

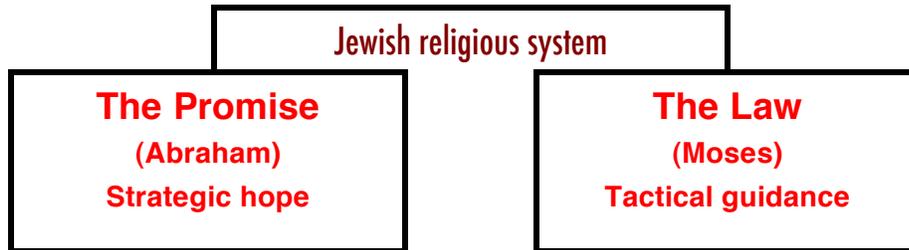
“The Promise of My Father”

Acts is the story of the coming of the Spirit to fulfill the “Promise of My Father.”

A. Luke’s Gospel ends with a promise.

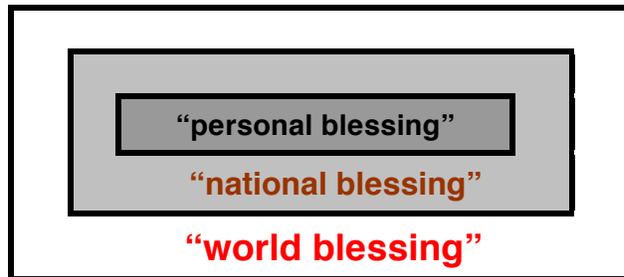
Acts 1 “1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,”
Lk.24:46-49 “46 - - - Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 you are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending forth **the promise of My Father** upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

1. To understand the Jewish religious system we must **appreciate two great themes.**



2. The Promise to Abraham found **expression in three areas.**

Gen.12:2-3 “And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of he earth shall be blessed.”



5. **The Kingdom of God.**

a. **The Kingdom is a puzzle.**

1. It is a present reality - Rom.14:17, Matt.12:28; yet it is to follow Christ's second coming - Matt.25:34, I Cor.15:50.
2. It is physical - Matt.13:41,43; Rev.11:15; yet it is spiritual - Lk.17:20-21.
3. It is something we have now entered - Matt.21:31, Col.1:13, Lk.16:16; yet it is something we will enter at Christ's return - Matt.8:11, II Pet.1:11.
4. It is at work in the world today - Matt.13; yet not of this world - Jn.18:36.
5. It is God's reign - Ps.145:11; yet it is God's realm - Lk.16:16.

b. **A solution.**

1. **Two ages are mentioned** ("this age" and "the age to come") Matt.12:32, Eph.1:21, Mk.10:29-30.
2. **These ages are separated by:**
 - a. The second coming of Christ - Matt.24:3. Christ's second coming is preceded by a period of "great tribulation" - Matt.24:15-28.
 - b. The resurrection from the dead - Lk.20:34-36.
3. **"This age" is:**
 - a. Characterized by evil & deliverance - Gal.1:4, Eph.2:1-2, Matt.13:22.
 - b. The domain of Satan, "the god of this age." II Cor.4:3-4.
4. **"The age to come" is:**
 - a.Characterized by eternal life - Matt.19:16-24.
 - b. Free from sin - Matt.13:49-50.
 - c.To follow the resurrection - I Cor.15:50.
5. **Two stages to the transition from "this age" to "the age to come."**
 - a.First resurrection - Rev.20:4-5.
 - b. Second resurrection - Rev.20:12-13.
- 6 **The first resurrection of Rev.20:4-5 has two parts (I Cor.15:22-26).**
 - a.Christ's resurrection - "first fruits" - I Cor.15:23a.
 - b. Christians at Christ's second coming - I Cor.15:23b.
7. **The three forms of the Kingdom in relation to the two ages.**

<i>The mystery form</i>	<i>The Millennial form</i>	<i>The New Heaven & Earth</i>
"The age to come"		
<i>The Church age</i>	<i>1000 years</i>	<i>Eternity</i>
<i>Incarnation Crucifixion Resurrection Pentecost</i>	<i>Parousia (second coming)</i>	

"This age"
7 year Tribulation

6. To understand the book of Acts we must appreciate its place in describing the “**first fruits**” in the fulfillment of “the promise.”

B. Luke’s Gospel ends with a promise rooted in the Prophets.

1. A New Covenant (in contrast to the Old Covenant with Moses) will include a **heart transplant and forgiveness of sins**.

Jer.31:31-34 “³¹ Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was husband to them,” declares the Lord. ³³ “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “**I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lords,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for **I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**”

2. God will take responsibility for **causing His people to obey** Him by giving them His Spirit.

Ezek.36:25-27 “²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you**; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

3. The gift of God’s Spirit will be **given to all mankind as they call on His name** with the result that signs and wonders will take place.

Acts 2:17-21 (Joel 2:28-32) “¹⁷ And it shall be in the last days, God says, **That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind**; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ Even upon My bond-slaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit And they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And **I will grant wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth beneath**, Blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. ²¹ And it shall be, that **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be save.**”

C. Luke’s Gospel ends with a promise rooted in the Prophets and reiterated by Jesus.

1. The **gospel of the kingdom** was the term used to describe Jesus’ reiteration of the promise of the fathers.

Matt.4:23 “And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming **the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.”

2. Jesus had the authority to give the Spirit of God as a **Helper**. This Spirit was always with God’s people but will be put in them.

John 14:16-17 “¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and **He will give you another Helper**, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.”

3. Another aspect of the Spirit’s ministry would be a power to **witness to Jesus**.

John 15:26-27 “When the Helper comes, whom **I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me. And you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

D. Luke’s Gospel ends with a promise rooted in the Prophets, and reiterated by Jesus, that is to be fulfilled in Acts.

1. Jesus identifies the promise of the Father with the Spirit that would be given at **Pentecost**.

Acts 1:4-8 “And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for **what the Father had promised**, "Which, {He said,} **you heard of from Me**; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

2. The Promise of the Old Testament finds its **fulfillment** in the New Testament **beginning with** Jesus’ advent, atonement, resurrection and gift of His Spirit.



3. The Promise is realized in **Jesus' Death, Resurrection, & presence through His Spirit.**



Lesson #1

We are to count ourselves privileged and challenged to live at this time in history.

1 Peter 1:10-12

“As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that {would come} to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, **but you**, in these things which now have been announced **to you** through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—**things into which angels long to look.**”

If we as Gentiles are to be the kind of salt and light that will excite a hunger for the King and His Kingdom in the nation of Israel we must –

- 1. Experience and express the grace of God.**
- 2. Demonstrate an instinctive wisdom and knowledge of the truth.**