

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?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "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 1:1-11 NIV*

1. What is the basic difference between the Book of Acts and the Gospels?
2. What do we know of what Jesus taught from His resurrection to His ascension? Look at Luke 24 if needed.
3. What else did Jesus do besides "being seen by them" (Acts 1:3) during those forty days?
4. What do you think about their question, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" What does 'witness' mean (Nu 35:30; De 19:15; Rev 3:14)? Were they? How does it apply to us or should it?

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:15-23 NIV

1. What are 2 characteristics of these Christians?
2. What are 2 ways Paul gives thanks for them?
3. What prayer request on behalf of the Ephesian church does Paul mention in verse 18?
4. What prayer request on behalf of the church does the apostle mention in verses 19-20?
5. Read Ephesians chapters 1-3. Mark the word "rich" or "riches".
 - a. Who is rich?
 - b. How are the riches described?
 - c. What is to be done with the riches?
6. From Ephesians 1:15-23 What can I pray for other Christians? Who will I pray for?

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be

preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I 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."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. *Luke 24:44-53 NIV*

1. What was Jesus' view of the Old Testament?
2. What does Jesus say was necessary? Is the cross enough to save us (trick question—see Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)?
3. What are all the things Jesus does to help them believe it is really he, risen from death? How does this strengthen your belief in Jesus?
4. How do Jesus' followers respond to their last interaction with Jesus (verses 52-53)? Why worship? Why obedience (returning to Jerusalem)? Why joy? How does the joy in verse 52 differ from the joy in verse 41?
5. What does the risen Christ mean for you? Look at vs. 37-47