

## Sermon Outline 23.05.2021

### Introduction

"Acts is the second volume of a story which has no end." (William Barclay)  
Dr Luke in both his gospel and here in Acts addresses Theophilus. We don't know who he was. Luke describes him as "excellent." He may have been a high ranking gentile. His name means either "Loved by God" or "Lover of God." In a way we can directly apply this to ourselves because we too are loved by God and lovers of God. So this is a book for us - we are included in its exploits.

### COMMAND

Prior to His ascension Jesus gave a command in verse 4 "WAIT." The Greek word means to wait upon an event. In Luke 24 verse 49 Jesus said, "Stay in the city."

They were to wait for the promise or gift. The Greek word has a legal overtone - it is a summons.

William Barclay comments, "Amidst all the striving there must be time to receive."

What does waiting look like?

Psalm 27 verses 4 - 6. We are to dwell, gaze and seek! v.14 advocates us to "Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Psalm 40 v 1, "I waited patiently for the Lord, he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire, he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

Psalm 130 verses 5 and 6. "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits." V. 6 "My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning."

Isaiah 40 verse 31, "But those who hope(wait) in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

### CONFUSION

The confusion lay in what picture the apostles had of the kingdom Jesus was going to establish.

Israel is a small territory only 120 miles long and at most 40 miles wide. It had known the oppression of being under the control of successive regimes - Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. In verses 6 and 7 the apostles showed that they still had an image in their minds of the state of Israel rising from its ashes and becoming the power it had been during the time of David. Instead they had to learn that the kingdom of Jesus was totally different. It was his rule over the hearts and minds of believers filled with the Holy Spirit knowing no boundaries at all, and becoming worldwide in its influence. "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

### CLARIFICATION

Verses 7 and 8.

There would be the gift of new POWER.v.8

There would be a new PURPOSE. They would become "Witnesses." The word martyr derives from the greek word.

There would be a new SCOPE. Their witness would ripple out from Jerusalem Chapters 1 - 7, into Judea and Samaria Chapters 8 - 12, and to the ends of the earth Chapters 13 - 28. They would burst out of the upper room into the streets and markets of Jerusalem to share the good news of the risen Christ.

A C Winn,"This CHANGE OF DIRECTION is of untold significance."

Conclusion.

"The Acts of the Apostles was written because the Apostles acted."

David Pawson wrote, "Acts is a missionary manual for church expansion."

Is there a change of direction you need to make in your life? Do you need to come to the Lord Jesus and give Him your life? Do you need to be a TRUE DISCIPLE rather than a hanger on?

Is the church to change its direction?

And what about our nation following on after the epidemic?

"STRENGTH WILL RISE AS WE WAIT UPON THE LORDg