



3b. Acts 1:1–26

“And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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.” (Acts 1:11)

The Early Christian Community (1:1–26)

Outlines such as this one will allow students to review all of the reading, even if class discussion only focuses on parts

- Subprologue (1:1–3a)
- **Preparing the Disciples (1:3b–26)**
 - **Jesus’ Post-Passion Ministry: Commission and Farewell (1:3b–11; dramatic narrative)**
 - The Forty Day Ministry (1:3b–5)
 - Apostolic commission (1:6–8)
 - The Ascension (1:9–11)
 - **Reconstitution of the Twelve (1:12–26; dramatic narrative)**
 - The inner circle waits upon the spirit (1:12–14)
 - Peter proposes that Judas be replaced (12:15–22)
 - Matthias chosen by lot (1:23–26)

“Subprologue” (1:1–3a)

(Because Luke-Acts already had a prologue in Luke 1:1–4)

- **Summary of Gospel of Luke**
 - “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up . . .”
 - All of Luke-Acts already has a prologue in Luke 1:1–4, which is arguably the prologue for all of Luke-Acts
- **Shift of focus to the apostles**
 - “. . . after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs . . .”
 - **the apostles whom he had chosen**: the apostles are witnesses that **Jesus did, in fact rise from the dead**
 - Will carry this witness into the next generation
 - **after his passion**: literally “his suffering”
 - Biblical term for the act of Christ’s completing the Atonement: *his sufferings from Gethsemane to Calvary*
 - **Infallible proofs**: from *tekmerion*, meaning “a sure sign or token”

3b. Acts 1:1–26

1/11/2016

3

Jesus’ Post-Passion Ministry

• ————— •
 COMMISSION AND FAREWELL (1:3b–11)

1/11/2016

3b. Acts 1:1–26

4

The Forty Day Ministry (1:3b-5)

Jesus' Post-Passion Ministry: Commission and Farewell (1:3b-11)

- “being seen of them **forty days**, and speaking of the **things pertaining to the kingdom of God**.” (1:3)
 - No details of this ministry in any canonical account
 - Focus on “the kingdom”
- “. . . commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father** . . . for John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence**.” (1:4-5)
 - This does not mean that the apostles had not been confirmed or received the gift of the Holy Ghost (as we understand it as an ordinance), but that **they had not yet received the full measure of its enjoyment**
 - Cf. John 20:22, “when he [the resurrected Christ] had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”

3b. Acts 1:1-26

1/11/2016

5



Apostolic Commission (1:6-8)

- ✧ “. . . they asked of him, saying, Lord, **wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?** 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.” (1:6-7)
 - ✧ The question of **the timing of Christ's return** is an issue throughout the New Testament
 - ✧ The technical term for Christ's return and reign is **parousia** (Greek for “being present with”)
- ✧ “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.” (1:8)
 - ✧ The **eschatological (end times)** kingdom was not their concern; **rather their commission was to take the news of the kingdom (and the present kingdom-on-earth, the Church) to all peoples**
 - ✧ This is also the structural rubric for the Book of Acts
 - ✧ Starts in Jerusalem, ends in Rome the capital of the empire that extended to the reaches of the “civilized” world)

6

The Ascension (1:9–11)

- Ascension takes place from **Mount of Olives**
 - Place where David wept and **from which he left Jerusalem** ahead of Absalom (2 Sam 15:30)
 - Place where the *shekinah* (cloud of God's presence) tarried when it **left the temple before its destruction** (Ezekiel 11:23) = Gethsemane incident
 - *Place where the Messiah will come on the "great and dreadful day of the Lord"* (Zech 14:4)
- Beginning of **strong eschatological expectations** among the early Christians

3b. Acts 1:1–26



Reconstitution of the Twelve (1:12–26)

• ————— •

OBEDIENT TO JESUS' INJUNCTION, THE REMAINING APOSTLES AND OTHER DISCIPLES RETIRED TO AN UPPER ROOM TO PRAY. PETER WAS DIRECTED TO REPLACE JUDAS SO THAT THE TWELVE COULD BE READY FOR THE PROMISED ENDOWMENT OF THE SPIRIT.



The Inner Circle Waits upon the Spirit (1:12-14)

- **The inner circle waits upon the spirit (1:12-14)**

- The Eleven (apostles), **the “women”** (cf. Luke 8:2-3; 24:10 for Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna; John 11 for Mary and Martha, etc.); **Jesus’ mother** and **brothers**
- **“all continued with one accord . . .”** a requirement for the presence of the spirit and necessary for the sought-for unity of a Zion community

1/11/2016

9

Judas Replaced

- **Peter proposes that Judas be replaced (12:15-22)**
 - Apostolic qualifications: **been with Jesus from the beginning of the ministry, to be a witness of his resurrection**
 - Candidates: Joseph Barsabas (also known as Justus) and Matthias
- **Matthias chosen by lot (1:23-26)**
 - “The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.” (Proverbs 16:33)
 - “If this was an actual instance of the casting of lots, **then the Lord was revealing by this means that Matthias was his choice to serve in the Council of the Twelve.** The statement, ‘gave forth their lots,’ however, may well mean that they voted and Matthias was selected.” (Bruce R. McConkie, *MD*², 459)

3b. Acts 1:1-26

1/11/2016

10

Reconstitution of the Twelve (1:12–26)

- **The inner circle waits upon the spirit (1:12–14)**
 - The Eleven (apostles), **the “women”** (cf. Luke 8:2–3; 24:10 for Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna; John 11 for Mary and Martha, etc.); **Jesus’ mother** and **brothers**
 - **“all continued with one accord . . .”** a requirement for the presence of the spirit and necessary for the sought-for unity of a Zion community
- **Peter proposes that Judas be replaced (12:15–22)**
 - Apostolic qualifications: **been with Jesus from the beginning of the ministry, to be a witness of his resurrection**
 - Candidates: Joseph Barsabas (also known as Justus) and Matthias
- **Matthias chosen by lot (1:23–26)**
 - “The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.” (Proverbs 16:33)
 - “If this was an actual instance of the casting of lots, **then the Lord was revealing by this means that Matthias was his choice to serve in the Council of the Twelve.** The statement, ‘gave forth their lots,’ however, may well mean that they voted and Matthias was selected.” (Bruce R. McConkie, *MD*², 459)

3b. Acts 1:12–26

1/11/2016

11