

COMMENTARY

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 1

vs. 1-11

Luke is writing to Theophilus (means: lover of God) a second letter. The first, The Gospel Of Luke, dealt with Jesus' life up to the point of His Ascension.

Jesus had instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until God sent His Holy Spirit upon them. Jesus reminded them that they were not to know when Israel would be restored, but that they were going to be witnesses of Christ all over the world as the Holy Spirit worked through them. At that point Jesus ascended while the disciples watched. The disciples were then joined by two men dressed in white (angels taking on the appearance of men) and told that Jesus would return, just as they had seen Him leave.

vs. 12-26

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and were joined by Jesus' family and the women. They prayed.

Later, over 120 believers were gathered together and Peter arose and reminded the followers of what had happened to Judas Iscariot (who had betrayed Jesus) and how it was the fulfillment of prophecy. Judas had committed suicide and his position of leadership was vacant and needed to be filled.

The nominees had to have been with Jesus from the time of John's baptism of Jesus until the time when Jesus ascended. This way, they could be a witness of Jesus' resurrection. Two were selected and the people then prayed, asking the Lord to choose. The lot was cast and Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot.

Acts 2

vs. 1-13

The day of Pentecost was a Jewish feast time. They celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses and Jews came from all over the world, to Jerusalem to observe the feast.

The disciples were gathered together in an upper room when God sent His Spirit upon the disciples. A loud noise and what appeared as tongues of fire rested upon them and they began to speak in foreign languages that they had never studied.

The commotion caused people to gather. The crowd, coming from all over the known world, were all able to hear in their native tongue and they were amazed. The people were amazed and some tried to explain it as the disciples were merely drunk.

vs. 14-41

Peter then stood with the 11 other apostles and spoke to the crowd. He explained to them that what they were seeing was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32) of God pouring out His Spirit on men and them proclaiming His message. Peter explained that the message of salvation was made available through Jesus, whom the crowd had been responsible for killing. He further reminded them of David's prophecies of the Messiah's resurrection and how Jesus was the



fulfillment and now sat at the right hand of God waiting to return as the King of Kings.

The crowd was fearful for what they had done to the Messiah, and asked Peter and the disciples what to do. Peter told them that they needed to be sorrowful for their sin, seek to live for God, be immersed (for the washing away of their sins) and they would at that moment receive the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Peter continued to warn them, and about 3,000 were immersed that day.

vs. 42-47

These first Christians spent time together studying the apostles teaching of Jesus, remembering the Lord's Death (communion), praying and enjoying and benefitting from being with one another. The apostles did signs and wonders by the power of the Holy Spirit. The believers provided for each others needs (even to the point of selling their possessions in order to help someone else). They spent time together each day, had meals together, praised God and found themselves to be accepted openly by the community.

God continued to add to the Church each day, those who were being saved.



STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 1

1. Lukes first book contained what information about Jesus?
2. Lukes first book took the events up to what time? (see also Luke 24)
3. How did the apostles know Christ had risen? (see also: I Corinthians 15:1-8)
4. Where and why were Jesus' disciples to wait?
5. When they received power, what were they to do?
6. How do we know Jesus is coming back?
7. After Jesus ascended, what did His disciples do?
8. What happened to Judas, who had betrayed Jesus?
9. What prophecies are mentioned and fulfilled?
10. How did David know about the future events which would take place?
11. What was the criteria for Judas' replacement?
12. How was Judas' replacement chosen?

BONUS:

1. What benefit do we gain from the first chapter?
2. What examples are there for us to follow?

## STUDY GUIDE

### ACTS 2

1. How did the disciples know that something special was taking place?
2. What did the signs from God accomplish?
3. What explanation was given by some, to explain God's miraculous working?
4. How did Peter explain the events?
5. What did Peter say about Jesus?
6. Summarize the main points of David's prophecies.
7. What statement did Peter make; to which the people asked what they must do?
8. What two things take place at baptism?
9. How do we know those promises are valid today?
10. What did the 3,000+ converts do to grow in Christ?
11. At what rate did the Church grow?

### BONUS:

1. Why are prophecies so interesting?