

O Father, Giver of all, every good and perfect gift comes from you. We ask you to accept these gifts and use them to your glory.

May they bring shelter to the homeless, comfort to the sick, rest to the weary, and hope to the hopeless.

As you multiplied the offering of fish and loaves, multiply these to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine.

We give freely and not under compulsion, for all we have is yours, Lord.

Nothing we can give could match your great gifts to us: your Son and your Spirit.

Amen.

| FALL VISION |

Give your Life

SERVICE

Tell the Story

EVANGELISM

Find your People

COMMUNITY

Acts.

| ACTS FACTS |

- 1 28 chapters with over 1000 verses
- 2 Literary genre: Historical Narrative
- 3 Book II of a two volume set
- 4 ACTS is shorthand for “The Acts of the Apostles”
- 5 The Holy Spirit is mentioned 57 times.
- 6 14 distinct miracles recorded.
- 7 Acts covers about 10,000 miles of travel.
- 8 The book features the very first evangelists, missionaries and church planters.
- 9 The term "Christian" is first used in Antioch (Acts 11:26).
- 10 Action Packed: tongues of fire, a riot, a man martyred, a ship wreck, a snake bite, a girl raised from the dead, confrontations between disciples, a prison escape, and a King eaten by worms.

| BRIDGING TWO CONTEXTS |

From

From the life of Jesus with His disciples

From the New Testament Gospels, giving the Church a record of Jesus' teaching and ministry

From exclusively Jewish believers gathered in Jerusalem

From Jerusalem, the seat of Jewish life and faith

From the birth and infancy of the church

From apostolic leadership planting churches

From the Upper Room

From Jerusalem

To

To the life of the Spirit through His disciples

To the New Testament Epistles, giving the Church doctrine and ongoing instruction

To Gentile and Jewish believers gathered together around the world

To Rome, the seat of world power among the Gentile nations

To its growing maturity and emerging structure

To a plurality of local elders leading churches

To Caesar's Palace

To the "ends of the earth"

| ACTS 1:1-11 |

The Transition

ACTS 1:1-5

The Commission

ACTS 1:6-8

The Ascension

ACTS 1:9-11

The Transition
The Commission
The Ascension

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

ACTS 1:1-2 NIV

The Transition

The Commission

The Ascension

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

ACTS 1:1-2 NIV

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

LUKE 1:1-4 NIV

The Transition

The Commission

The Ascension

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 1:3-5 NIV

The background of the image is a landscape featuring rolling, golden-brown hills in the foreground. The sky above is filled with soft, white and grey clouds. A bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun or moon, is visible in the upper right quadrant, creating a lens flare effect and illuminating the scene. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**WE CANNOT ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF GOD
APART FROM THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF GOD.**

The Transition
The Commission
The Ascension

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:6-8 NIV

The Transition

The Commission

The Ascension

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

ACTS 1:9-11 NIV

The Transition
The Commission
The Ascension

THE DOCTRINE OF THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

- + Explains cessation of earthly appearances
- + Precursor of His enthronement
- + Foreshadowed His return
- + Explains His current location/ministry

| ACTS 1:1-11 |

The Transition

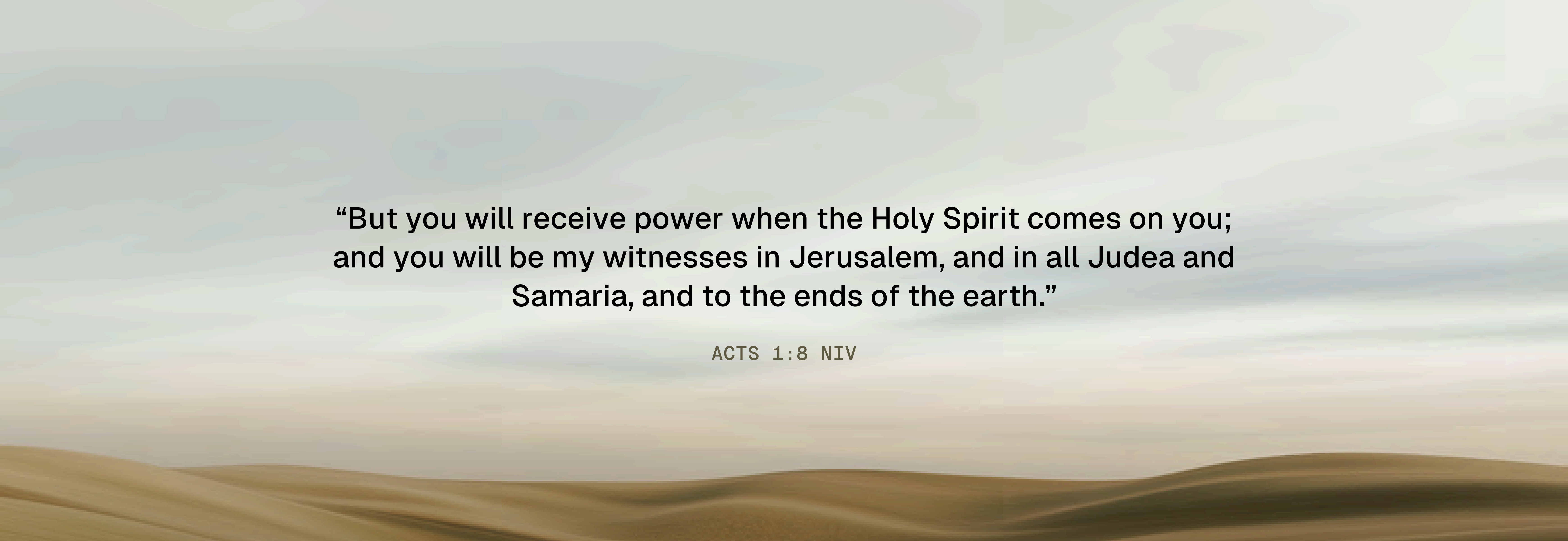
ACTS 1:1-5

The Commission

ACTS 1:6-8

The Ascension

ACTS 1:9-11



**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

ACTS 1:8 NIV

By His Power

“But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 NIV

Tell His Story.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 NIV

Jerusalem → Judea & Samaria → Ends of the Earth

LOCAL

REGIONAL

GLOBAL

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rolling sand dunes, their ridges and valleys creating a rhythmic pattern of light and shadow. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color. The sky above is expansive, filled with soft, white and light blue clouds. A single, small, dark star is visible in the upper right portion of the sky, adding a celestial element to the scene. The overall atmosphere is serene and vast.

By His Power, Tell His Story.



50 50
BY

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rolling sand dunes in shades of tan and brown. The sky above is a pale, hazy blue with soft, wispy white clouds. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

By His Power, Tell His Story.