

ACTS

1:4-11

My Witnesses

4 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; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 8 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.” 9 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. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 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.” ■

■ What is the bridge between Luke’s two volumes? The ascension

■ How much space would the public ministry of Jesus take on our timeline? 1/2 inch

■ How did things look after Jesus was crucified? Hopeless

■ What explains the subsequent success of the apostles to spread the name of Jesus?

1. That Jesus was raised from the dead and they knew it

2. That Jesus ascended to heaven? —why is the ascension a possible struggle of faith?

—would it have been better if Jesus had stayed on earth?

■ How can Jesus say truthfully that it’s better for them if He goes away? (John 16:7) In His ascension...

a. He gave them proof of radical grace.

b. He infused them with a glorious hope.

c. He ennobled them with a global purpose.

d. He made possible His uninterrupted presence.

e. He provided a source of constant power.