

# THE GREAT AWAKENING

## The Book of Acts

### Lesson 2: Acts 1:9-26

#### PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

*We will divide this study into three sections as outlined below.*

#### **I. The Ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9-11)**

##### ***Read Acts 1:9-11***

1. The ascension of Christ is explained to us in one verse (verse 9), possibly giving the impression that it is a minor aspect to Christ's ministry. But discuss the following points to remind us of the importance of Jesus' ascension.

- He ascended to the right hand of God. Look up Luke 22:69 and Romans 8:34.<sup>1</sup>
  - *How is the right hand of God described in the Luke passage?*
  - *According to the Romans passage, what is Jesus doing at the right hand of God?*
  
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit after His ascension; see Acts 2:33-34. Also remember John 16:7 where Jesus said it was better for us if He went away. Do you still believe that?

2. Verse 9 also says that Jesus ascended into the clouds. What is the significance of the clouds? Was it simply a cloudy day, or is there a deeper symbolism?

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<sup>1</sup> If you want to pursue a further study on Jesus being seated at the right hand of God, look up the following verses: Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; and Hebrews 1:13; 8:1; 10:12; and 12:2.

3. At the ascension of Christ, the disciples are reminded by the angels that Jesus would return in the same way that they saw Him go into heaven. What does that teach us about Christ's Second Coming?

- *In light of Jesus' statement about not worrying about the date of His return (in verses 6-7), what is the balance between hoping for Christ's return and being busy as His witnesses?*

## II. Devoting Themselves to Prayer

### **Read Acts 1:12-14**

4. Imagine the scene: Jesus' followers were told to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Spirit. Their heads are still spinning from all that they had seen and learned from the resurrected Christ over the last 40 days. They watched Him be lifted from the earth and disappear into the clouds. **Now what do they do???** According to this verse, they went and prayed.

- *When your head is spinning from what life throws at you, when you have to wait for something outside of your control, do you retreat to prayer?*
- *If not, why?*
- *If yes, what solace does it bring you?*

5. It says in verse 14 that "*with one accord*" they devoted themselves to prayer. Corporate prayer seems to be missing in much of modern Christianity. Do you agree? Why do you suppose this is? How are we impoverished by this lack of being devoted to prayer "*with one accord*"?

## III. The Replacement of Judas

### **Read Acts 1:15-26**

5. Since the crucifixion of Jesus, the name *Judas* carries with it the connotation of betrayal. Some people feel sorry for him. Others think he got a raw deal. But Jesus refers to him as the "*son of perdition*" (John 17:12). Jesus also said that it would have been better for Judas if he had not been born (Mark 14:21).

- *Peter says in Acts 1:25 that Judas "turned aside and went to his own place." What do you suppose that means?*

- *Talk about the pain of betrayal in Jesus' life and in yours. Read the lyrics (below) by Michael Card in his song, "Why?" to gain a perspective on the pain of betrayal.*

*Why did it have to be a friend who chose to betray the Lord?  
 And why did He use a kiss to show them? That's not what a kiss is for...  
 Only a friend can betray a friend, a stranger has nothing to gain—  
 And only a friend comes close enough to ever cause so much pain.*

6. This passage in Acts gives qualifications for Judas' replacement (reread verses 21-23). Two men are qualified; so to decide, they cast lots to determine God's choice.

- *Does that seem strange to you that they basically rolled the dice to determine God's will? Read Proverbs 16:33 to see that maybe this wasn't so strange to them. This is the last time in the Bible that we see the casting of lots to determine God's will.*
- *What is the way we should choose a new leader?*
- *Are you always confident with your methods of determining God's will for your life? How certain are we when we say we are being led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14 & Galatians 5:18)?*

**End this study by thanking God for Christ's intercessory ministry. Also, thank God for your leaders; pray for them to have wisdom and courage to follow God's Word.**

**Homework assignment to prepare for Lesson #3:** Read through the passages below and record what happened to believers after they were filled with the Spirit.

**Book of Acts**

Acts 2:4 (context 2:1-4)  
 Acts 4:8 (4:5-13)  
 Acts 4:31 (4:29-31)  
 Acts 6:3, 5, 8 (Acts 6:1-10)  
 Acts 7:55 (7:54-60)  
 Acts 9:17 (9:15-19)  
 Acts 11:24 (11:22-24)  
 Acts 13:9 (13:7-12)  
 Acts 13:52 (13:48-52)

**Outside the book of Acts**

Luke 1:15  
 Luke 1:41  
 Luke 1:67  
 Luke 4:1  
  
 Ephesians 5:18-21 compared to Colossians 3:16