

My Observation Notes:

Luke opens the letter talking about the Holy Spirit and all that He has done. He also talks about Christ after the resurrection and then goes into the ascension and what the apostles had to say as they witnessed it.

Jesus reminds the apostles of the sovereignty of God over time and His authority over giving them power to achieve the assignment God gives to them.

The apostles go back to Jerusalem, where Christ told them to go first. They know that their number is incomplete because of Judas, and they want to replace him, so they seek the Lord. They know Jesus knows all things, so they prayed and sought His will before deciding. They also prayed with the other disciples and Jesus' family.

Vs. 5 The Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49

And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But remain in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever— / the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you.

John 16:7

But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Vs. 5

The same Spirit who empowered the apostles now lives in every believer. While the apostles had a unique role in laying the foundation of the Church, the Spirit continues to equip, guide, and transform lives today.



Vs. 7 Authorityex-oo-see'-ah (referring to God's authority and omnipotence in all things)

Topical Lexicon: Bible Hub:

Jude 1:25 "Now to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, **and authority**, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time and now and for all eternity. Amen."

Revelation 12:10 announces, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, **and the authority of His Christ**," locating every subsequent display of authority within the reign of God Himself.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Vs. 7 God's timing is not for us to know or question. He is sovereign and has supreme authority over all things, including time. He created time, does He not have the authority to control it?

Vs. 12 A "Sabbath day's journey" was a specific unit of distance used in ancient Jewish tradition. It referred to the **maximum distance a person was permitted to travel on the Sabbath without violating religious law** which prohibited work—including long travel—on that day.

The Book of Acts
Chapter One

Prologue

(Luke 1:1-4)

1In my first book, O Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach, 2until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. 3After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

4And while they were gathered together, He commanded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss. 5For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized

with the Holy Spirit."

The Ascension

(Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53)

6So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9After He had said this, they watched as He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. 10They were looking intently 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."

Matthias Replaces Judas

12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near the city. 13When they arrived, they went to the upper room where they were staying: Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14With one accord they all continued in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Vs. 12 In ancient Jewish homes, the upper room (or "upper chamber") was a private space on the top floor, often used for dining, sleeping, prayer, or hosting guests. It was typically more secluded and ventilated, making it ideal for gatherings

Vs. 14 The phrase "with one accord" (Greek: *homothumadon*) implies **deep unity**—not just physical proximity, but shared heart and mission.

Shows women were very involved and important and that Jesus' brothers who once didn't believe in Him, are now part of the "The Church". It shows that the early church was **inclusive** and that women played a vital role in its spiritual foundation.

According to Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:55, Jesus had four named brothers:

- **James** – Often called *James the Just*, he became a key leader in the early church in Jerusalem and is traditionally credited with writing the *Epistle of James*.
- **Joseph (or Joses)** – Less is known about him, but he's listed among Jesus' siblings.
- **Simon** – Mentioned by name, though his role is not elaborated in scripture.
- **Judas (or Jude)** – Traditionally believed to be the author of the *Epistle of Jude*. The Gospels also mention that Jesus had **sisters**, though they are unnamed and less discussed.

Vs. 2 Apostle in the NT it describes those **chosen and commissioned by Jesus** Christ, together with a small circle of later appointees, who bear foundational authority for proclaiming the gospel, establishing churches, and penning inspired Scripture.

Hebrews 3:1 uniquely **titles Jesus "the apostle and high priest** of our confession." He is the paradigm of all who are sent, for the Father invested Him with absolute authority (John 20:21).

Vs. 4 This command is specific to this situation and does not apply to us. However, a lesson can be learned from this: If we feel God asking us to wait, we need to wait.

Vs. 15 the Scripture: 1124 *graphé* – properly, *writing*. 1124 (*graphé*) is used 51 times in the NT – always of *holy Scripture*, i.e. the inspired, inerrant writings of the Bible (the 66 books of Scripture, 39 in Hebrew, 27 in Greek).



15In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (a gathering of about a hundred and twenty) and said, 16"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit foretold through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. 17He was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

18(Now with the reward for his wickedness Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong and burst open in the middle, and all his intestines spilled out. 19This became known to all who lived in Jerusalem, so they called that field in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20"For it is written in the book of Psalms:

"May his place be deserted;

let there be no one to dwell in it,"

"May another take his position."

21Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22beginning from John's baptism until the day Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a with us of His resurrection."

23So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 24And they prayed, "Lord, You know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two You have chosen 25to take up this ministry and apostleship, which Judas abandoned to go to his rightful place."

26Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Footnotes: 4 a Or *eating together* 5 b Or *For John baptized in water, but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit* ; cited in Acts 11:16 12 c *A Sabbath day's journey* is 2,000 cubits (approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters) 20 d Psalm 69:25 20 e Psalm 109:8

Psalms 69:25
Psalms 109:8

Peter is quoting from two different Psalms

- **Psalms 69:25** — "May his camp become desolate, and let no one dwell in it." This is a lament where David calls for judgment on his enemies. Peter applies it to Judas, whose betrayal led to his death and the desolation of his legacy.
- **Psalms 109:8** — "May another take his office." This is part of an imprecatory psalm—a prayer for justice against a deceitful accuser. Peter uses it to justify the need to replace Judas among the Twelve.

Vs. 24

This phrase is profound. The Greek word used here is *kardiognōstēs*, meaning **"heart-knower."** It's a rare term, used only twice in the New Testament (here and in Acts 15:8), and it emphasizes that Jesus doesn't just see actions—He sees **motives, desires, fears, and intentions**

This echoes other verses:

- **1 Samuel 16:7** – "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
- **John 2:25** – Jesus "knew what was in man."
- **Mark 2:8** – Jesus perceived thoughts before they were spoken.

Vs. 24

Jesus sees us fully—our strengths, struggles, and sincerity. When making decisions, especially about leadership or calling, **prayerful dependence** on God's wisdom is essential. True discernment comes from seeking the One who knows our hearts better than we know ourselves.

Worship First-Application:
My Prayer:

A: Lord God, I praise you, for You are, for your power, guidance, strength, and sovereignty.

C: Lord, please forgive me for the times I get impatient and do things on my own time. I want to wait for Your perfect timing.

T: Thank you for your good gifts, including the unbelievable gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you also for Your word, the inspired, inerrant writings of the Bible. I know that I can trust what you say and there is no error.

S: Lord, I surrender my impatience to you today. You provide with all I need for life and godliness through your Word and Your Spirit.

In Jesus Name I Pray, Amen.

