

Exegetical Notes, Acts 1:7-11
“POWER”

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Acts 1:7-11

Verse 7

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”

- In the preceding verse the disciples had asked Jesus if the time had come for the restoration of the kingdom of Israel. This is the beginning of Jesus’ answer to their question.
- Jesus acknowledges that the date and time for this event had been established by God on the basis of God’s own authority.
- Jesus clearly states that the disciples need not concern themselves with these things because the dates and the times of them are not to be known by humans. These things will happen at the appointed time without human intervention.

Verse 8

“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.”

- Jesus tells the disciples that while they are waiting for the restoration of the kingdom, the Holy Spirit of God will come upon them.
- The coming of this Holy Spirit will give them power.
- This power will enable them to be “witnesses.” The Greek word behind the English word “witnesses” is “martures.” It means martyrs. Martyrs are those who lay down their lives for a cause. The promise of the Holy Spirit’s coming is the power to lay down one’s life for Jesus. The word is a noun, not a verb. It is something that you are as opposed to something that you do.

- The verse indicates how the gospel will spread. It will start in Jerusalem. It will start where the disciples are and spread outward from there to the ends of the earth.

Verse 9

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

- After having spoken these words Jesus returned to the Father. The disciples saw him ascend until the clouds hid him.

Verse 10

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

- The disciples were stuck to the spot looking up into the sky where Jesus had disappeared.
- Suddenly, two “men” dressed in white, apparently angels, appeared near them

Verse 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.”

- It is promised that Jesus will return to earth in the same that he left it. He will come again, in the clouds, at the time of God’s appointing.

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