



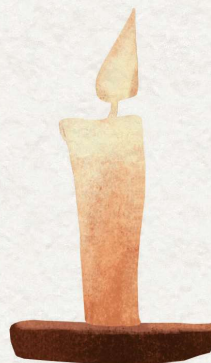
ACTS

The Book of Acts is history. It was written by Luke who also wrote Luke's Gospel.

Acts is all about what Jesus did after he went back to heaven.

In the Book of Acts, Luke tells us about the spread of the good news about Jesus all over the known world, and the beginning of his church.

Luke wants God's people to be certain that the good news about Jesus is truly God's message and to know how to live for Jesus until he comes back again.







BACK TO HEAVEN

Acts 1:1-12

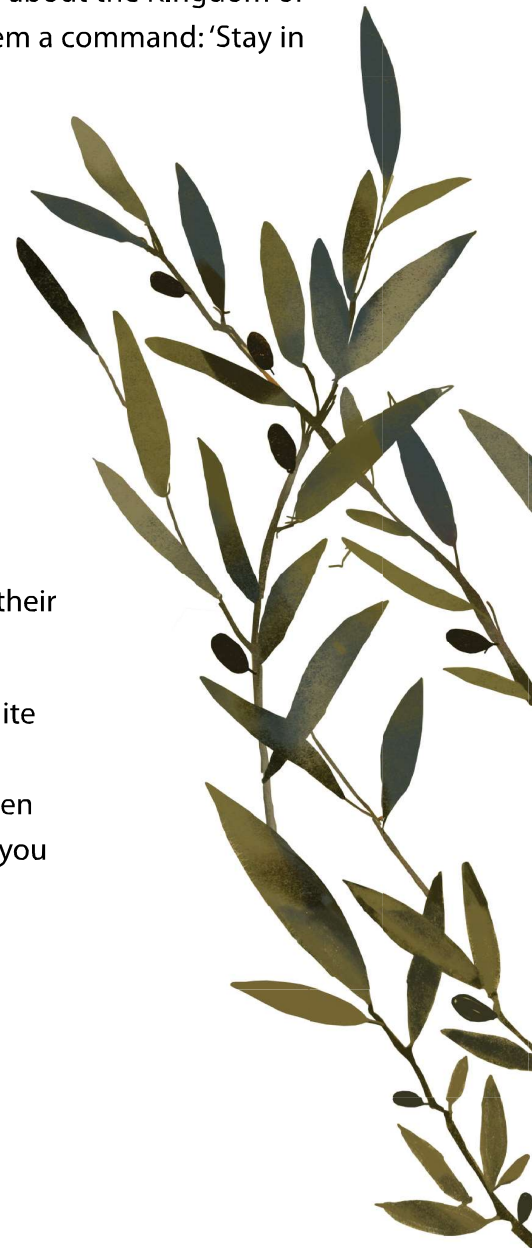
Dear Theophilus, in my first book I wrote about everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven. Just before he went into heaven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, he gave instructions to the men he had chosen as his **apostles**. After his death and resurrection, Jesus showed himself to these men for forty days, proving to them that he was alive and teaching them about the Kingdom of God. On one occasion he was eating with them, and he gave them a command: 'Stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift that my Father promised to give you, which I told you about. John baptised with water, but in a few days, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

When the apostles met with Jesus, they asked him, 'Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?'

Jesus answered them, 'It's not for you to know the times and dates set by the authority of my Father. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, then you will receive the power that you need to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

After Jesus said this, he was taken straight up into heaven before their very eyes. A cloud hid Jesus from their sight.

They were still looking up at the sky when two men clothed in white garments stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you have seen him go.'





WHAT'S THE POINT:

Luke tells us about the earthly life and ministry of Jesus until the day he was taken back to heaven. In his second book, called Acts, Luke tells us of the *continued* ministry of Jesus. Jesus still teaches and works from heaven. Jesus does this through his Holy Spirit and the apostles teaching the gospel. We also learn of the importance of the **church** in God's plans for his world. His followers must tell the whole world about the good news of Jesus Christ before Christ's return.

LOOK BACK:

Read Isaiah 44:3-8

'You are my witnesses...' Jesus speaks the same words to his followers that God spoke hundreds of years earlier to the nation of Israel. By doing this, Jesus is telling the apostles, and the world, that he is God and Lord of all.

CHECK THIS OUT:

Read Luke 24:13-48

Luke provides some details of what happened during those forty days after the resurrection of Jesus.

THINK

Why is it so important that Jesus went back up to heaven? Read John 15:5-11 to get you started.