

The Kingdom of God – The work of Jesus and The Holy Spirit through His Church

Jesus began His work while here on earth.

- The pivotal part of that was completed on the cross
- But His work on earth will continue until He comes again.

He does that work in and through the church

- By the power of the Holy Spirit.

The book of Acts is an account of how that happens in directly after Jesus' ascension.

I think it is accurate (and helpful) to see this as an account of the acts of the Holy Spirit in and through the church

- But it is the WORK of Jesus
- Who has been given all authority in heaven and earth
- Who has commissioned His church to make disciples of all nations
- And who is with us until the end of the age in that work.

That WORK is the advancement of his kingdom on earth

- His kingdom coming and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven
- Is not only at the very heart of His agenda
- It is THE primary agenda on earth.

It is important to see that as

- The ways of the world obscure that
- And make it look as if their agendas are primary
- And have more power.

The truth – the REAL TRUTH – is

- That all of God's power and authority is being focused on His agenda
- And He does not struggle to keep it that way.

The struggle is for us to see it the way it really is.

The Holy Spirit comes to help us see that and empower us to walk with Him in fulfilling that.

One of the most important questions we have to answer about our life on earth is how we are working with Him in that?

Are we aligned with His agenda?

- How do I make my decisions about what I fill my time with?
- What I give my energy and resources to?

Are we available to Him in that agenda?

What priorities drive my daily life?

Is there room in our lives for Him to fill us?

Or is my life so full of other things that there is no room for Him?

Do I live with a daily sense of being the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Mt 4:23–25

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Lk 24:44–53

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Ac 1:1–14

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power 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.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was 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. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Re 6:1–2

Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

Ps 45:2–7

² You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
 grace is poured upon your lips;
 therefore God has blessed you forever.
³ Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
 in your splendor and majesty!
⁴ In your majesty ride out victoriously
 for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
 let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!
⁵ Your arrows are sharp
 in the heart of the king’s enemies;
 the peoples fall under you.
⁶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
 The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
⁷ you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

Re 19:11–16

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Ps 110:1–7

¹ The LORD says to my Lord:
 “Sit at my right hand,
 until I make your enemies your footstool.”
² The LORD sends forth from Zion
 your mighty scepter.
 Rule in the midst of your enemies!
³ Your people will offer themselves freely

- on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.
- 4 The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”
- 5 The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.
- 6 He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses;
he will shatter chiefs
over the wide earth.
- 7 He will drink from the brook by the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.

Ac 28:23–31

²³ When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

²⁴ And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. ²⁵ And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

²⁶ “ ‘Go to this people, and say,
“You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

²⁷ For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed;
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’

²⁸ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,
³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Ro 14:17

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Co 4:14–20

¹⁴ I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. ¹⁸ Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.