

**Series:** The Book of Acts: Growth Against All Odds

**Sermon:** Promises Kept: Part One

**Scripture:** Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Dates:** January 4/5, 2020

Main theme: Jesus is Lord as He continues to establish and expand the Kingdom of God.

### **Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,*

<sup>2</sup> *until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *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;*

<sup>5</sup> *for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

<sup>6</sup> *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

<sup>7</sup> *He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*

<sup>8</sup> *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.”*

<sup>9</sup> *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.*

<sup>10</sup> *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,*

<sup>11</sup> *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.”*

"The Kingdom of God is His rule set up in the lives of His people by the Holy Spirit." - John Stott

"It is spread by witnesses, not by soldiers, through a gospel of peace, not a declaration of war, and by the work of the Spirit, not by force of arms, political intrigue or revolutionary violence." - John Stott

"The Kingdom is God's rule in the hearts and lives of His people, who as citizens of this kingdom receive remission of sins and eternal life...the phrase kingdom of God meant preaching the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection and making disciples of all nations." - Simon J. Kistemaker

Secondary themes:

- He does this through His people who are increasingly a people of all nations .
- He does this through His Holy Spirit, whom He pours out to indwell and empower His people.
- He does this through a people who face tremendous opposition and persecution.

"The Church is the pilgrim people of God. It is on the move -- hastening to the ends of the earth to beseech all men to be reconciled to God, and hastening to the end of time to meet its Lord who will gather all into one." -Leslie Newbigin

The Kingdom of God is ...

- Spiritual in its character (transforming the lives and values of its citizens)
- International in its membership (expanding to include all nations, ethnicities, races, and people groups)
- Gradual in its expansion (over time and space)