

ACTS 1; October 2; Jesus Will Come -- Perhaps Today!

ANALYSIS:

1. Who wrote this book of Acts, and what was the "former treatise" he wrote about Jesus? _____
 2. What did Jesus do after His resurrection and before His return to heaven? _____
 3. What was Jesus' last command to the disciples before He returned to heaven? _____
 4. What qualifications did the replacement for Judas Iscariot have to meet? _____
 5. Who was elected to take Judas Iscariot's place, and how was it done? _____
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THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Two angelic witnesses at Jesus' ascension promised He would return in like manner as He went into heaven. This promise of the personal return of the Lord Jesus, plus the baptism of the Holy Spirit, gave the apostles great boldness to testify of Christ's resurrection and exaltation. Anticipation of seeing the glorified Savior and Lord has comforted and sustained the Lord's people through physical sickness, suffering, aging, disappointments, hardships, persecutions and martyrdom. Because He lives, His saints of past generations knew and we know we too shall live with Him free from all tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain (Rev 21:3-4). Therefore, "we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Rom 8:35-37).

We must keep Paul's admonition to Titus in front of our minds at all times. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Tit 2:13). How do we keep looking for Him? We can remind ourselves each morning, "Perhaps today!" my Lord will return. We would do well to write it on our mirror, or on a card and post it on the frig, dash or at our desk -- wherever we will see it often.

HELP:

1. Luke is the human writer, and the Gospel of Luke is the first book he wrote (Lu 1:1-4).
2. Jesus showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs over 40 days to His disciples, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God (v 3).
3. Jesus commanded His disciples not to leave Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father, when they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit, whereby they would be given power to be witnesses even unto the uttermost part of the earth (vs 4, 5, 8).
4. A man who had companied with Jesus and the apostles from the baptism of John until the day He was taken up, who could witness of His resurrection (vs 21-22).
5. Matthias was chosen. The disciples cast lots to choose between Joseph and Matthias (vs 23-26).