

Acts 1:1-14

In the first book, Theophilus (*Note: this is our Gospel According to Luke*), I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

- **RESURRECTION:** ³*After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*

⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

- **POWERLESSNESS AND POWER:** ⁸*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;*
- **MISSION:** *and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

- **POWERLESSNESS & POWER:** ¹⁴*All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.*

Responsive Scripture:

Exodus 20:1-17, 24:3-4

One: Then God spoke all these words, saying,

All: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol,

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances;

**And all the people answered with one voice, and said,
“All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do”**

And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.