



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Acts: The Capitol Commission

MAY 15-17, 2013

David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 1:1-11

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2) until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3) To them He presented Himself alive, after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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 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 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.’” (ESV)

“WE ARE BUT OF YESTERDAY, AND WE HAVE FILLED EVERY PLACE AMONG YOU—CITIES, ISLANDS, FORTRESSES, TOWNS, MARKET PLACES, THE VERY CAMP, TRIBES, COMPANIES, PALACE, SENATE, FORUM—WE HAVE LEFT

NOTHING TO YOU BUT THE TEMPLES OF YOUR GODS.”
TERTULLIAN A.D. 200

Were there only two necessities included in both of the “commands” of this passage? What was “the promise of the Father”? Why were the disciples interested in Christ restoring the political kingdom of Israel? What is the great secret of heaven? Would the disciples be able to fulfill the Great Commission without the Holy Spirit? Is there possibly a three-fold emphasis on capitols in this commission? What would be a primary motivation for fulfilling their commission?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 22-24: DC CONFERENCE *SERVING TOGETHER IN OUR NATION'S CAPITOL – NO BIBLE STUDIES*
- MAY 29-31: ACTS 1:12-14 *THE CHURCH WAS FIRST DEVOTED TO PRAYER!*

Luke, the medical doctor, summarizes for the Governor, Theophilus, the previous book he had written and dedicated to him, as “*all that Jesus began to do and teach.*” Christ exemplified in His actions and words and taught the importance of the same (Mt. 5:17-19). Luke concluded Christ’s earthly ministry with His ascension after emphasizing specific “*commands,*” “*proofs,*” and “*the kingdom of God*” for His future leaders, the Apostles. All three are part of our passage. Jesus’ commands are the most important because they will determine the course of the early church and their fulfillment by the Apostles will not only provide the outline of Acts, but will fill the entire remainder of the accounts within the book.

“THERE ARE NO LESS THAN THIRTEEN DIFFERENT APPEARANCES OF JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES RECORDED.”
ALBERT BARNES

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 13900 NOBLEWOOD PLAZA
THURSDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

Acts: The Capitol Commission

I. UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM ACTS 1:3-4, 6

There was a lot concerning the kingdom of God that had caused the disciples to be confused. They really believed that Jesus was training them all along to be part of the promised kingdom restored to Israel. This anticipation is so strong that as they make their journey to Jerusalem the final time, Jesus predicts precisely what will happen to Him in vivid detail regarding His death and resurrection and in their selfish ambition for the best places in His kingdom, they completely ignore His words in Matthew 20:17-18. Instead James and John have gotten their mother to request the top spots for them so she asks Jesus for just one favor, “*Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left in Your kingdom*” (Mt. 20:21), “*And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers*” (20:24). They are still trying to get Jesus to set up a political kingdom, and they hope it will be soon, so they ask, “*Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*” But Jesus has something far better in mind for them than pontiffs in a political kingdom, they will be the foundation of His spiritual kingdom!

“INSTEAD OF THE POLITICAL POWER WHICH HAD FORMERLY BEEN THE OBJECT OF THEIR AMBITIONS, A POWER FAR GREATER AND NOBLER WOULD BE THEIRS. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON THEM, JESUS ASSURED THEM, THEY WOULD BE CLOTHED WITH HEAVENLY POWER.” F. F. BRUCE

II. SPREADING THE KINGDOM IN CAPITOLS ACTS 1:4,8

The first emphasis of both commands was the capitol of Israel, Jerusalem. “*He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem*” (1:4) and “*You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem*” (1:8). There is no alternative plan. If you include the last chapter of Luke where they are commanded two other times to stay in Jerusalem and the accounts relating that

they obeyed, Jerusalem, the capitol, is mentioned seven times! Christ is emphasizing the importance of strategic witnessing. The pattern of the Great Commission in Acts 1:8 primarily represents capitols of expansion and then along with it the reality of geographical expansion. If the geographic expansion were the primary emphasis than wouldn't Jesus have commanded them to go to Capernaum, His primary city of ministry, to expand geographically from his base? Instead He requires that they begin in the capitol of Israel, “*Jerusalem,*” then where most of the leadership lived, “*all Judea,*” then to the next closest capitol, “*Samaria,*” and then “*to the end of the earth.*” Jesus had won His nation's top religious leader, Nicodemus, “*the teacher of Israel*” (Jn. 3:9) and had witnessed to his nation's top political leader, Pilate, and He commissioned His disciples with the same strategic mindset. Even after the Apostles have seen the Church explode to a membership of 5000 men in the capitol, when they focus on their priorities learned from Christ (Acts 6:4), then “*the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests (leaders) became obedient to the faith*” (Acts 6:7). This progressive strategy goes ever upward to the commission of Saul to witness to “*nations and kings*” (Acts 9:15) through the fifteen capitols he evangelizes, culminating in the opportunity to witness to Caesar in the imperial capital of the world empire, Rome (Acts 23:11).

“PROBABLY ‘THE END OF THE EARTH’ LOOKS TO ROME, THE PROUD CENTER OF WORLD CIVILIZATION IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE, A SIGNIFICANT DISTANCE FROM JERUSALEM (MORE THAN 1400 MILES).” STAN TOUSSAINT

III. EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTS 1:2, 4-5, 8

Jesus' commands were “*through the Holy Spirit*” which included waiting for the “*promise of the Father*” being “*baptized with the Holy Spirit*” and receiving “*power*” from the Holy Spirit. All done for Christ is in the Holy Spirit!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you believe the many proofs of the resurrection and received Jesus Christ as your king?
- 2) Are you witnessing for Christ strategically in the capitol to even those above you among the leaders?
- 3) Is your witness and work only in your own power or are you empowered by the Holy Spirit?