

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 342  
Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8  
Verses: Acts 1:6-11  
Topic: Jesus Ascends Into Heaven  
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Acts 1:6-11 MKJV Then, indeed, these coming together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, do You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? (7) And He said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own authority. (8) But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to *the* end of the earth. (9) And saying these things, as they watched, He was taken up. And a cloud received Him out of their sight. (10) And while they were looking intently into the heaven, He having gone, even behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, (11) who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into the heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the way you have seen Him going into Heaven.

The Galileans gather with Jesus and He ascends into Heaven out of their sight. These few verses contain important information about the Holy Spirit, and about the Return of the Lord.

Jesus will return, at a time known only to the Father, and in the same manner that He left – personally, bodily, visibly and on a cloud:

Matthew 24:30 MKJV And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 26:64 MKJV Jesus said to him, You said it. I tell you more. From this time you shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of the heavens.

This rules out Jesus arrival “spiritually” e.g. at Pentecost, or as a “influence” or as a reincarnation. When Jesus returns it will not be as a baby, it will be physical, glorious and from above.

The timing of His Return is a mystery and the answer is not granted even to the apostles: “And He said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own authority.” If the apostles were not permitted this knowledge it is safe to assume that no preacher today has a handle on the date of the return of the Lord. The timing of God’s events is in God’s power alone.

The return of the Lord and the return of the kingdom to Israel was not for the apostles to be concerned about – but the empowerment with the Holy Spirit and the

spread of the gospel was their concern and so Jesus directs their attention to this instead.

“But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The function of the Holy Spirit coming upon them was that they would receive power and this power would enable them to be witnesses to Jesus. The Holy Spirit has two main modes of relationship to Christians – “within”, and “upon”. The Holy Spirit within a person produces wisdom, skill, love, joy, peace and sanctification. The Holy Spirit upon a person produces might, power, boldness, victory and various gifts such as healing and prophecy. The Holy Spirit of course was within Jesus from the moment of conception, but only came upon Him at His baptism. Here are just a few examples:

UPON – Power, Might, Unusual Works And Mighty Miracles

Numbers 11:25 MKJV And Jehovah came down in a cloud and spoke to him, and took of the spirit on him and gave *it* to the seventy elders. And it happened when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they never did so again.

Judges 3:10 MKJV And the spirit of Jehovah came upon him, and he judged Israel and went out to war. And Jehovah delivered Chushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, into his hand. And his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

Mark 1:10-12 MKJV And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him. (11) And there came a voice from Heaven, *saying*, You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (12) And immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.

WITHIN – Character, Wisdom, Revelation, Fruit of the Spirit, Sanctification, Maturity.

Exodus 31:2-5 MKJV Behold, I, I have called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. (3) And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all workmanship, (4) to devise designs; to work in gold, and in silver, and in bronze, (5) and in cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of timber, to work in all workmanship.

Psalms 51:10 MKJV Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 MKJV And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will remove the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh, (20) so that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

1 Peter 1:10-12 MKJV About which salvation the prophets sought out and searched out, prophesying concerning the grace for you; (11) searching for what, or what

manner of time, the Spirit of Christ made clear within them, testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ, and the glories that should follow. (12) To them it was revealed that not to themselves, but to us, they ministered the things which are now reported to you by those who have preached the gospel to you in *the* Holy Spirit sent from Heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Samson had the Spirit UPON him to do mighty works but seemed to lack the wisdom and fruit of the Spirit within him.

Joseph and Daniel were wise men who had the Spirit WITHIN them but did not do miracles or might works.

The apostles had received the Spirit within them after the resurrection. (John 20:22) But Jesus told them to wait until the Holy Spirit had come upon them in power because their task would require a level of energy that only such an anointing could provide.

There are many good pastors and missionaries who lack power – and they need the Spirit to come “upon” them. Also there are some very flaky folk who see to have power without character and they need the Holy Spirit “within” them. We need both wisdom and power, character and competence, personal transformation and boldness in ministry. In short we need the Holy Spirit in both modes – within us, and upon us.

[Suggestion: get a concordance, or your bible study software or do a study on the Spirit “upon” and the Spirit “in” and “within” and terms such as “filled”, “empowered” etc.]

Blessings,

John Edmiston

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