

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Wait For The Promise of The Father
Acts 1:1-11

Last time...Jesus commissioned His disciples – entrusted them with His authority and sent them into the world

At the end of His ministry, Jesus taught about/introduces His disciples to the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17

- given by the Father
- Comforter/Helper
- abide with them (us) forever
- the Spirit of Truth (John 14:6)
- believers know Him (Person)
- He dwells with/*para* and is in/*en*

John 14:26-27

- The Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit
- The Father will send in Jesus' name/authority/character
- He shall teach them/us all things
- He shall bring to their/our remembrance all that Jesus said

John 15:26-27

- Jesus will send the Holy Spirit from the Father
- The Spirit of Truth will testify of Jesus

John 16:7-14

- The Holy Spirit will not come unless Jesus leaves
- The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment
- The Holy Spirit will guide them/us into all truth
- The Holy Spirit will not testify/speak of Himself, He will speak what He hears from the Father and the Son
- The Holy Spirit will tell us history in advance
- The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus Christ

Luke 24:49

- The Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father

The mystery of the Godhead is being further revealed

Then

Luke 24:50-53

Mark 16:19-20

The End of the Beginning

This time...The Beginning of the End

Now, the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in God's Plan of Redemption

The Book of Acts

The Epistles of Paul

The General Epistles

The Book of Revelation

In chronological order

Acts 1-12

James

Acts 13-17

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

Acts 18-20

Galatians

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Romans

Acts 21-28

Philemon

Ephesians

Colossians

Philippians

1 Timothy

Titus

Jude

1 Peter

Hebrews

2 Timothy

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Revelation

This morning, we will be in Acts 1

v1-2a former treatise...Jesus began...until:

The former/previous treatise/account...the Gospel of Luke

O Theophilus..."friend of God"

Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus

Dr Luke's "employer" or sponsor

all that Jesus began to do and teach...as recorded in the 4 Gospels

That was only the beginning, there is more!

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now

do and teach: notice the sequence.

Jesus did, then taught; Jesus taught by example, by doing

Doing is teaching

Teaching by doing

Hypocrisy is the disharmony of do and teach

until the day...Jesus' Personal actions and teachings terminated when He was carried up to heaven

The End of the Beginning

v2b after that...Holy Ghost...apostles:

Now there is a shift in the ministry of Jesus Christ

After His Personal actions and teaching, Jesus continued His actions and teachings...thru the Holy Spirit, The 3rd Person of the eternal Godhead

Through God the Holy Spirit, God the Son spoke to and directed the apostles...

He had chosen i.e. the eleven...plus the 12th He will choose

"The Great Commission" has been and is accomplished thru the Holy Spirit

God's Plan of Redemption of fallen man continues, but now "handed off" to the Holy Spirit, starting with the apostles

Now, in God's plan, there is a new kind of people on earth – the Church

1. Jew (unbelieving)
2. Gentile (unbelieving)
3. Church (believing Jews and Gentiles given power to become the children of God)

Now, a mystery of God is going to be revealed – the Church
As the servant of the father, named “God our Helper” gathered a bride for
the father’s son (Gen 24),
So will the Comforter/Helper gather a Bride of the Father’s Son
Eph 5:32

The Church is NOT Christianity

Christianity is

- a label
- an umbrella
- a religion

The Church is

- a Body...with many parts obeying the Head of the Body
- followers of Jesus Christ
- hearers of the words of God
- doers of the words of God
- a people of circumcised hearts
- a purchased people, no longer their own
- born-again of the Spirit of God
- saved from eternal death by grace thru faith, not by works
- citizens of the kingdom of God
- one with the Father and the Son
- a Bride...in relationship with the Bridegroom

v3 many infallible proofs...forty days:

For 40 days after His passion (suffering, death, burial, resurrection),
until His ascension, the risen Lord was

- seen
- heard...speaking of the kingdom of God, vs kingdom of Israel
by His disciples.

Truly, He is risen, as evidenced by “many infallible proofs”
 (“criterion of certainty”)

Jesus with great determination made sure His disciples KNEW He was alive

They needed to have no doubts, given what awaited them

Matt 10:16-28

Luke 11:49 *Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them
prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and
persecute*

11 of the 12 would be executed for their faith in Jesus;
none denied Him because they knew what they knew

v4-5 wait for the promise of the Father...baptized with the Holy Ghost:
Linking "his" prior account with this one, Luke writes that the disciples are told to wait in Jerusalem for the "promise of the Father"
(of which Jesus spoke to them in John 14-16)
when they will be "baptized with the Holy Ghost", not many days hence
i.e. in 10 days on the Feast of Pentecost

John the Baptist baptized believers with water, Jesus Christ baptizes believers with Living Water, the Holy Spirit of Whom He spoke in John 7:37-39

v6 restore again the kingdom to Israel:
Jesus has been seen by the apostles for 40 days, during which time He spoke of the kingdom of God (v3)
So, just before He leaves, the apostles ask Jesus if He is now going to restore the kingdom to Israel

Do the apostles understand God's plan yet?
Have they abandoned all their pre-conceived ideas about what God is doing?
Do they understand the what, why, when, and how of the kingdom of God?
No, they need greater revelation and more teaching (John 16:12), which will come by the soon-arriving Holy Spirit (v2a, 4-5).

Much of that will be revealed in about 30 years by Jesus' 12th Apostle

v7-8 It is not for you to know...His own power...receive power:
Jesus says that they will not know, neither He nor the Holy Spirit will tell them

- the times...the broad period of time until the kingdom of God
- the seasons...the set specific time of the kingdom

God's specific timeline/datetime is not given to them/us...ever

The Father has kept that to Himself, in His own
power/authority/jurisdiction/competency
(same power given to Jesus in Matt 28:18)

Can you imagine the number of eternally lost souls if the timing of these things were in man's hands?!

What is given to them and to those who believe their testimony is:

Matt 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh

Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not

By the greater revelation that will be coming by the Holy Spirit, they and those who believe their testimony will be able to discern the signs of the times
Matt 16:3 *ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*

1 Thes 5:1-5

But what is given is power (*dunamis*/miraculous power as in Luke 24:49)
to be witnesses of

- The risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God
- The Gospel

after

- the promise of the Father comes
- baptized with the Holy Spirit
- the Holy Ghost (Living Water) is come upon/*epi* you

starting in Jerusalem and then moving outward to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth

Linked: Holy Spirit upon and Divine power to be a witness for Jesus
Here and now, in the uttermost parts of the earth
Just as there and then in Jerusalem

3-fold ministry of Holy Spirit

1. *para*: with, alongside
2. *en*: in
3. *epi*: upon

Witnesses:

- not Prosecuting Attorney or Defense Attorney
- our faith, heard and seen
- our testimony...which cannot be argued
- God's invitation to every person

btw...when is the kingdom restored to Israel?
Mil Reign of King of Kings

v9 He was taken up...a cloud:

After these final instructions, Jesus was taken up...
a cloud carried Him out of their sight

And He has not been seen physically on earth since! (in visions but not in Person)
When He is seen again, He will come as King and Judge to destroy His enemies
and establish His kingdom on earth

Jesus' 1st visitation is now officially over.

What kind of cloud was this?

- Stratus
- Cirrus
- Cumulus
- Stratocumulus
- Nimbostratus

Not an ordinary water vapor cloud, a supernatural Divine cloud –
the Shekinah glory of God

Imagine!

They have seen some very amazing things this past 3½ years, but this just might
be the topper!

v10-11 two men...white apparel...so come in like manner:

While the apostles are staring at this remarkable sight...

wide eyes fixed on the sky (1st heaven) as Jesus departs earth and
returns to 3rd heaven...

two men wearing white robes ask them why they are gazing up at heaven.

What are they wearing?

The righteousness of God

Who are they?

Perhaps Moses (The Law) and Elijah (The Prophets)?

Two Witnesses of

- The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (Matt 17:1-6)
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:1-7...2 men)
- The ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:9-11)
- The imminent return of Jesus Christ (Rev 11)

What do they say to the apostles?

a. They have work to do here on earth, starting with “wait” before “Go”

b. This same Jesus...not a different Jesus, the very same risen Lord,
not another (for there will be many counterfeits)...will return to
earth just as He left

- with the clouds...Rev 1:7
- on the Mount of Olives...Luke 24:50, Zech 14:1-4

Ask of any man claiming to be the Christ,

Did he return to earth in the glory of God?

Did he return to the Mount of Olives?

Did every eye see Him?

If not, he is a counterfeit!

When will this same Jesus return to earth?

Imminently...at any moment, which does not mean “soon”

In the meantime,

He will be encouraging to not let our heart be troubled while He is
preparing a place for us (John 14:1-3)

His followers will be going out into the world with the Gospel

Application

v8...the instructions of Jesus to us, as demonstrated by fellowships in Book of Acts...

- missionary churches
- the local church as a mission station

Purpose of every missionary/believer

- preach the Gospel...share Good News to the fearful, reach out to the lost
- make disciples...teach the found
- Be fruitful and multiply...go/send...Jesus is the life that multiplies

God's heart has always been for the whole world (John 3:16)

An Acts 1:8 minded church will be after God's own heart

But before “Go” comes “Wait” (Luke 24:49) so go in the power of the Holy Spirit,
led by the Spirit
Zech 4:6

Who needs hope and peace and assurance?

The entire world!

Coronavirus is a witnessing opportunity for the Church!!!

The whole world is the mission field...we all live in a mission field

Where does God want us to go?

Our Jerusalem

Our Judea

Our Samaria

Our uttermost parts of the earth

Be a part of what God is doing

In your sphere of influence, Is 6:8...by the power of the Holy Spirit upon/*epi*