

WAIT FOR THE PROMISE

Those who plan to participate in the Bible bowl will be studying the book of Acts over the next few months. The first session will cover Acts 1-5. I thought it would be good to present some lessons on these chapters to help us study this material.

Acts 1:4... wait for the promise. That is something we have trouble with, i.e. waiting. We don't like to wait for anything. Jesus told his apostles to wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4-8).

- I. Wait for the Spirit (Acts 1:4,5; Luke 24:46-50)
 - A. Why were they to wait for the Spirit?
 1. Christ had told them to wait.
 2. It is important to study this because the plan of salvation is involved.
 3. Holy Spirit was a promise to them, hence, they had to wait.
 - B. The promises of Jesus regarding the coming of the Holy Spirit.
 1. There was a time when the Holy Spirit was not given.
 - a. John 15:26,27
 - b. John 16:7-13
 2. Spirit was not given before Jesus was glorified (John 7:38,39)
 3. He was to be sent from the Father (John 14:16,17)
 4. He was to be sent after Jesus had gone back to the Father (John 16:7)
 5. When He came, He was to abide forever (John 14:16)
 6. The world cannot receive Him (John 14:17).
 7. His mission was to bear witness of Jesus (John 15:26).
 - a. To bring to the remembrance of the apostles all things that Jesus had taught them concerning the kingdom of god (John 14:26).
 - b. To guide them into all truth (John 16:13).
 - c. To convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8).
 - C. The Holy Spirit was not given to the apostles:
 1. To make believers of them
 2. Save them from their sin
 3. Cleanse them from sin (John 15:3)
 4. Sanctify them (John 17:17).
 - D. Why then was the H/S given to the Apostles?
 1. John 14:25,26
 2. John 16:7-13
 3. Notice the words "teach," "bring to remembrance," "speak," "show."
 4. The Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth. (John 8:32)
 5. The Spirit would give the apostles power to confirm the word (Heb. 2:1-4; Mk. 16:20).
 6. This power was to enable them to be competent witnesses (Acts 1:8). It was to give them the credentials to confirm the message of Christ and Him crucified.
 7. Such was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4, 33.
- II. Ministry of the Apostles (1:1-5, 8)
 - A. The commandment given in 1:2 refers to Great Commission.
 1. The Great Commission was given by Christ (Matt. 28; Mk. 16; Luke 24)
 2. The gospel must be preached.
 3. The gospel saves (I Cor. 15:1-3; Romans 1:16,17).
 4. Notice the distinctive characteristics of the Great Commission.
 - a. Matthew emphasized teaching. Christianity is a taught religion.
 - b. Mark emphasized the preacher and the hearer.
 - (1) The preacher must proclaim the gospel.

- (2) The hearer must believe and be baptized.
 - c. Luke emphasized the divine plan. (24:46-49)
 - (1) Thus it is written...
 - (2) Would begin in Jerusalem
 - B. The commandment the apostles were given is universal in its scope. “all the world..”
 - 1. It was delegated unto them by the Lord (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:17-20)
 - 2. In Jerusalem and Judea...
 - a. Acts 2...day of Pentecost.
 - 3. In Samaria–Philip preaching and baptizing in Samaria (Acts 8)
 - 4. Unto the uttermost parts of the earth.
 - a. Missionary journeys of Paul.
 - 5. The apostles were faithful to the commission.
 - 6. It has never been changed nor another given.
 - 7. We are working under the same commission today.
- III. Other Great Points in this Chapter.
- A. The Ascension of Jesus. (1:9-11)
 - 1. John 14:1-3
 - 2. John 13:36
 - 3. A return in the same manner in which he went away was assured.
 - 4. Took place 40 days after the resurrection.
 - B. The importance of prayer (1:14a)
 - C. Choosing of Matthias
 - 1. Defection of Judas (1:16-20)
 - a. David had prophesied of such.
 - b. Psalm 69:25
 - c. Psalm 109:8
 - 2. Judas obtained a field. Not literally, but in the sense that it was bought with his money.
 - 3. Qualifications of a successor. (1:21-22)
 - a. Must have been in company of Jesus from the time of the Lord’s baptism till his ascension.
 - b. Must have known him intimately enough before his crucifixion to have identified him of a certainty after his resurrection, so as to be a “witness” thereof.
 - c. NOTE: No man today can meet such qualifications. We have no successors to the apostles today.
 - 4. Matthias chosen (1:23-26)
 - 5. Judas was the only apostle ever succeeded by another.
 - D. In an old issue of G.A. Quarterly I found these points to ponder:
 - 1. Jesus was both a doer and teacher and in that order!
 - 2. The resurrection of Christ rests upon many infallible proofs.
 - 3. The conversational object during the forty day interval was God’s kingdom.
 - 4. Gospel preaching–not sky gazing–is our mission.
 - 5. The credibility of the ascension rests upon both angelic and apostolic testimony which makes it doubly reliable and absolutely airtight.

Con: There is a great amount of material in Acts 1. It is setting the stage for the greatest event, the day of Pentecost, the beginning of the church, the beginning of preaching the gospel. The stage is set and the apostles were ready.