

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,  
<sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up,  
after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit<sup>1</sup> to the apostles  
whom he had chosen.  
<sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs,<sup>2</sup>  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>4</sup> And while staying<sup>4</sup> with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for the promise of the Father,  
which, he said, "you heard from me;  
<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water,  
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit<sup>5</sup>  
not many days from now<sup>6</sup>."  
<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together,  
they asked him,  
"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"  
<sup>7</sup> He said to them,  
"It is not for you to know times or seasons  
that the Father has fixed by his own authority.  
<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power<sup>7</sup>  
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses  
in Jerusalem  
and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth."  
<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things,  
as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up,

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<sup>1</sup> Jesus' life was directed by the Spirit (e.g. Luke 4:1, 14, 18, 36; 10:21)

<sup>2</sup> Based on the Gospels, Acts and Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15), Jesus appeared at least ten times in the period between Easter and His Ascension.

<sup>3</sup> What is "the kingdom of God"? See Luke 4:18. In the NT, to preach the kingdom of God is to preach the Gospel (e.g. Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43; 8:1; Acts 8:12).

<sup>4</sup> I think this is a very poor translation. The Greek word here is *sunalizo*, which very literally means to share salt with, but has in mind, eating a meal together with someone. There is a very similar *sunaulizo*, which means to stay with. One argument is that the context doesn't make sense that Jesus is together eating with them, when He's about to ascend to heaven, so the word may be mistaken. I think it is absolutely fitting though that just prior to Jesus' ascension, He would be found breaking bread with His disciples.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Luke 3:16. Whereas John's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins, it still was pointing people forward to the complete act of salvation that Jesus would accomplish. Christian baptism unites us with the finished work of salvation (Romans 6).

<sup>6</sup> Ascension is 40 days from Jesus' resurrection. The event Jesus is talking about is Pentecost which is 50 days after His resurrection, or 10 days from Ascension. While the disciples wait, they replace Judas with Matthias and are devoted to prayer and worship (Acts 1:12-26).

<sup>7</sup> What is the power of the Holy Spirit for? Micah 3:8, Matt. 28:18-20

and a cloud<sup>8</sup> took him out of their sight<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went,  
behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said,  
"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?  
This Jesus,  
who was taken up<sup>10</sup> from you into heaven,  
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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<sup>8</sup> Recall Jesus' Transfiguration, where a cloud also covered them as Jesus' glory was revealed to them. The cloud reveals the presence of God (which is always present, but unseen by us).

<sup>9</sup> Eph. 1:20-23.

<sup>10</sup> Scripture speaks of Jesus' ascension in two ways, both that He ascended by His own power (John 3:13; 6:62; Eph. 4:10; Heb. 4:14) and that God the Father exalted Him, or lifted Him, received Him (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:11, 22; 1 Tim. 3:16).