

**“and you will be my
witnesses”**

Acts 1:1-11

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:1-2

1 In my former book,
Theophilus, I wrote about all
that Jesus began to do and to
teach **2** until the day he was
taken up to heaven, after
giving instructions through
the Holy Spirit to the
apostles he had chosen.

“and you will be my witnesses”

“Jesus’ postresurrection instructions of His apostles was carried on through the Holy Spirit, and succeeding statements make it clear that what the apostles were to accomplish was likewise to be done through the Spirit.”

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:3

3 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.

“and you will be my witnesses”

1 Corinthians 15:5-8

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, **8** and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

“and you will be my witnesses”

“[the kingdom of God] refers primarily to God’s sovereign rule in human life and the affairs of history, and secondarily, to the realm where that rule takes place...

In the Gospels the kingdom is presented in time and space by Jesus’ presence and ministry.”

The Expositor’s Bible Commentary

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:4-5

4 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. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

“and you will be my witnesses”

“Luke views the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost as the birth of the church and the dawn of the new era of salvation through Jesus the Messiah.”

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:6

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

“and you will be my witnesses”

“Like their fellow countrymen, they were looking for the deliverance of the people of Israel from foreign domination and for the establishment of an earthly kingdom. The reference to the coming age had caused them to wonder if the new age was about to dawn.”

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:7-8

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

“and you will be my witnesses”

John 16:7-15

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good 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. **8** When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** about sin, because people do not believe in me;

10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. **12** “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

“and you will be my witnesses”

The mandate to witness that stands for the theme for the whole of Acts is here [in v.8] set out. It comes as a direct commission from Jesus Himself-in fact, as Jesus’ last word before His ascension and, therefore, as a mandate that is final and conclusive.”

The Expositor’s Bible Commentary

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:9

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

“and you will be my witnesses”

“After 40 days with His disciples, Jesus returned to heaven. It was important for the disciples to see Jesus taken up into heaven; they knew without a doubt that He was God and that His home was in heaven.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“and you will be my witnesses”

“This is not a normal cloud. Rather, it is a special cloud that shrouds the divine glory of God (the shekinah). It was like the cloud that covered the tent of meeting when the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle and the cloud that enveloped Jesus and the other two figures with Him when He was transfigured in the presence of three of His disciples.”

Clinton E. Arnold

“and you will be my witnesses”

Acts 1:10-11

10 They were looking intently up 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.”

“and you will be my witnesses”

“These two men are actually angels...The angels assure the amazed disciples not only that Jesus will return, but that it will be in a similar fashion.”

Clinton E. Arnold

“and you will be my witnesses”

Mark 13:26-27

26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

Application

**Every Christian is to be a
witness for Jesus**

Final Thoughts

“This commission lays an obligation on all Christians... The Christian church, according to Acts, is a missionary church that responds obediently to Jesus’ commission, acts on Jesus’ behalf in the extension of His ministry,

focuses on the proclamation of the kingdom of God in its witness to Jesus, is guided and empowered by the very same Spirit that directed and supported Jesus' ministry, and follows a program whose guidelines for outreach have been set by Jesus Himself."

The Expositor's Bible Commentary

Final Thoughts

Matthew 9:36-38

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Final Thoughts

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”