

# **The Faith of the First Christians**

**Acts 1:1-26**

# Acts continues Luke's story..

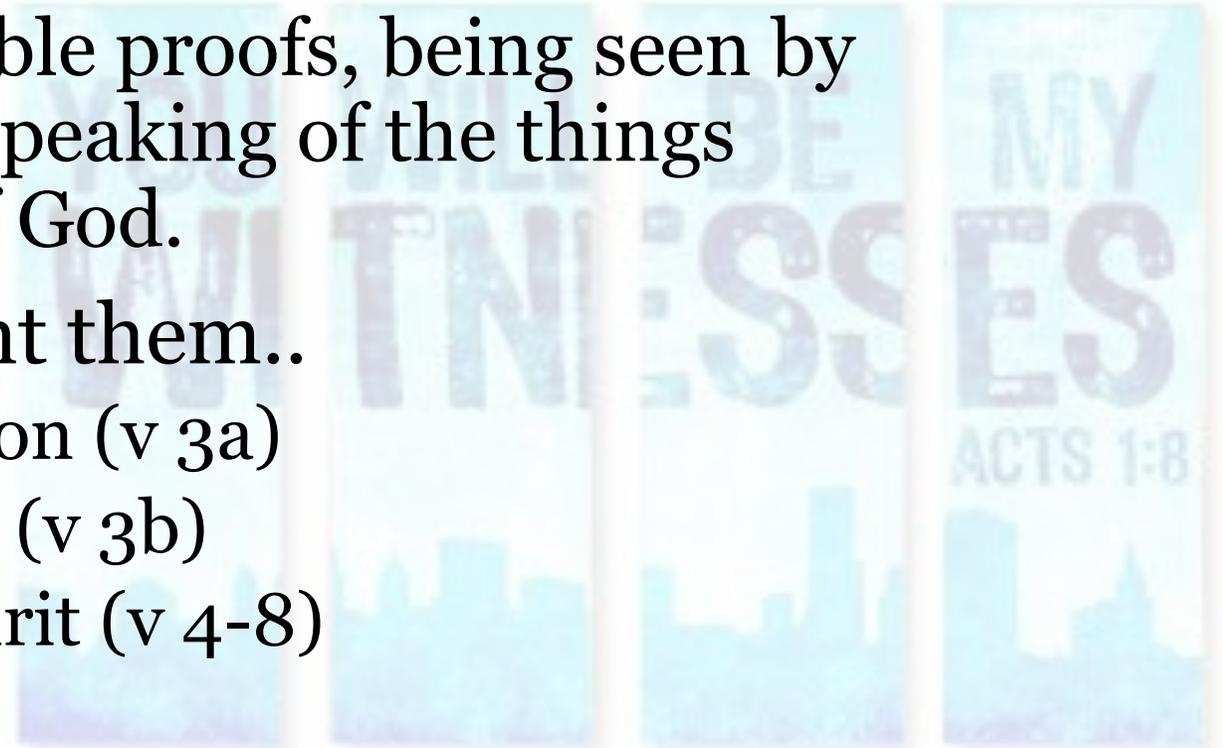
- Luke 1:3-4 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.
- Acts 1:1-3 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day in which He was taken up..

# Acts begins where Luke ends

- Luke 24:49-53 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy..
- Acts 1:9-12 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

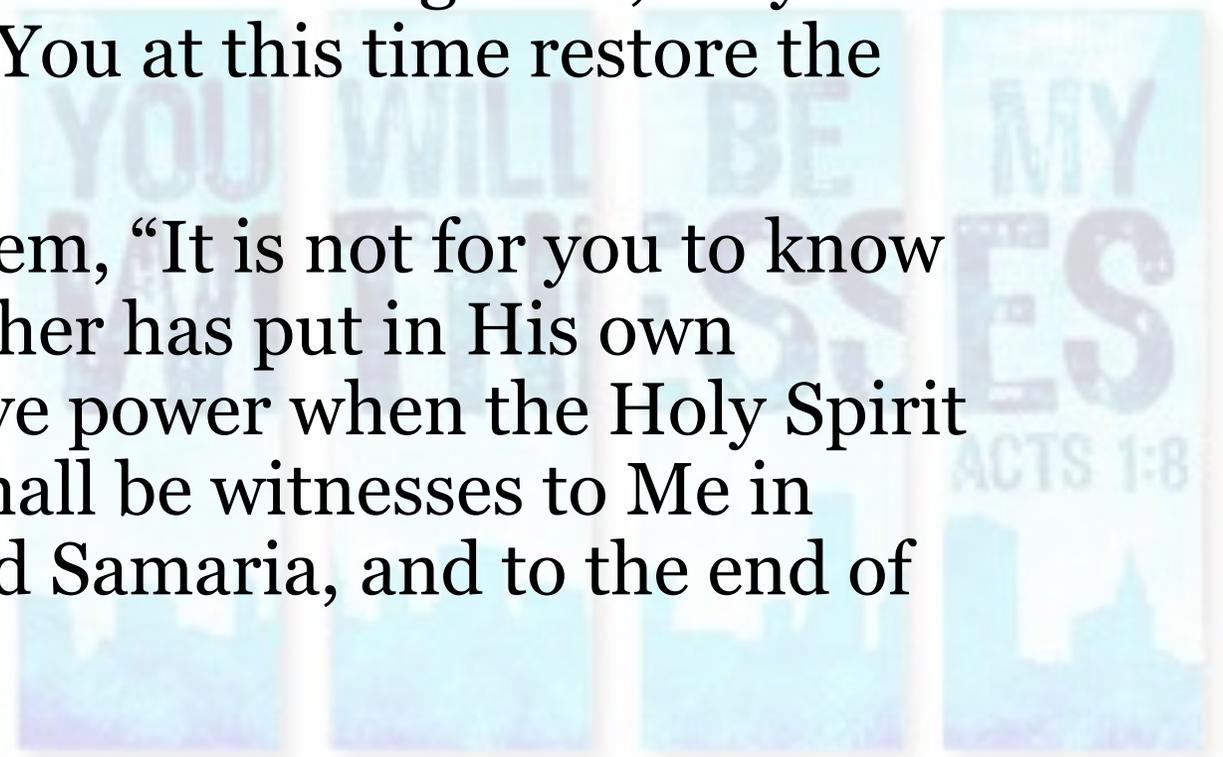
# They believed in the Risen Christ

- Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.
- Important lessons he taught them..
  - The reality of His resurrection (v 3a)
  - The coming of His kingdom (v 3b)
  - The promise of the Holy Spirit (v 4-8)



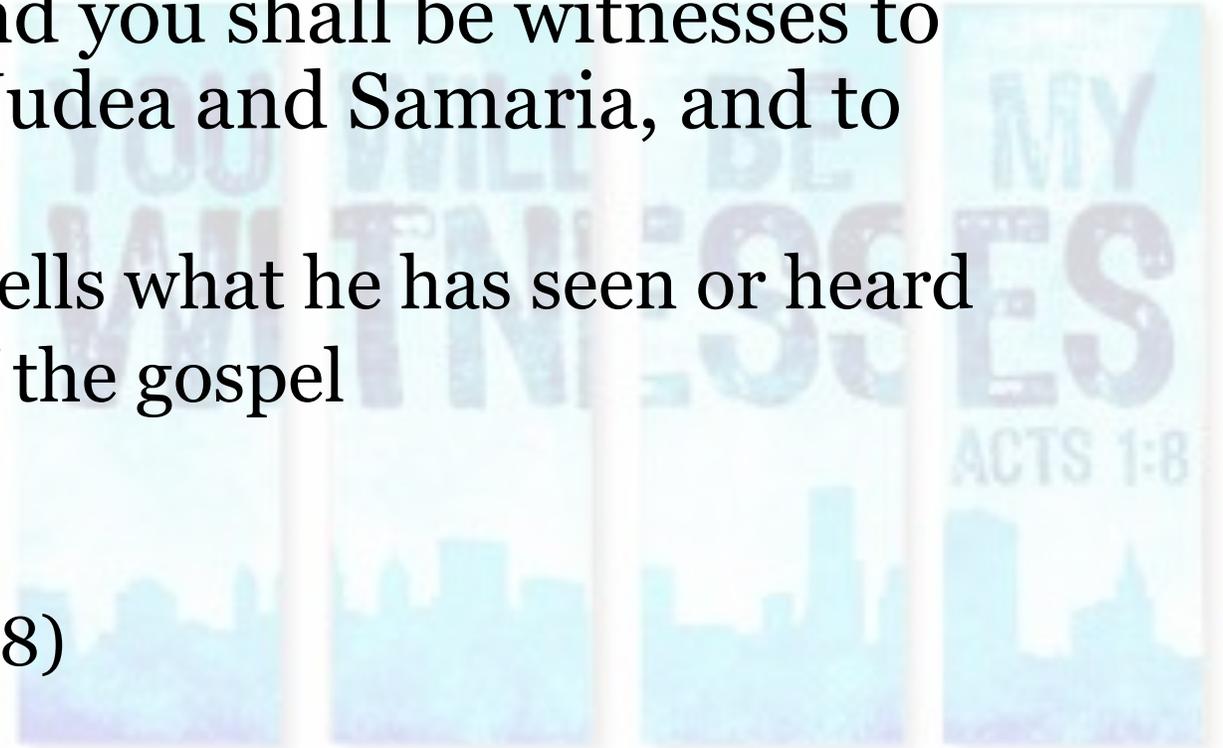
# The Nature of the Kingdom

- Acts 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- Acts 1:7-8 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



# Key Verse Acts 1:8

- Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
  - Witness (martus) one who tells what he has seen or heard
  - Jesus predicts the spread of the gospel
    - Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)
    - Judea/Samaria (Acts 8-12)
    - To ends of earth (Acts 13-28)



# Promise of His coming again

- Acts 1:9-11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”
- Luke 24:53 They returned to Jerusalem with great joy.. continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

# They believed in each other

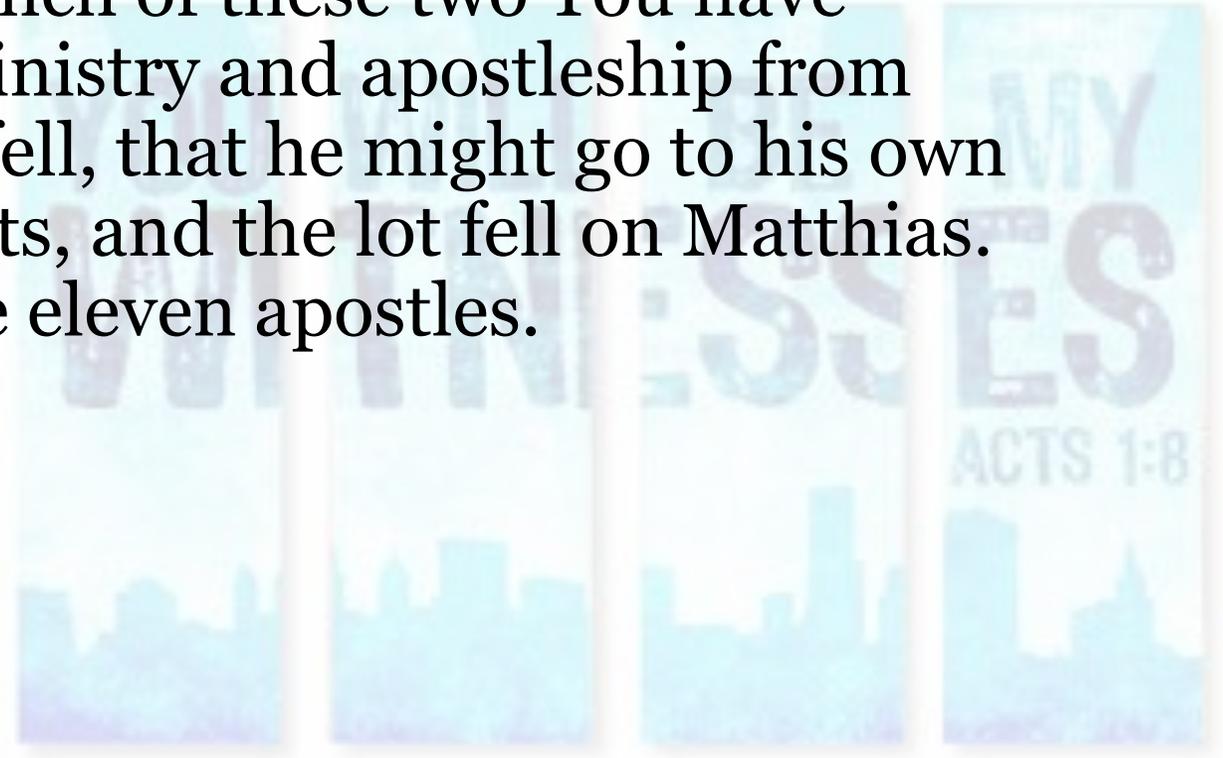
- Acts 1:12-14 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet..And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. <sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

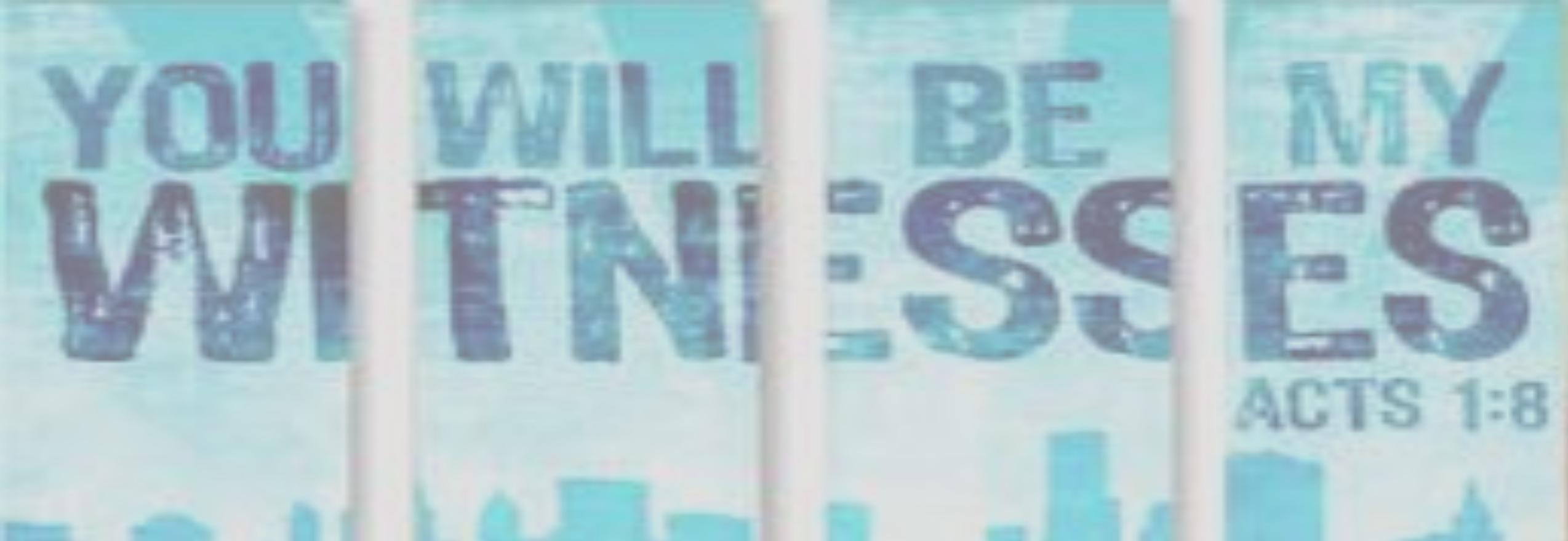
# They believed in God leading them..

- Acts 1:15-17 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, <sup>16</sup> “Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; <sup>17</sup> for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”
- Acts 1:18-21 Judas’ death and the need for his replacement..
  - Scriptures fulfilled/applied Psalm 41:9 69:25 109:8
  - Requirements to be an apostle (3 qualifications)
  - Two men nominated (Justus, Matthias)

## **Relying on God to show His choice..**

- Acts 1:24-26 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup> And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.





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