

THE SPIRIT-EMPOWERED LIFE! THE BOOK OF ACTS AND BEYOND

ACTS 1:1-11 STUDY 1

The first eleven verses of Acts serve as an outline to the entire work. They perform at least five important functions in Luke's narrative:

- They summarize and finalize the work of Jesus as presented in the Gospel of Luke (vv.1-2)
- They serve as a narrative bridge between Luke's two volumes (cf. Luke 24:44-53)
- They reveal Luke's intent as the author and the key theme of the entire book (1:8a)
- They provide a "table of contents" for the book (1:8b)

Acts 1:1-11	Introduction
Acts 1:12-8:1a	The church's witness in Jerusalem (The Jewish Mission)
Acts 8:1b-12:25	The church's witness in Judea and Samaria (The Transitional Period)
Acts 13:1-28:31	The church's witness to the ends of the earth (The Gentile Mission)

- They introduce five overarching themes that will reappear throughout the rest of the book (vv. 1-11)

Acts 1:1-3 NIV In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach (2) until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. (3) After 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.

1:1 Theophilus

In my former book ... I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach.

1:2 instructions through the Holy Spirit

1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself ... that he was alive

Spoke about the kingdom of God

THE SPIRIT IS PROMISED

Acts 1:4-8 NIV On 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. (5) For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (6) Then 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. (8) But 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."

1:4 On one occasion

He gave them this command

The gift my Father promised

1:5 baptized with the Holy Spirit

1:6 restore the kingdom to Israel

1:8 you will receive power ... you will be my witnesses

This is Luke's **EMPOWERMENT-WITNESS MOTIF**

To the ends of the earth

The
Empowering
of the Holy
Spirit

results in

Missional
Witness

JESUS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

Acts 1:9-11 NIV After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. (10) They 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."

Pentecost, the First Jerusalem Outpouring (2:104)

The Second Jerusalem Outpouring (4:31)

The Samaritan Outpouring (8:14-17)

The Damascene Outpouring (9:15-18)

The Caesarean Outpouring (10:44-48)

The Antiochian Outpouring (13:1-3)

The Ephesian Outpouring (19:1-7)

1:9 He was taken up

1:10 Why do you stand looking?

1:11 This same Jesus ... will come back

These first eleven verses function in Acts much as does a legal or academic abstract. They outline the major elements of what is to follow in the rest of the book. Five key themes are introduced that repeatedly recur throughout Acts.

1. The kingdom of God
2. The global mission of the church
3. The necessity of Spirit empowering
4. The Holy Spirit guiding the work of missions
5. The urgency of the missionary task