

Acts 1:1-14

- **1ST - THROUGH THE BIBLE...**

- o 1st – Context...

- We teach through the Bible INDUCTIVELY - book by book and verse by verse...
- FIRST - because TOPICAL Bible studies [picking a topic - then backing it up with verses]
- Has the danger of NOT knowing the CONTEXT of those verses...
- It is easy to change the meaning of a single verse when taken out of CONTEXT!
- Where TWO or more are gathered has NOTHING to do with prayer - **Matthew 18:20**
- It is about church DISCIPLINE - removing someone because of SIN – CONTEXT!
- One of the most important concepts in understanding the Bible is CONTEXT...
- That is why we study the whole Bible - teachings chapter by chapter...
- We learn the Bible in CONTEXT – to have an accurate understanding of the Word!

- o 2nd – Whole Counsel...

- Every part...
 - If we teach TOPICALLY [or just certain books] we miss the WHOLE counsel...
 - Pastors will tend to teach on certain topics they LIKE and overlook ones they DISLIKE!
 - Every part of the Bible is Gods inspired Word - all of it is necessary...
 - By teaching through the whole Bible - book by book - chapter by chapter...
 - We learn ALL of the Word - and we focus on the topics God deems important!
 - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
- Old and New Testament...
 - The New Testament included approximately 250 Old Testament quotations...
 - If we include indirect or partial quotations - the number jumps to more than 1000!
 - We study through the New Testament every Sunday morning – from **Matthew to Revelation**
 - And during the Midweek we study through the Old Testament – **Genesis to Malachi**
 - Because if we only hear the NT – we will miss out on about 75% of the Bible...
 - A good encouragement to get into both the Old and New testaments!

- **2ND – THE AUTHOR...**

- o 1st - Luke...

- Three times...
 - LUKE [Λουκᾶς] - one who gives the LIGHT...
 - He is only mentioned by name THREE times in the New Testament!
 - **Colossians 4:14** - “Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.”
 - **Philemon 1:24** - “Luke my fellow laborer.”
 - **I Timothy 4:11** - “Only Luke is with me.”
- Evidence...
 - The authorship of Acts has been traditionally credited to LUKE ...
 - This comes from EXTERNAL evidence - the testimony of the church fathers is unanimous...
 - Christians have accepted this tradition as early as the SECOND century up to modern times...
 - But also INTERNAL evidence - the pronoun WE - **Acts 20:13-15** - **Acts 21:1-6** - **Acts 27-28**
 - **Acts 16:10-11** - “After they came to Mysia THEY tried to go into Bithynia... and after he had seen the vision immediately WE endeavored to go into Macedonia.”
 - Notice the pronoun WE - suggesting the writer of ACTS joined Paul on his trip...
 - Luke joined Paul on his SECOND missionary journey - stayed with him to the end of his life!

- o 2nd - Gentile...
 - Luke is the only non-Jewish author in the Bible [except for perhaps Job]
 - He refers to the Jewish language as THEIR language - NOT his - **Acts 1:19**
 - Thought to be the author of BOTH the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts...
 - Together LUKE and ACTS make up 28% of the entire New Testament...
 - Meaning he wrote more than ANY other author - including the Paul - John - or Peter...
 - Making Luke [a gentle] the most prolific author of the New Testament!
- o 3rd - Physician...
 - Luke was a physician - **Colossians 4:14**
 - When we think of a doctor today - we think wealthy...
 - But that was NOT necessarily the case in the times of the Romans Empire...
 - Wealthy men had many SLAVES - sometimes one of those SLAVES might be a doctor...
 - The master would pay one of his SLAVE to go to school - to become his doctor...
 - LUKE - the beloved physician - used a lot of MEDICAL terms in his writings...
 - His education and vocabulary makes him a very DETAILED and descriptive writer!
- 3RD - **WHERE AND WHEN...**
 - o We are NOT certain WHERE - but perhaps from Rome while Paul was in PRISON...
 - o We are NOT certain WHEN - but possibly between the years 50-60 A.D.
 - o There is NO mention of the destruction of the temple - 70 A.D.
 - o There is NO mention of the martyrdom of Paul - 62 A.D.
- 4TH - **THEME...**
 - o 1st - Holy Spirit...
 - The full title of the book is - the Acts of the APOSTLES...
 - The reason is because it follows the lives of the APOSTLES after the ascension of Jesus...
 - But the book is really about what the Holy SPIRIT did through the APOSTLES ...
 - So the better title for the book might be - the Acts of the Holy SPIRIT!
 - Acts was written to show us how important the Spirit is in our daily lives...
 - That without God working in and through us - there is NOTHING to write about!
 - o 2nd - Example...
 - History of the church...
 - Acts records the first THIRTY years of the history of the church...
 - From the birth of the church [Pentecost] - to the imprisonment of Paul...
 - The example given becomes a PATTERN for how the church should work TODAY!
 - **Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the study the Bible and fellowship - sharing in the Lords Supper and in prayer."
 - Model church...
 - People have a lot of funny ideas about what a church is...
 - There are those who think it is a building - with chairs and a sound system...
 - There are those who think it is traditions - Sunday morning dressed up...
 - But what we rarely see - is a church that is reaching the WORLD for Jesus!
 - That is why it is so important for us to study the book of ACTS...
 - We want to see what God says His church should look like [not men]
 - Because when the church is done His way - God uses us to change the world!
- 5TH - **OUTLINE...**
 - o 1st - Overview...
 - The book of ACTS has 28 Chapters and 1006 verses...
 - Only the books of MATTHEW and LUKE are longer in the New Testament...

- Much like MATTHEW - it will take us about a year to go through the book of ACTS!
- o 2nd - Breakdown...
 - Chapters 1-12 – Birth of the Church
 - Jerusalem - **Acts 1-5**
 - Judea - **Acts 6-7**
 - Samaria - **Acts 8-12**
 - Chapters 13-28 – Into all the world
 - First Journey - **Acts 13-14**
 - Second Journey - **Acts 15:1 - Acts 18:22**
 - Third Journey - **Acts 18:23 - Acts 21:15**
 - Trials of Paul - **Acts 21:16 - Acts 28:31**

ASCENSION OF JESUS...

- 1st - INTRODUCTION... vs. 1-3
 - o 1st - Theophilus... vs. 1
 - Friend of God...
 - Luke wrote ACTS to Theophilus - THREE possibilities as to who this was...
 - FIRST - Theophilus [Θεόφιλος] means a friend [φίλος] of God [θεός]
 - It is possible Luke was writing to anyone who wants to be a FRIEND of GOD...
 - A less likely possibility because of the introduction to the same person in the book of LUKE...
 - There he is given the TITLE - most excellent [κράτιστος] - **Luke 1:3**
 - Master...
 - SECOND - the TITLE most excellent - could suggest Theophilus was the master of Luke...
 - And Luke wrote his Gospel to tell his master about Jesus...
 - When he presented it to Theophilus - he addressed him with the TITLE [most excellent]
 - But when Luke wrote the Book of Acts - the TITLE is gone...
 - Perhaps suggesting Theophilus received Jesus upon reading the Gospel of Luke!
 - Judge...
 - THIRD - Theophilus was the judge presiding over the case of Paul...
 - More than HALF of the book of Acts focuses solely on the life of Paul...
 - And concludes with Paul imprisoned in Rome - awaiting his TRIAL before Caesar...
 - Then book of Acts seems to end very abruptly [there is no conclusion]
 - Luke could have written the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts as a DEFENSE for Paul!
 - o 2nd - The Continuation ... vs. 1-3
 - The Gospel... vs. 1-2
 - The former account I made - O Theophilus - of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.
 - Until the day in which He was taken up after He through the Holy Spirit...
 - Had given [the] commandment to the apostles whom He had chosen!
 - Luke begins the book of ACTS - by connecting it to the book of LUKE...
 - The FIRST [πρῶτος] book [λόγος] that he had written [ποιέω]
 - That documented ALL [πᾶς] of the things Jesus had DONE [ποιέω] and TAUGHT [διδάσκω]
 - Until Jesus gave the final COMMAND [singular] to the APOSTLES - **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - The APOSTLES [ἀπόστολος] He had chosen through the Holy [ἅγιος] SPIRIT!
 - The Keys...
 - This opening to ACTS gives us the KEYS to the whole book...
 - The COMMAND [singular] of Jesus was to make DISCIPLES of all nations...
 - The APOSTLES [ἀπόστολος] - were who Jesus SENT to share the MESSAGE...
 - The Holy SPIRIT - was how simple FISHERMEN had the POWER to share it!

- The book of ACTS is not separate book from LUKE - it is the CONTINUATION...
- Because it was NOT enough for the DISCIPLES to see and hear the life of Jesus...
- They needed to step out and FOLLOW the example Jesus had given to them!
- If all we do is LISTEN to Bible studies - we are missing the POINT...
- The Bible is NOT stories we listen to - it is INSTRUCTIONS we are to follow!
- **James 1:22** - "Be doers of the word and not hearers only!"
- Forty Days... vs. 3
 - To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs.
 - Seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God!
 - Jesus stood [παρίστημι] with the APOSTLES for FORTY days after His crucifixion [suffering]
 - Where they SAW [ὁπτάνομαι] Him - and HEARD Him talk about the Kingdom of God...
 - The emphasis is that there is NO question Jesus had RISEN from the dead...
 - He was WITH the APOSTLES - they could SEE Him - and HEAR what He said to them!
 - FORTY in the Bible is a number that is always associated with TRIALS...
 - It rained for FORTY days during the FLOOD of Noah - **Genesis 7:4**
 - Israel wandered for FORTY years in the wilderness - **Numbers 14:33**
 - Jesus was tempted by satan after FORTY days in the desert - **Matthew 4:2**
 - The TRIAL in this instance was that Jesus was about to LEAVE...
 - They were NO longer going to be WITH - SEE - or HEAR the Lord...
 - They were going to have to WALK by FAITH - and learn to depend on someone else!
- **2ND - FINAL TEACHING... vs. 4-8**
 - 1st - Baptism of the Spirit... vs. 4-5
 - Wait... vs. 4
 - Being assembled together with them He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem.
 - But to wait for the Promise of the Father which - He said you have heard from Me!
 - As the DISCIPLES were gathered around Jesus [on the Mount of Olives]
 - He gave them final INSTRUCTIONS [παραγγέλλω]
 - They were NOT to leave Jerusalem - but instead WAIT [περιμένω] or ABIDE [μένω]
 - Until they received the PROMISE of the Father that Jesus had told them about...
 - The PROMISE was for the DISCIPLES to receive the HELPER [παράκλητος]
 - The Holy SPIRIT who He would CALL [κλητος] to come alongside them [παρά]!
 - **John 14:26** - "The Helper - the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name - He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
 - If the disciples had tried to start the church on their own - if they had NOT waited...
 - The book of Acts would have ended here - there would be NO church...
 - But because of the PROMISE of the SPIRIT - the Gospel went out into the world!
 - While PREPARATION has its place - it is good to be a student of the WORD - **II Timothy 2:15**
 - The disciples had the BEST training ever [Bible college] - THREE years with Jesus...
 - But that was NOT enough - in order to be used they needed the PROMISE of God...
 - We can have all the training and degrees - but if God is NOT with us - NOTHING will happen...
 - We can have NO education - if God is working through us - we are UNSTOPPABLE!
 - Baptism of water... vs. 5
 - For John truly baptized with water!
 - John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus - he came to prepare the way...
 - He BAPTIZED people in WATER - as they CONFESSED their sins...
 - He used the picture of needing a BATH - so show people they were spiritually DIRTY...
 - But John was LIMITED to water BAPTISM - it could ONLY change the EXTERNAL!
 - Baptism of Fire... vs. 5

- But you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now!
 - The APOSTLES would be BAPTIZED [passive] with [instrumental] the Holy SPIRIT...
 - There are THREE prepositions that are used to define the WORK of the SPIRIT...
 - PARA [παρά] - the Spirit comes ALONGSIDE and convicts the world of their SIN - **John 16:8**
 - EN [ἐν] - the Spirit comes and lives INSIDE of the believer - **I Corinthians 6:19**
 - EPI [ἐπί] - the Spirit comes UPON the believer to set them on FIRE!
 - **Matthew 3:11** - "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. He who is coming after me is mightier than I... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!"
 - If something is washed on the outside - it can still be DIRTY on the inside...
 - But when something is exposed to HIGH heat - it is purified all the way through!
 - This THIRD aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood...
 - It can be called the BAPTISM of the Spirit - being FILLED with the Spirit...
 - What it describes is something that happens AFTER salvation...
 - Setting a believer on FIRE - so that we can be PURIFIED and used by the Lord!
- o 2nd - Times and Seasons... vs. 6-7
- The Kingdom... vs. 6
 - Therefore when they had come together they asked Him saying:
 - Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?
 - As the DISCIPLES were gathered around Jesus [on the Mount of Olives]
 - They continually [imperfect] said to the Lord [κύριος]
 - This is [indicative] the TIME [χρόνος] to RESTORE [ἀποκαθίστημι] the Kingdom to ISRAEL!
 - Speaking of the MILLENNIAL Kingdom - **Revelation 20:4**
 - When Jesus will rule and reign the world from Jerusalem for THOUSAND years...
 - But this does NOT happen until the END of the TRIBULATION...
 - Meaning the DISCIPLES were at least TWO thousand years early!
 - No one knows... vs. 7
 - He said to them: It is not for you to know times or seasons.
 - Which the Father has put in His own authority!
 - Jesus corrected them - it was NOT for them to KNOW [γινώσκω]
 - TIMES [χρόνος] - speaking of the specific DAY or HOUR...
 - SEASONS [καιρός] - speaking of the more general period of history!
 - **I Thessalonians 5:1-2** - "Concerning the times and the seasons... you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."
 - The DAY of the LORD - starts with the RAPTURE of the church - **I Thessalonians 4:17**
 - But NO one but the FATHER knows when the RAPTURE will occur - **Matthew 24:36**
 - It will happen like a THIEF in the NIGHT - all we can do is be READY!
 - **Matthew 24:44** - "Be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect!"
- o 3rd - Witnesses... vs. 8
- Power of God...
 - You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you!
 - They did NOT know when Jesus would ESTABLISH the KINGDOM...
 - [ἀλλά] - BUT they did know what would happen in a FEW days...
 - The DISCIPLES would receive POWER [δύναμις] - explosive power [dynamite]
 - Through the SPIRIT God would TURN timid fishermen into unstoppable FISHERS of MEN...
 - But because the DISCIPLES wanted the kingdom NOW - they were missing the POINT...
 - There was still work to be DONE - and Jesus had to GO to get that work started!
 - **John 16:7** - "It is to your advantage that I go away for if I do not go away - the Helper will not come to you - but if I depart I will send Him to you."

- If Jesus did NOT leave - then He could NOT send the Holy Spirit...
- Not that the Holy Spirit was NOT there – He was in them - **John 20:22**
- The problem was the DISCIPLES - with Jesus there they did NOT need the SPIRIT ...
- They looked for Jesus to do everything – Jesus had to leave so they looked for the SPIRIT!
- If we are honest – we do not want responsibility – let someone else do it...
- It takes NO faith to let someone else serve the Lord – be used by the Spirit...
- What takes a step of faith is to believe that God can use me!
- Spread of the Gospel...
 - You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem - and in all Judea and Samaria.
 - And to the end of the earth!
 - Once the Holy SPIRIT had come UPON [ἐπὶ] the DISCIPLES...
 - They would become [indicative] WITNESSES [μάρτυρες] for Jesus Christ...
 - FIRST - they would spread the Gospel in Jerusalem [their city]
 - NEXT - it would spread out into ALL [πᾶς] of Judea [their country]
 - THEN - it would overflow to the SAMARITANS - **Acts 8:5**
 - FINALLY - it would move to FARTHEST parts of world!
 - If we throw a stone into a pond – the ripple quickly SPREADS outwards...
 - In the same way when we share the Gospel with others – it SPREADS...
 - The person we shared Jesus with – goes and tells their family or friends...
 - It is NOT just one person who comes to Jesus – it RIPPLES out into the whole world!!
- 3RD - NEW BEGINNING... vs. 9-14
 - o 1st - Ascension of Jesus... vs. 9-11
 - Taken up... vs. 9
 - Now when He had spoken these things while they watched.
 - He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight!
 - While Jesus had given these final INSTRUCTIONS [wait]
 - He was taken up [passive] from the Mount of Olives [flying]
 - Until the DISCIPLES could NO longer see Him as He passed into a CLOUD!
 - Looking up... vs. 10
 - While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up.
 - Behold two men stood by them in white apparel!
 - The disciples stood watching till Jesus was out of sight...
 - After He was gone – the disciples just stood there staring [present] up to heaven...
 - They were in shock – perhaps not wanting the moment to end...
 - That is when they noticed two ANGELS standing next to them dressed in WHITE!
 - Coming back... vs. 11
 - Who also said: Men of Galilee why do you stand gazing up into heaven?
 - This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven.
 - Will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven!
 - The Angels had ONE question - why are you still STARING up into heaven...
 - Jesus would come back one day - to the same place He just left from...
 - But until that day - there was WORK that needed to be DONE!
 - **Zechariah 14:4** - "In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives."
 - There is only ONE gate on the east side of Jerusalem [Golden gate]
 - It was sealed by the Muslims - and they put a graveyard in front of it...
 - Because it is forbidden for a PRIEST [כֹּהֵן] to touch a GRAVE - **Leviticus 21:1**
 - All because the Bible said Jesus would come back to the Mount of Olives!
 - There is nothing wrong with a powerful WORSHIP service...

- Our hands and lifted high - our eyes fixed on HEAVEN...
 - But we are NOT called to STAY - we are called to GO and tell others...
 - After the service there is WORK to be done - people need to hear about Jesus!
- o 2nd - Upper room... vs. 12-14
- The Eleven... vs. 12-13
 - Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet.
 - Which is near Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.
 - And when they had entered they went up into the upper room where they were staying:
 - Peter - James - John - and Andrew. Philip and Thomas. Bartholomew and Matthew.
 - James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James!
 - The disciples return to the Upper Room [first time in NT]
 - It was a Sabbath's day journey [one kilometer] from the Mount of Olives...
 - We are given a full list of the ELEVEN remaining APOSTLES...
 - The FOURTH and final list in the NT: **Matthew 10:2-4 - Mark 3:13-19 - Luke 6:12-16**
 - The ORDER of the list varies with each account [as do what some of them are called]
 - But as in EVERY list - [ὁ] Peter [Πέτρος] is the FIRST...
 - And unlike the other THREE lists - Judas is NO longer around!
 - One Accord... vs. 14
 - These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.
 - With the women - Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers!
 - The APOSTLES - and the WOMEN who had stood with Jesus...
 - Including MARY the mother of Jesus [last mention in the Bible]
 - As well as the HALF brothers of Jesus [who had previously NOT believed] - **John 7:5**
 - They ALL [πάντες] were [imperfect] continually in prayer to God...
 - Which allowed them to be in ONE accord [ὁμοθυμαδόν] - first time in NT!
 - A unique word used TWELVE times in the NT – ELEVEN of them in the Book of Acts...
 - Describing a great orchestra with many instruments - different sounds...
 - But as they follow one CONDUCTOR – then they blend together in beautiful harmony!
 - If we want to be effective for Jesus - witnesses to the world - it starts with PRAYER...
 - Because if we are NOT listening to the CONDUCTOR - we will NOT have HARMONY...
 - Only as we come together in UNITY - full of the SPIRIT...
 - Can we become a church that God uses powerfully to spread the Good News!