

His disciples, the work He began on earth. *To do and teach*; the two ways in which Jesus revealed God to men. His life and acts spoke first, and then His lips. *Through the Holy Ghost*; the Holy Spirit, who filled the mind of Jesus and became the guarantee of power to His disciples. *Had given commandments*. The apostles' mission is not a human enterprise, but the result of an explicit commandment of Christ. Luke emphasizes the unity of the kingdom as preached by Jesus and afterwards by the apostles. The church is the direct creation of Christ. *Unto the apostles*; literally "sent ones", "missionaries".

V. 3. *Shewed himself alive*. Eleven appearances are recorded of the risen Lord. *After his passion* (His sufferings and death on the cross); "too sacred a word to be expunged from this the only place where it occurs in the Bible". *Infallible proofs*. Rev. Ver. omits the word "infallible", but "proofs" mean proofs that carry conviction. No fact in early history is better attested by evidence than the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (see Luke 24 : 15, 32, 43; John 20 : 27). *Being seen of them*; Rev. Ver. "appearing unto them". *Forty days*; the only mention of the time between the resurrection and ascension. It is to be noted that the temptation of Jesus covered the same time, Matt. 4 : 1-11. See also the cases of Moses (Ex. 24 : 18), and Elijah, 1 Kgs. 19 : 8. Jesus was not continually present with the disciples during these forty days, but showed Himself to them at intervals. *Speaking . . . concerning the kingdom of God* (Rev. Ver.); the holy fellowship on earth founded by Jesus, to be entered only through repentance, or change of heart and life, and faith, or personal trust in a living Saviour. We know that Christ's instruction of His apostles included: (1) the correct interpretation of scripture (Luke 24 : 27); (2) the universal proclamation of the gospel (Matt. 28 : 19); (3) His personal Presence through the Holy Spirit, Matt. 28 : 20.

V. 4. *Not depart from Jerusalem, but wait*; wait, wait, no matter how long, for without the Holy Spirit it was of no use for them to set out on their mission. Besides it would thus be made more manifest, when

they were afterwards scattered abroad, that their inspiration and authority were from the same Source. *Promise of the Father . . . heard of me*; that is, the gift of the Holy Spirit, (see Luke 24 : 49; John 15 : 26); the greatest promise God Himself could give. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the three divine Persons of the blessed Trinity, appear at the beginning of the Christian church to energize it with the fulness of divine power.

## II. The Lord's Commission, 6-8.

V. 6. *Were come together*; Jesus' final interview with the disciples. *At this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?* See Light from the East. The disciples are still dreaming of empire and glory as they had done during the days of His flesh, Mark 10 : 35-37.

Vs. 7, 8. *Not for you to know . . . ye shall receive power*. This power would be a greater gift than the profitless knowledge of the future which they coveted. *Holy Ghost is come upon you*. Compare Luke 3 : 21, 22. *My witnesses* (Rev. Ver.); who could speak with authority out of personal knowledge of Him.

## III. The Lord's Departure, 9-11.

Vs. 9-11. *A cloud received him*. Compare 1 Kgs. 8 : 10; Isa. 6 : 1-4. "He passed with something like kingly state to the right hand of the Father." *Why . . . gazing up into heaven*. The heavenward gaze, or meditation on divine things, must not interfere with their work for Jesus. *This same Jesus*; the One whom they had known as a human Friend and had come to trust and adore as a divine Saviour. *Shall so come*; descending in visible form.

The disciples all return to Jerusalem "with great joy" (Luke 24 : 52), and there await the fulfilment of Christ's promise, spending the interval in prayer and supplication, vs. 12-14.

## Light from the East

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KINGDOM—The Jews believed that when Messiah came, He would establish the glorious kingdom of God of which they had read in the prophets. He would take His stand upon the sea shore and command it to pour its treasures at His feet, He would lead Israel, splendidly armed, against the nations and none would be able to stand before Him