

## Resurrection Review, Commissioning of the Disciples, the Promise of the Spirit, and the Ascension of Jesus

### Resurrection Review

1. **Vindication of Jesus as sent by God:** if God raised Jesus then that vindicates the words of Jesus as being approved by God (Acts 2.23–24; 4.10; 5.30; 10.39–40; 13.29–30)
2. **Proof that Jesus is the Messiah:** this proves that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, our Lord (Romans 1.1–4), the Man who will come to judge the living and the dead (Acts 17.30–32)
3. **If he is raised, we will be raised:** if God has reached into the middle of history to resurrect, that is proof that God will resurrect the righteous at the end of the age (1 Cor 15.20–23; Romans 8.11; 1 Corinthians 6.14; 2 Corinthians 4.14)
4. **Salvation implications:** he was raised for our justification (just as Jesus was delivered over because of our sins he was raised for our justification/salvation) (Romans 4.24–25; 10.9), in fact we were raised with him (Ephesians 2.6; Colossians 2.11)
5. **Moral implications:** Jesus' resurrection is something for us to identify with and spiritually experience by "dying" to sin and being "resurrected" to live for God (Romans 6.3–11; Philippians 3.10–11; Colossians 3.1; 1 Peter 3.21)
6. **If no resurrection then give up:** If Jesus was not raised then our faith is vain and we are to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15.12–19); if Christ is not raised, then let's live it up (1 Corinthians 15.32)

### 40 Days

1. Acts 1.1–3: Details are very limited on exactly what occurred during these forty days. Included in this time are the resurrection appearances which we talked about last time. In addition, Jesus went to Galilee as the Gospel of John records and spent time with them there. It is not at all clear that Jesus spent every hour with the disciples. Even so, we are sure that when summarizing this interim period, Luke says that Jesus was speaking to them "of the things concerning the kingdom of God." There is a remarkable continuity here between the message Jesus preached in his earthly ministry and the message he wishes them to preach now that he is soon to depart.

### Commissioning & Promise of the Spirit

1. Luke 24.44–49; Acts 1.4–5
2. Acts 1.6: Why would the apostles respond to the promise of the spirit with a question about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel?
  - A. Common Christian Interpretation of this question
    - i. *John Calvin Commentary on Acts (1585)*  
He showeth that the apostles were gathered together when as this question was moved, that we may know that it came not of the foolishness of one or

two that it was moved, but it was moved by the common consent of them all; but marvelous is their rudeness, that when as they had been diligently instructed by the space of three whole years, they betray no less ignorance than if they had heard never a word. There are as many errors in this question as words. They ask him as concerning a kingdom; but they dream of an earthly kingdom, which should flow with riches, with dainties, with external peace, and with such like good things; and while they assign the present time to the restoring of the same.

ii. *Matthew Henry Commentary (1706)*

1:6–11 They were earnest in asking about that which their Master never had directed or encouraged them to seek. Our Lord knew that his ascension and the teaching of the Holy Spirit would soon end these expectations, and therefore only gave them a rebuke; but it is a caution to his church in all ages, to take heed of a desire of forbidden knowledge.

iii. *Wesley's Notes (1754)*

1:6 Dost thou at this time – At the time thou now speakest of? not many days hence? restore the kingdom to Israel? – They still seemed to dream of an outward, temporal kingdom, in which the Jews should have dominion over all nations. It seems they came in a body, having before concerted the design, to ask when this kingdom would come.

iv. *People's New Testament (1891)*

1:6 Wilt thou at this time, etc.? They still held to their old ideas of a worldly restoration of the kingdom of Israel. Their only question was, Wilt thou restore it 'now' ? After the Holy Spirit was given, this delusion was dismissed, and they understood that Christ's kingdom is not of this world.

B. Where did they get the idea of the kingdom being restored to Israel?

- i. Matthew 19.28–30; Matthew 25.31–34; Luke 22.28–30: Jesus is the one who gave them the idea of ruling in the kingdom, it was not their own delusion
- ii. Revelation 2.26–28: Even after Jesus ascended it is clear that this promise is still true, it has not been spiritualized

C. They were thinking of kingdom when he mentioned the outpouring of the spirit because the Hebrew Bible always sees the outpouring of the spirit as something that happens in the end (i.e. when the kingdom gets restored to Israel and through Israel the entire world is redeemed)

- i. Isaiah 32.13–18; 44.1–5; Ezekiel 11.17–20; Ezekiel 36.24–28, 33–35; 37.12–14; 39.25 – 29; Joel 2.28 – 3.2: In all of these prophecies spirit is spoken of in the context of the coming kingdom (both judgment and restoration)
- ii. Matthew 4.23; 9.35; 12.22–28: In Jesus' mind spirit and kingdom were linked together. Wherever he went there was a pocket/bubble of the kingdom (also, John the Baptist saw the spirit as connected with end times judgment in Matthew 3.10–12; Luke 3.16–17 (recall that Jesus specifically called to mind this prophecy of John in Acts 1.5 which is why their question in Acts 1.6 concerns the end of the age and the restoration of the kingdom to Israel)

3. Acts 1.7–8: Jesus here clarifies that the spirit comes before the kingdom. The purpose of the spirit in this immediate context is to enable the disciples to be witnesses. The spirit is a taste of the age to come here and now (Hebrew 6.4–5).

## Ascension

1. Acts 1.9–11: Jesus had told his disciples ahead of time that he would be leaving them to go to the Father (John 7.33–36; 12.35; 13.33; 14.19; 16.16–19; 20.17) but just like he had told them ahead of time that he would suffer, die, and be raised they did not fully understand him until it actually happened.
2. His ascension is all mentioned in Luke 24.50–53; Mark 16.19 and in many places in the epistles