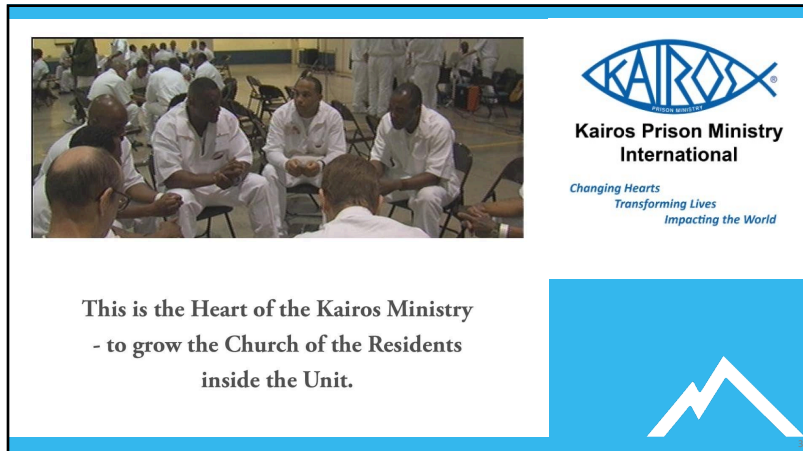


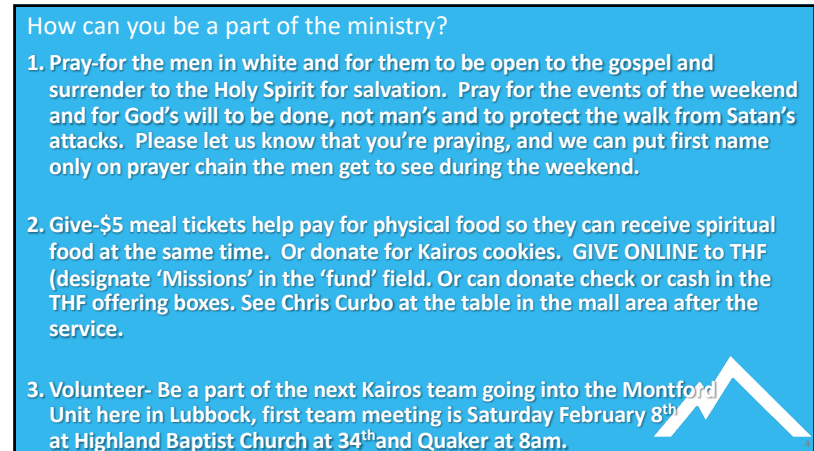
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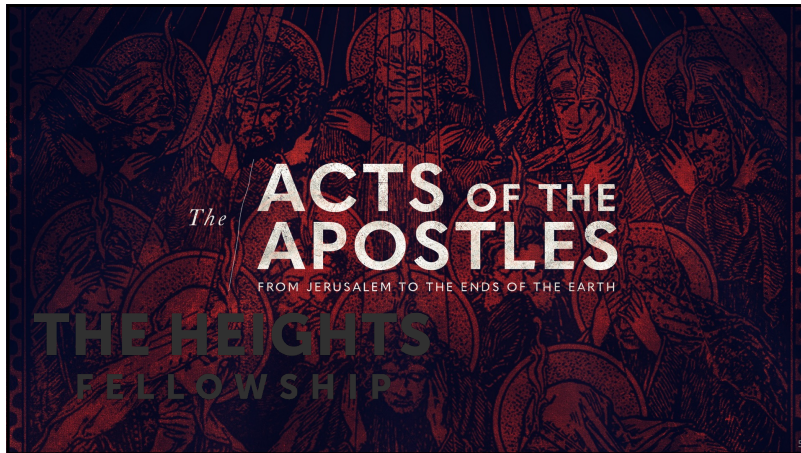
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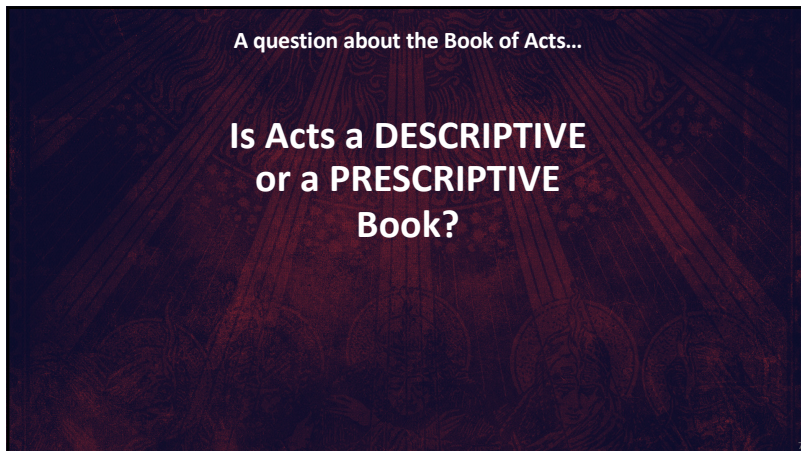
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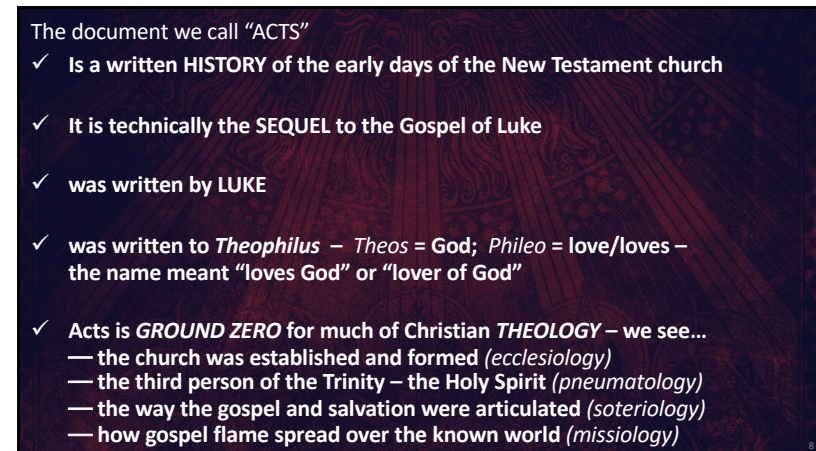
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7



8

A Historian's Perspective

Volume One –

³ it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, **most excellent Theophilus**; ⁴ **so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.** Luke 1:3-4

Volume Two –

¹ The first account I composed, Theophilus, **ABOUT ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TEACH**, ² until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. Acts 1:1-2

9

Observations about Acts

The **REDEMPITIVE** work of Jesus
is complete and finished...
(That's the narrative of the four Gospels)

The **SEEKING** and **SAVING** work of Jesus is ongoing...
...all that Jesus **BEGAN** to do and teach... (v1)
(That's Acts and beyond)

That work extends all the way to **TODAY**...

10

Observations about Acts

The **LIFE** of Jesus did not end with the crucifixion –
we readily acknowledge there was a bodily **RESURRECTION** of Jesus.

The **MINISTRY** of Jesus did not end with the Ascension.

In Acts the **'BODY'** of Christ is extended in the life of the church.
We are to live out the **LIFE OF CHRIST** in our world.

2 Corinthians 4 –

¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, **so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.** ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, **so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.**

11

Acts 1

¹ The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³ To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴ And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

12

Acts 1

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; ¹¹ and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

13

13

It was a time of WAITING

⁴ And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

...but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.
Luke 24:36

14

14

Waiting...why?

- ✓ They had a heritage of EXPECTATION
- ✓ They had years of PREPARATION
- ✓ They were full of INFORMATION
- ✓ They had a wealth of OBSERVATION
- ✓ They had an amount of MOTIVATION

15

15

Waiting...why?

- But they *needed* the necessary QUALIFICATION (Power/Authority)
 - They needed the right APPLICATION
 - They had to have a sense of DIRECTION
- They needed the understand their CONNECTION with the plan of God
- They needed a true DETERMINATION (urgency) about the right things

16

16

Waiting...why?

These things, Jesus taught and built into them after the resurrection...

He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3

**This was their 'Post-Grad' in the applied science of APOSTLESHIP!
The 40 days with Jesus were full of this instruction and application.**

17

17

It was a time of **UNCERTAINTY**

Question:

**What is the relationship between *certainty* and *confidence*?
How does that play out in the Christian life?**

18

18

Certainty and Confidence...

³ *To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.* ⁴ *And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised...*

He 'presented himself alive' – that is *CERTAINTY!*

'by many convincing proofs' – that's *CERTAINTY!*

'appearing to them over a period of forty days, speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God' – these are things that haven't yet happened.

They require *CONFIDENCE!*

19

19

Certainty and Confidence...

Hebrews 11 –

¹ *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*evidence of things not seen = **UNCERTAINTY***

Uncertainty demands the *CONFIDENCE* that they *WILL BE*

We call this *FAITH!*

2 Corinthians 5 –

*...⁶ knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord
— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight — ⁸we are of good courage...*

20

20

Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

1. Jesus gave them His WORDS (He put them ON TOPIC)

over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. v3

This was on point with what Jesus had talked about from the beginning –

¹⁴ *Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*
¹⁵ *and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*
Mark 1:14-15 nkj (cf Matt 4:17)

21

The Topic...the Kingdom of God

Kingdom of God – Where God RULES

Was not just about some UNIVERSAL kingdom
*The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,
 And His sovereignty rules over all. Psalm 103:19*

It was also about NOW – the Kingdom of God IN THE HEARTS OF MAN!

"The kingdom of God never comes by watching for it. Men cannot say, 'Look, here it is'; or 'there it is', for the kingdom of God is inside you." Luke 17:21 php

²⁰ *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20*

22

The Topic...the Kingdom of God

The Point –

⁸ *Although you have never seen Christ, you love him. You don't see him now, but you believe in him. 1 Peter 1:8 esv*

The Message of Jesus...the message of the church in ACTS...the message of the church in THIS AGE is this: A PERSONAL FAITH RELATIONSHIP with the resurrected Savior is necessary for everyone!

The message is the crucified, risen Christ –

⁵ *For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 esv*

23

Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

2. Jesus gave them His POWER

⁴ *And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*
Acts 1:4-5

Jesus never expected New Testament saints to do the work to which they were called on their own power! He spoke of this to them OFTEN ...

24

The Promise of Power

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?
 Luke 11:13

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.
 Luke 24:33

He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 John 7:39

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.
 John 14:16-18

25

Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

This happened 10 Days Later...

*you shall receive power when the **HOLY SPIRIT** has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*
 Acts 1:8

the people - YOU
the power = dunamis (DYNAMITE!!)
the potential = the world

26

This is the PRAYER FOR US

Ephesians 3 –

*¹⁴ I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;** ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.*

Not just a repository of information...LIVE the TRUTH –

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 Colossians 3:16

27

Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

3. Jesus gave them DETERMINATION

The disciples were still trying to UNDERSTAND...

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.
 Acts 1:6-7

28

Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

3. Jesus gave them DETERMINATION

The Bible has always been clear...

It is not for you to know the *times* (*chronos*) or *epochs* (*kairos*) –

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29 nkj

29

What Jesus DIDN'T SAY

This would have been the PERFECT time to squelch any thought or talk about a **RESTORED EARTHLY KINGDOM OF ISRAEL** (*the promise God made to Abraham...to David...to the prophets*).

Jesus could have easily just told the disciples that they were thinking wrongly and that it was never going to come (*what is essentially an amillennialist view*)... that it was just an allegory... that there would be no Kingdom of Israel.

30

He could have said, "No. Israel gets the curses, but the gentiles are going to get the promises." He would have had to say, "You know, the prophets are kind of dreamers," or, "That was Plan A, but God had to go to Plan B." But that wouldn't make any sense for Him to say that. Why? Because in Matthew 25 and in Luke 13, He told them the kingdom was going to come. He told them He was going to come. He described features of His coming, features of His kingdom. He told them about the kingdom.

- MacArthur

He could have said it and killed a wrong perspective on their part...

BUT HE DIDN'T!

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Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

3. Jesus gave them DETERMINATION

The Doctrine of IMMINENCE –
a term in theology to describe the Jesus' RETURN could happen at any moment

Established by Jesus –

For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. Matthew 24:44

Focus of the Apostles and Early Church –

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 nlt

(cf James 5:7-9; 1 John 2:18,28; Col 3:4; 2 Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:11-13; 1 Pet4:7, 5:4; Rev 1:1)

32

URGENCY...

“We work as if every day is our last, and we plan as if His coming was far off, and we leave the date to Him, and that infuses every waking hour with tremendous responsibility.”
- MacArthur

33

Equipped for Confidence in an Uncertain Life...

4. Jesus gave them DIRECTION

⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Jerusalem
Judea
Samaria
The Ends of the Earth

34

The DELIBERATE DIRECTION of ACTS

**The ‘Acts of the Apostles’ could very easily be called
“The Acts of the HOLY SPIRIT through people” –**

HE is mentioned over 50 times in 28 chapters

HE is seen *initiating, saving, regenerating, baptizing, filling, correcting, and directing* the affairs of the church

HE is the ‘defacto’ C.O.O. of the church

35

The DELIBERATE DIRECTION of ACTS

The gospel moves in a very DELIBERATE PATH

1:1 – -6:7
Church in Jerusalem

And the word of God kept on spreading ; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (6:7)

6:8 – 9:31
Through Palestine (Judea/Samaria)

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase. (9:31)

36

The DELIBERATE DIRECTION of ACTS

The gospel moves in a very DELIBERATE PATH

9:32 – 12:24
Conversion of Paul and extension to Gentiles and finally to Antioch
But the word of the Lord continued to grow and be multiplied. (12:24)

12:25 – 16:5
Extension to Asia Minor
So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily. (16:5)

37

37

The DELIBERATE DIRECTION of ACTS

The gospel moves in a very DELIBERATE PATH

16:6 – 19:20
Extension of the church to Europe
So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. (19:20)

19:21 – 28:31
Extension to Rome...the epicenter of the World at that time
And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered. (28:31)

38

38

Time of UNCERTAINTY

They were STILL not sure WHAT TO DO...

⁹ *And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

¹⁰ *And as they were **gazing intently** into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.*

39

39

It was a time for PRAYER AND FOCUS

40

40

Time of PRAYER and FOCUS
 They had to make some *DIFFICULT DECISIONS...*
 How do we go on without Jesus?
 What is it going to look like!
 How do we know what to do, say, or how to act?

Angels –
¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

In other words: Hey boys! Get after it!

41

Time of PRAYER and FOCUS
 They **LAUNCHED** with the Right First Step

The could have said, “Lets contemplate and deliberate and conversate and confabulate.”
 But instead, they chose trust and humility Jesus intended...and the **PRAYED!**

Acts 1 –
14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers...
24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

42

Time of PRAYER and FOCUS


29X
 in 28 chapters
 there is a reference to them praying or in prayer

They made the right connection!

43

Insights and Applications

- ① Sometimes, its okay to wait for God. We **NEED** to wait for God!
- ② It’s good to **PRAY** with urgency and immediacy!
- ③ **ALWAYS** we trust Jesus in where He has taken us...and for Him to move in **HIS TIME**



44

