

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

ACTS 1

Acts 1

Acts one begins the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. This is one of the most exciting and dynamic books in the entire Bible because it records the events of Pentecost, Hebrew, Shavuot, the Levitical "Feast of Weeks," as well as the birth and spread of the Gospel throughout the world of the first century. The Gospel of Luke closes with a summary of the hours surrounding the ascension of Jesus, the Messiah.

"Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. "You are witnesses of these things." And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God." (Luke 24:46-53)

Acts one fills in the details surrounding those last hours with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, which culminated forty days of teaching and preparing His disciples for their mission and His departure back to the glory of heaven itself.

Forty days in Jerusalem, the Galilee, and now back to Jerusalem, the Lord had been convincing in every way that indeed He had died for the sins of mankind and had truly been dead but was resurrected from the dead. He did this in ways we know and others we do not know. What we do know is that these proofs were infallible. They were evidenced by what He said and what He did. He walked with them, He ate with them on many occasions, He taught them, and when He left them through the ascension, they realized that a new beginning was happening or was about to, as their Lord ascended. Jesus had told them ***He would not leave them as "orphans"*** (John 14:18). But He would send another, like Him, to encourage them. Jesus, ***Immanuel, God with us/them***, told them what they would not understand at the time but would after the Holy Spirit came and would ***live in them*** and us. As we will examine in the next chapter, Acts two, the great miracle of Pentecost was that God came to live in the life of every believer, every believer, to empower, to equip, to enable, and to encourage every one of us...Until He comes again!

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank You, Father, for the promise of the Holy Spirit in us, indwelling us, taking up residence within each of our lives as followers of Jesus. May we allow Him full control of every aspect of our lives until we are called home or until the Lord Jesus comes for us in the clouds of heaven. Amen