

## The Book of Acts: Jesus' Ministry Continues from Heaven

(Acts 1:1-26) / February 4, 2023

### BEGINNING OF THE BOOK OF LUKE: JESUS' MINISTRY BEGINS ON THE EARTH—THE INCARNATION

*Jesus' Ministry on Earth Began by Being:* (Luke 1:1-4, ESV)

**1. Fulfilled in the Old Testament**

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us,

**2. Witnessed by the Apostles**

just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word

**3. Transmitted to Luke and Others**

have delivered them to us,

**4. Investigated by Luke**

it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past,

**5. Written by Luke to Theophilus**

to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

**6. Communicated to Us**

that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

### MIDDLE OF THE BOOK OF LUKE: JESUS' MINISTRY CONTINUES ON EARTH—THE MIRACULOUS

*Jesus' Ministry on Earth Was Empowered by the Holy Spirit and Witnessed at His:*

- 1. Virgin Birth Announcement: An angel to Joseph** (Luke 1:35)
- 2. Baptism: A Dove and the Voice from Heaven to the crowds** (Luke 3:21-22)
- 3. Temptation: The Word of God to Satan in the desert** (Luke 4:1-2)
- 4. Prophetic Preaching: Prophet Isaiah to the city of Nazareth** (Luke 4:14-19)
- 5. Transfiguration: Voice from Heaven to Peter, James, and John** (Luke 9:29-35)
- 6. Resurrection: Two Men (angels) at the empty tomb to the women** (Luke 24:4-7)
- 7. Ascension: Two men (angels) to the Apostles** (Luke 24:44-53)

### ENDING OF THE BOOK OF LUKE: JESUS' MINISTRY ENDS ON THE EARTH—THE ASCENSION

*Jesus' Ministry on Earth Ended when He:* (Luke 24:50-53, ESV)

**1. Blessed the Apostles**

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.

**2. Ascended into Heaven**

While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

**3. Left the Apostles to Worship Him**

And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up,

### How Did Jesus' Ministry Continue from Heaven After the Ascension?

(Parallels to the Book of Luke)

#### 1. Jesus **CHOSE** the Apostles to Witness before the ascension (Acts 1:2b)

after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. (Acts 1:2, ESV)

##### The Choosing of Peter by Jesus

(Luke 5:1-11, ESV): On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was **Simon's**, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to **Simon**, "*Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.*"

And **Simon** answered, "*Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.*" And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when **Simon Peter** saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "*Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were **James and John**, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to **Simon**, "*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.*" And when they had brought their boats to land, **they left everything and followed him**.

#### 2. Jesus **APPEARED** to the Apostles after the resurrection (Acts 1:3a)

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days

(Luke 24:36-43, ESV): As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "**Peace to you!**" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "**Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.**" And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "**Have you anything here to eat?**" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

#### 3. Jesus **INSTRUCTED** the Apostles about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3b)

and speaking about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3, ESV)

(Luke 24:44-47, ESV): Then he said to them, "*These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*" Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "*Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*"

#### 4. Jesus **COMMANDED** the Apostles to Wait to be Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4a)

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said,

*"you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

(Luke 24:49, ESV): "*And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high*

#### 5. Jesus **COMMISSIONED** the Apostles to be Witnesses of the Kingdom of God to All People (Acts 1:4b-8)

So when they had come together, they asked him,  
“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them,

*“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

(Luke 24:48, ESV): You are witnesses of these things.

#### 6. Jesus ASCENDED into Heaven as the Apostles Witness until His Return (Acts 1:9-11, ESV)

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

(Luke 24:50-51, ESV): And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

#### 7. Jesus FULFILLED the Scriptures by Replacing the Apostle Judas (Acts 1:12-26, ESV) [43%]

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,  
*“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”*

(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

*“For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ‘“May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and ‘“Let another take his office.’ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”*

And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said,

*“You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”*

And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

(Luke 24:52-53, ESV): And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.