

**Acts: The Work of the Holy Spirit
Using Ordinary Men & Women to Spread The Gospel**

January 12, 2020

-Pastor Dan

Author: The same author wrote Acts and Luke. Earliest church tradition credits Luke. He was a companion of Paul on his missionary journeys and

Date Written: AD 61 – 64. Didn't mention outcome of Paul's trial or fall of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Major Impact of Acts:

- The birth and spread of the Gospel through the Christian church.
- Transition from Jesus earthly Ministry to the Holy Spirit.
- Transition of Holy Spirit ministry to believers (Old-anointing) to (New-empowerment from within).
- Examples of the Holy Spirit's power and indwelling of every believer.
- Examples of the Gospel spreading thru passionate, persecuted believers.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. Acts 1:1-2

Theophilus.

*³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, **most excellent Theophilus,** ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.* Luke 1:1-4

³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:3-5

*⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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 1:6-8

Receive Power. Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and a new dimension of power for witness (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor 6:19; Eph 3:16, 20).

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"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 1:9-11

Taken up. The Ascension of Jesus. The Ascension of Jesus is crucial:

1) Signals the end of His earthly ministry. The period of human limitation was at an end. 2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished. 3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration ([Matt 17:1-9](#)). 4) It symbolized His exaltation by the Father ([Eph 1:20-23](#)). The One with whom the Father is well pleased ([Matt 17:5](#)) was received up in honor and given a name above all names ([Phil 2:9](#)). 5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us ([John 14:2](#)). 6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest ([Heb 4:14-16](#)) and Mediator of the New Covenant ([Heb 9:15](#)). 7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds ([Acts 1:11](#); [Daniel 7:13-14](#); [Matthew 24:30](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)).