

Acts 1:6-14

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

Waiting for the Spirit, pt. 1

1:1-5

ESV **Acts 1:6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Jesus commanded his apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

What did they talk about while they waited?

ESV **Acts 1:3** To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about **the kingdom of God**.

ESV **Acts 1:6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore **the kingdom** to Israel?"

the kingdom of God

"The concept of 'kingdom' includes at least three essential elements: *ruler*—a ruler with rightful and adequate authority and power; *realm*—a realm of subjects to be ruled; *rulership*—the exercise of ruling." (Michael Vlach, *He Will Reign Forever*, p. 28)

What did they ask Jesus?

"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (v. 6)

- They recognized that the kingdom was a legitimate reality.
- They recognized that the kingdom was once a functional reality.
- They recognized that the kingdom was currently not a functional reality, but it had been at one time.
- They recognized that the kingdom was supposed to be restored, but that up to the present it hadn't yet been.

Why did they ask Jesus this question?

- Israel had been anticipating some form of a renewed kingdom.
ESV **Luke 1:67** And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
- Jesus had spoken about the kingdom throughout his earthly ministry.
ESV **Luke 4:42** And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."
ESV **Luke 12:31** Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- Jesus had suffered and died, but was now very much alive.
ESV **Luke 24:19** And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened."
ESV **Acts 1:3** To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- Jesus continued speaking about the kingdom after his resurrection.

How did Jesus reply to their question?

"It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority." (vv. 7-8)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

ESV **Acts 3:19** Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive **until the time for restoring all the things** about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

What do we make of the kingdom of God?

- The LORD God is the *universal* king over all that he has made.

ESV **Psalm 103:19** The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

- The LORD God has established *mediatorial* kings particularly over the earth.

ESV **Psalm 89:27** And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

What do we see in the Old Testament?

ESV **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon¹ his shoulder, and his name shall be called² Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ESV **Daniel 7:13** I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.... ²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.¹

What do we see in the Gospels?

ESV **Luke 1:31** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

ESV **Luke 10:11** 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'... **17:20** Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

ESV **Luke 11:2** And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.'"

ESV **Luke 18:16** But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

ESV **Luke 19:11** As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.... **21:27** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."... ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

ESV **Luke 22:28** "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- God made man (humans) and tasked him to have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28). Adam failed in his task and unrighteous dominion begins (Genesis 3). Yet, God promised a serpent-crusher.
- God blotted out man from the face of the earth and started over with Noah (Noahic Covenant; Genesis 9:8-11). The people failed in their task of dispersing over the earth and defied his commands (Genesis 11). Yet, God chose to secure Jacob as his inheritance.
- God called out Abraham and promised to make him a great nation with people and land (Abrahamic Covenant; Genesis 15:18-21). Ishmael, Esau, and the twelve brothers represented failures in being a united people. Yet, God preserved his people and predicted future kings.
- God appointed Moses to lead his people out of Egypt and formed them as a nation (Mosaic Covenant; Exodus 20). Israel routinely failed, wandering in the wilderness, incurring a cycle of judges, and rejecting God as king. Yet, God looked for a king after his own heart.
- God allowed Saul to be king of Israel, then David, and then Solomon (Davidic Covenant; 2 Samuel 7). Each one failed, and the kingdom was torn and then divided. Yet, God still indicated the kingdom wasn't over.
- God drove both kingdoms into exile, but he preserved a remnant and promised their eventual restoration (New Covenant; Jeremiah 31). Part of Israel returns, but their plans of full restoration fail. Yet, God promised that he, himself, would eventually come.
- God sent his Son to save his people from their sin (death and resurrection) and establish a kingdom. Most of his own people rejected him, and thus the start of his kingdom has been postponed. Yet, God is clear that his Son will come a second time to receive his kingdom.

How did they respond to his answer?

"And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' (vv. 9-11)

"Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." (vv. 12-14)