

The background is a painting of an ancient city street. In the foreground, a camel is partially visible on the left. The street is filled with people in traditional robes. In the background, there are buildings with domes and minarets, suggesting a Middle Eastern or Mediterranean setting. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange, red, and brown.

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# ACTS

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*Sermon Series*

## Luke 24:36-53

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus...

...<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."<sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.<sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?..."

## Luke 24:36-53

” ...<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been **clothed with power from on high.**” ...

...<sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

## Acts 1:1-11

**1** 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. **3** 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.”**6** Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

## Acts 1:1-11

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.<sup>11</sup> “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 1:12-19

<sup>15</sup> **In those days** Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”<sup>18</sup> (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup> Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

## Acts 1:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.<sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

## Acts 1:20-26

<sup>20</sup> “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: “‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and,

“‘May another take his place of leadership.’ <sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

<sup>23</sup> So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.



## Acts 1 Topics

- V1-2 Recent events known by all
- V3 Christ's resurrection
- V4-5 Spirit baptism
- V6-7 Kingdom restoration
- V8 Spirit filled living
- V9-11 Christ's return
- V10-11 Angels
- V12-14 Men & women united in faith and action
- V15 Early church of 120
- V16-19 Satan's influence
- V20-26 Spirit lead decision making



# Resurrection proof

- The story was alive and real to the people of 'the day'
- Irrefutable proofs
- Uncontestable - V19 "...everyone in Jerusalem heard about this"
- Luke 1:1-3
  - "Carefully studied",
  - "Orderly account",
  - "to know the full truth about everything"

Jesus' life, death and resurrection was undeniable then and now!

# The dawn of a new era

- “Clothed with power from on high” Luke 24:49
- “...He will guide you into all truth” John 16:13
- “Baptised in the Holy Spirit” Acts 1:5
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit - Acts 1:8
- Indwelt by the Spirit of God - 1 Cor 3:16
- “Bearing much fruit” John 15:16, Galatians 5





## Christ's work on earth

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should walk in them"

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in your mother's body I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart to serve me..."

Esther 4:14 "...Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for **'such a time as this.'**"

2 Timothy 1:9 "He saved us and called us to a holy life— not because anything we have done but because of His own **purpose and grace...**"

**“Back in the day”**  
Vivid recollection  
of events past





Commitment &  
determination to  
accomplish a dream

Overcoming  
logistics & every  
obstacle





Focused hard work,  
done willingly and  
with joy



Back in the Day  
– as real as  
yesterday!



# The Church began in Acts 1

Men & women of...

- Truth, Faith, Vision, Courage, Unity, and ...

'Clothed with Power from on high'

- They set out to change the world...

...and here we are, 'at such a time as this'

