

1 **The Age of the Apostles, Part 1**

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When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Acts 1:6–12

3 **Jesus' Ascension Forty Days After His Resurrection**

- After the Resurrection, Jesus continued teaching about His kingdom, which His disciples persisted in misunderstanding.
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, who would fill the disciples with power.

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- Jesus commissioned the disciples to witness for Him throughout the world, starting in Jerusalem.
- Angels foretold Jesus' second coming as He ascended to heaven.

5 **Pentecost**

- About 120 of Jesus' followers were filled with the Holy Spirit ten days after the ascension.
- Peter preached to the crowd that gathered.
- About 3,000 people were baptized and joined the new church.

6 **The Jewish Church**

- Christ's followers were all Jews, and did not consider themselves anything but Jews.
 - They continued to obey the Law.
 - They continued to worship at the Temple and in synagogues.
 - They emphasized the work of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament.
 - Many of them were Hellenistic ("Greek") Jews from throughout the Greek-speaking world.

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- The apostles (Christ's leading followers) performed miracles and preached.

- Believers practiced community of goods.
- Conflict with Jewish authorities continued.
 - Opponents of Jesus generally opposed His followers.
 - Conflict led to the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, about eight years after Pentecost.

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- The church grew beyond Jerusalem.
 - After Stephen was killed, persecution drove many Christians away from Jerusalem.
 - The gospel spread to Africa when an Ethiopian official was converted.
- Saul (also called Paul), a Pharisee and an especially vehement persecutor of the church, was converted when Christ spoke to him in a vision.

9 **Gentiles Enter the Church**

- A “God-fearer” named Cornelius believed in Jesus after hearing a message from Peter.
 - Peter had first received a vision from God teaching him that Gentiles were to be accepted by God through Christ.
 - This created a controversy among Jewish believers which was resolved by the testimony of Peter.
- Many Gentiles were converted by the missionary activity of Paul.
- It was decided at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) that Gentile believers are not required to keep the Law of Moses.