

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (Pt. #3)

Acts 1:4-8 Jesus Clarifies The Great Commission

The great commission was originally given by the resurrected Christ at an appointed mountain in Galilee. Subsequently, He led His disciples to the east side of the Mount of Olives. Here He clarified the great commission and then ascended into heaven. In this session, we want to study both of these events so that we clearly understand this commission.

I. Acts 1:4-11, GREAT COMMISSION CLARIFIED (Near Bethany)

Note two commands by the Risen Saviour (v.4)

A. Stay in _____.

“to them” = the eleven and others with them, Luke 24:50, 33

B. Wait for the _____ promise (of the Holy Spirit, see John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26)

C. v. 5 – Clarification of the Father’s promise : _____ by/in the Holy Spirit, i.e.,
-placement into the Body of Christ (beginning of the Church, I Cor. 12:13)
-entry into living union with Christ (positional identity)

D. v. 8a – Clarification of the Holy Spirit’s work = _____ for witness (Note: future, active indicative verb)

E. v. 8b – Clarification of the _____ of witness **BOTH** in Jerusalem, Judea, Sameria, unto the ends of the earth.

F. V. 9-11 – Assurance of His return

-“this same Jesus” = houtos ho Iesous = “this exact Jesus”

-“in like manner as you have seen Him go”

Zechar. 14:3-4 – to the Mount of Olives

Dan. 7:13-14 – with clouds to reign

Lu. 21:27 – in a cloud with power and glory

(OVER)

II. Mathew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15, GREAT COMMISSION ANNOUNCED (Galilee)

- A. v. 16-17 – The Setting: an appointed mountain in _____.
-to the eleven plus: may be even the 500 of 1 Cor. 15:6.
- B. v. 18 – the motivating fact: Christ’s _____.
- C. v. 19a – the Commission: WHAT IS IT?
-“while going” (into all the world, Mk. 16:15)
poreuthentes = aorist ptcl. of time; both Mt. 28:19 & Mk. 16:15

-“DISCIPLE” people (nations): THIS IS IT! Aorist Active Imperative Verb
ETHNE = peoples, nations, pagans, Gentiles
- D. V. 19b-20 – the two-fold Means / Manner of Discipling
1. by BAPTIZING them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
2 Possibilities:
-Identification Baptism
-Water Baptism
 2. by TEACHING them to heed & protect Christ’s teachings
- E. V. 20b – the Encouraging Promise
“Behold, I myself am with you always even unto the consummation of the age.”

Conclusion: The Great Commission is for all believers; as they move through the world, they are to disciple peoples of all ethnic backgrounds by baptizing them (after they believe the Gospel) and to teach them the authoritative Word of Christ (doctrine).