

ACTS 1: 1-14 - Preface & the Ascension of Jesus

Acts 1:1-5

Jesus told the disciples what they were to do in Verse 4. The apostles were to meet together in Jerusalem; Christ having ordered them not to depart from there, but to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus reminds them, "you heard me say that you would receive the **promise of the Father**" to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Read **Lk: 24:49** and **Joel 2:28-29**.

- **Question: Who would be the baptizer to "clothe them with this power from on high" (Lk 24:49)? Hint: Refer to Matt. 3:11. Answer: _____.**
- **What thoughts do you have regarding this particular baptism with respect to each person in the Godhead? Why was this baptism so important to the apostles (and to us)? Share your thoughts.**

Acts 1:6-11

The apostles were earnest in asking about that which Jesus never had directed or encouraged them to seek. The Lord knew that His ascension and the teaching of the Holy Spirit would soon end their immediate expectations of His Kingdom being on and of the earth, and therefore only gave them a "gentle" rebuke.

He had given his disciples instructions for the discharge of their duty, both before his death and since his resurrection, and this knowledge should have been sufficient for them.

- **Question: Why couldn't they see (understand) what He was telling them? Share your thoughts. In our own lives as followers & witnesses of Jesus, who should we turn to give us the strength to bear our trials and perform our services to the body of Christ? Answer: _____.**

When they stood "gazing into heaven "as He ascended, two angels stood by them to provide a comforting explanation (vs. 10 & 11).

- **Question: So, in the moments of our bewildered "gazing into heaven" who can we turn to, that is not part of the Godhead, yet is standing by our side to illuminate our minds and help guide us? Answer: _____.**

Thoughts of our Christ's second coming should quicken and awaken us: they should comfort and encourage us.

Acts 1:12-14

God found a hiding place for his people. The "Men of Galilee" are all there. **Verse 14 is key.** They were in "one accord" devoting themselves to prayer.

- **Question: Who also is with them? Answer: _____.**

All His people praying together with His mother present. It was a time of trouble and danger with His followers; but His presence was unmistakably there with them. They awaited the descent of **the Holy Spirit** which is the one & same Spirit of Himself and the Father!