

Lesson I.

THE PROMISE OF POWER

January 5, 1902

Acts 1 : 1-11. Study Acts 1 : 1-14—Memory Verses, 6-8.

Golden Text—Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.—Acts 1 : 8.



1 The former treatise have I 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, commanded them that they should not depart from Jeru'salem, 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 Is'rael ?

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 Jeru'salem, and in all Judæ'a, and in Sama'ria, 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 Je'sus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After Jesus had gone back to heaven to be with His Father, the eleven men who had been so long nearest to Him as disciples or learners were now to be known by a new name. They were to be called Apostles, because the time had come when they must go into every part of the world and teach the Good News to all who could hear them. (An apostle means one who is sent forth on an errand. Missionary has the same meaning.)

Now, among the other disciples, was a man called Luke, who wrote one of the Gospels. He was a doctor (Colossians 4 : 14) and while travelling about from place to place, he saw and heard a great deal about the doings of the apostles. All that he saw he wrote in

his new book called the Acts of the Apostles," which is one of the books of the New Testament, and tells much about the beginnings of the Christian Church.

The first page of the Acts begins with the story of the last day that Jesus spent on earth. Now Jesus had been seen alive so many times during the forty days since He had risen, that some of the disciples thought He would stay with them forever, and set up a great and powerful kingdom at Jerusalem. While they were gathered together in the city, talking about these things, Jesus came into the room where they were sitting.

He spoke to them about the great gift of the Holy Spirit, whom He should shortly send to be their teacher and leader, when

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