

## Lesson I.

## THE PROMISE OF POWER

January 5, 1902

Acts 1: 1-11. Study Acts 1: 1-14. Commit to memory vs. 6-8. Read ch. 1.

1 The former treatise I have made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with them, he commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Revised Version—1 Omit have; 2 Concerning; 3 To; 4 Received; 5 Had given commandment through the Holy Spirit; 6 He also shewed; 7 Omit infallible; 8 Appearing unto them by 1. space of; 9 Omit of; 10 Concerning; 11 He charged them not to depart; 12 Said he, ye heard from me; 13 Indeed; 14 Margin, in; 15 Dost; 16 Omit again; 17 Times or seasons; 18 Set within his own authority; 19 When; 20 My witnesses; 21 Omit in; 22 Said; 23 As they were looking; 24 Were looking stedfastly into; 25 Omit up; 26 Looking into; 27 Omit same; 28 Was received; 29 Behold him going.

## EXPLANATION

**Introduction**—We now begin the study of the Book of the Acts, which tells how the few disciples, whom Jesus left upon earth, increased in numbers in spite of many bitter persecutions, and became a



The Mount of Olives

strong body known as the Christian Church. The book opens with a fuller account of the Ascension than is found in the Gospels.

1. The former treatise; the Gospel of Luke. (See ch. 1: 1-4.) The name Theophilus is a Greek name, mentioned only here and in Luke 1: 3; a convert to Christianity. Began. The Gospels are the first part of the "acts" of Jesus; this book the second part.

2, 3. Until the day; of the Ascension, which took place on the east side of Olivet (Luke 24: 50, 51). Through the Holy Ghost. It was the Spirit that made Christ's teachings so helpful to the disciples. Commandments; instructions, during the forty days, especially the Great Commission (Matt. 28: 19, 20), and the charge of Luke 24: 44-49. Whom he

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

had chosen. They were all present but Judas (Matt. 27: 5). His passion; His sufferings and death. By many proofs (Rev. Ver.). The word means "convincing, certain evidence." The things concerning the kingdom (Rev. Ver.); the truths to be believed and obeyed (Luke 21: 45-47).

4-6. Being assembled; about the time of the Ascension. Should not depart from Jerusalem; the seat of Jewish worship and of Christ's greatest opposition. But wait; in patience, hope and prayer (1: 14). The promise of the Father; made through the prophets (Isa. 44: 3; Joel 2: 28) and through Christ Himself (John 14: 16, 17, 26). For John; the Baptist. Water baptism was not enough. They needed the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 3: 11). Not many days hence. About ten days, it proved to be. When they were come together; their very last meeting with Him, Wilt thou... restore the kingdom? They were looking for an earthly, not a spiritual, kingdom.

7, 8. Not for you to know. They were to trust Him and not to be too curious about the divine purposes. (John 21: 22.) The Father hath put in His own power. The divine will embraces and controls all things (Matt. 28: 18). Shall receive power; "spiritual power for the Master's service. Witnesses; to His teaching (Luke 24: 48), and to His resurrection (Acts 1: 22). The word is the same as for "martyr." Judaea; the southern province of Palestine, of which Jerusalem was the capital: Samaria; the central province: The uttermost part. Christ's kingdom is a universal kingdom.

9-11. A cloud received Him; the cloud of divine glory (Luke 9: 34). "A royal chariot," Chrysostom calls it. Two men; angels. White is a symbol of purity and of glory (John 20: 12). Men of Galilee. The eleven were all Galileans. This same Jesus... shall so come; suddenly, unexpectedly and with great glory. It was no wonder that with these words ringing in their ears their hearts were filled with joy (Luke 24: 52, 53).