

Witnesses to the World Acts 1:1-8

Prologue: Proofs and teachings Jesus provided for forty days, 1-5

- ◆ For 40 days Jesus offers many proofs and teaches about the kingdom of God.
Why the need for *many proofs*? See Lk. 24:36-43, Jn. 20:25.
- ◆ *Gathering together* = a meal too, 10:41. Jesus is not merely a spirit.
- ◆ Instructions = sit tight and wait for promised Holy Spirit, Lk. 3:16, Jn. 14:26.

Promise: Power the Father will provide for world-wide witnessing, 6-8

- ◆ A special gathering atop Mt. Olivet (v. 12) motivated the apostles (no longer called disciples) to ask what turns out to be one last question to ask Jesus.
Why was their last question not such a good one? Matt. 24:36
- ◆ What can we know about Israel based upon Jesus' response to this question?
- ◆ Why ask about the messianic kingdom? Isa. 32:15-20, 44:1-5; Zech. 12:8-10.
The apostles didn't yet fully grasp that they had a special "mission impossible" assignment to do (v. 8) before the messianic kingdom arrives—one that is a reversal of what they apparently were expecting, see Zech. 8:3ff.
- ◆ This huge assignment is to be witnesses to the whole world (map included!).
See 10:39-43 for who Jesus is referring to. To help fulfill this mission, Jesus promises the Father will send the Holy Spirit to provide power. Spirit will occur 70x in the book, more than all the gospels combined! Realistically, what else must happen to pull this off? Are you fulfilling your role as an IMF?

