



A PEOPLE EMPOWERED



An Imaginative Introduction to Acts

Acts 1:1-9

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Acts 1:1-9

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the

Holy Spirit.” Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:1, 4-5

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“Acts beacons us to a life-giving historical consciousness that senses being in the midst of time that is both past and present and that pulls us towards a future with God in the new creation.”

- Willie James Jennings

“[Luke] wants his readers to see a past unfolding in a future and making intelligible a present.”

- Willie James Jennings

Acts 2:13

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

“The deepest reality of life in the Spirit depicted in the book of Acts is that the disciples of Jesus rarely, if ever, go where they want to go or to whom they would want to go. Indeed the Spirit seems to always be pressing the disciples to go to those to whom they would in fact strongly prefer never to share space, or a meal, and definitely not life together. Yet it is precisely this prodding to be boundary-crossing and border-transgressing that marks the presence of the Spirit of God.”

- Willie James Jennings, *Acts: A Theological Commentary*

Acts begins with Obedience

Acts begins with Prayer

Acts begins with Openness to the Spirit