

SENT

Sent to Be Witnesses Chan Kilgore, Lead Pastor

[Acts 1.1-11]

- 1 *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,*
- 2 *until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.*
- 3 *He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*
- 4 *And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me;*
- 5 *for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*
- 6 *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*
- 7 *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*
- 8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
- 9 *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*
- 10 *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,*
- 11 *and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

[NOTES]

Author: Luke the Physician. Luke wrote two books in the New Testament, the Gospel of Luke and Acts. In the Gospels the Son of Man offered His life; in Acts the Son of God offered His power. In the Gospels we see the original seeds of Christianity; in Acts we see the continual growth of the Church. The Gospels tell us of Christ crucified and risen; Acts speaks of Christ ascended and exalted. The Gospels model the Christian life as lived by the perfect Man; Acts models it as lived out by imperfect men (Acts: the Church Afire by R. Kent Hughes).

Purpose: Dedicating the work to Theophilus, he wanted him to have "certainty" (a firm foundation) for what he had been taught. The exact nature of Luke's purpose depends on how one identifies Theophilus. He evidently had already been instructed in the Christian way and may

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have been a new convert or a seeker on the verge of commitment. Since "Theophilus" means "lover of God," it is also possible that Luke is challenging the devotion of his readers rather than addressing his book to just one of them (ESV Study Bible Introduction).

Theme: We are sent to be witnesses. We are all witnesses. The real question is what is your life witnessing about?

TWO QUESTIONS FOR 2010

1. Where is the Holy Spirit at work within you?
2. Where is the Holy Spirit at work through you?

Join us Next Week for:

SENT | *Expectant Prayer*, Acts 1.12-26