the question as **CRUCIAL**: *The disciples were being logical, biblical, and spiritual.*

Logical: "So, when they had come together, they **began** asking Him," NAS20 "Therefore, when they gathered together" NKJV

Biblical: *Luke 18:31-34; 24:25-27, 44-48 fits with the flow of Isaiah 53-55*

Spiritual: *Luke 1-3; Luke 24; Acts 1; 3:17-26; 13:26-43; Romans 9-11*

Who Is Right? *Is the Question a Carnal Wrong One or Crucial or Good One?*

Five Observations of the Question

"Lord"

"is it at this time"

"You are restoring"

"the kingdom to Israel"

"to Israel"

- The risen King's answer is not a rebuke but a **REFUSAL** to give the timing. (1:7)

His Answer Is Not a Rejection of the Expectation but a Correction on the Timing.

1. The timing of coming ages is not for **YOU** to know.
2. The timing of coming ages is sovereignly **FIXED** by the Father alone. *Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32*

5. The Risen King COMMISSIONS the Church to Reach the Nations.

"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." (1:8)

- The Lord **REDIRECTS** them to focus on reaching the nations in this present age.

You asked the right question with the wrong focus at this present time!

- The Lord **REMINDS** them: *You will be blessed to be a blessing to the nations!*

**At the Return of Christ When Israel Finally Repents and the Kingdom Is Fully Restored,
Times of Refreshing Will Come and the Redeemed Nation Will Also Be His Witnesses to the Gentile Nations!**

Acts 3:17-26; Isaiah 43:6, 10-12; 44:1-5, 8

The Ascension Guarantees the Nations Will Be Reached and Israel Will Be Restored!

One day the ascended King will return to restore the Kingdom to Israel and in the meantime His Church is to reach the nations!

But not until the risen King ascends (Acts 1:9-11) and gives them His Spirit (Acts 2:1-47)!