

OBSERVATIONS IN ACTS, CHAPTER ONE

Acts 1:1-26; Luke 24:50-53

I. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HIS ASSOCIATE. (Theophilus)

- His friend and pupil, to whom he dedicates this book, is Theophilus (lover of God). See Luke 1:3.
- Theophilus was some distinguished Roman or Greek convert to Christianity.

II. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE ASCENSION. Acts 1:9-11; Lk 24:50ff

- Jesus last act on earth was to bless his followers. He rose as He was speaking. Luke 24:50-53
- The results of the resurrection and ascension is worship and great joy. Vss. 52-53
- He ascended because: 1) His work on earth was over. 2) The Holy Spirit must be sent in His place. 3) He now intercedes in a new ministry (Heb. 7:25).

III. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION. (Disciples)

- The disciples did as they were told. Vss; 4,12
- The 12 original Apostles are accounted for. Vss. 13,16.
- Women are included in the followers. Perhaps Mary Magdalene, Salome, Johanna, Susanna, Mary and Martha of Bethany, and Mary the mother of Jesus. Vs. 14
- Jesus had at least four brothers and two sisters (Mark 6:3). 8 months prior to this they are unbelievers.
- There is unity in the group. Vs. 14, Philippians 2:1-5
- The decisions they made were based on deliberate, continual prayer.

IV. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE APOSTATE. (Judas)

- The meeting that took place involved more than just the Apostles, 120 people were present. Vs. 15 . It is necessary that God's word be fulfilled. Vss. 16, 20
- God's Word is inspired by the Spirit of God and David is said to be a prophet for the first time in the Bible. Vs. 16
- Judas fooled the other Apostles but never fooled God. Vs. 16 Judas paid dearly for his betrayal. Vss. 17-19
- The decision to replace Judas was on the authority of God's Word. The word "Office" here is "Bishoprick" in the KJV. He seems to have been an Overseer or Elder as was Peter and John (1 Peter 5:1; 2 John 1). If Matthias gained this Office, he must have been a Apostle/Bishop also. Vs. 20
- And God chose the replacement, Matthias, not the 120 people present. Vs. 24

V. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE NEW APOSTLE. (Matthias)

- There were certain qualifications Judas' replacement needed to have, especially to be a witness of the Resurrection. The baptism, or beginning of our Lord's ministry was of equal importance. Vss.21-22
- Matthias seems to have been installed as a fully endorsed and credentialized Apostle of Christ.