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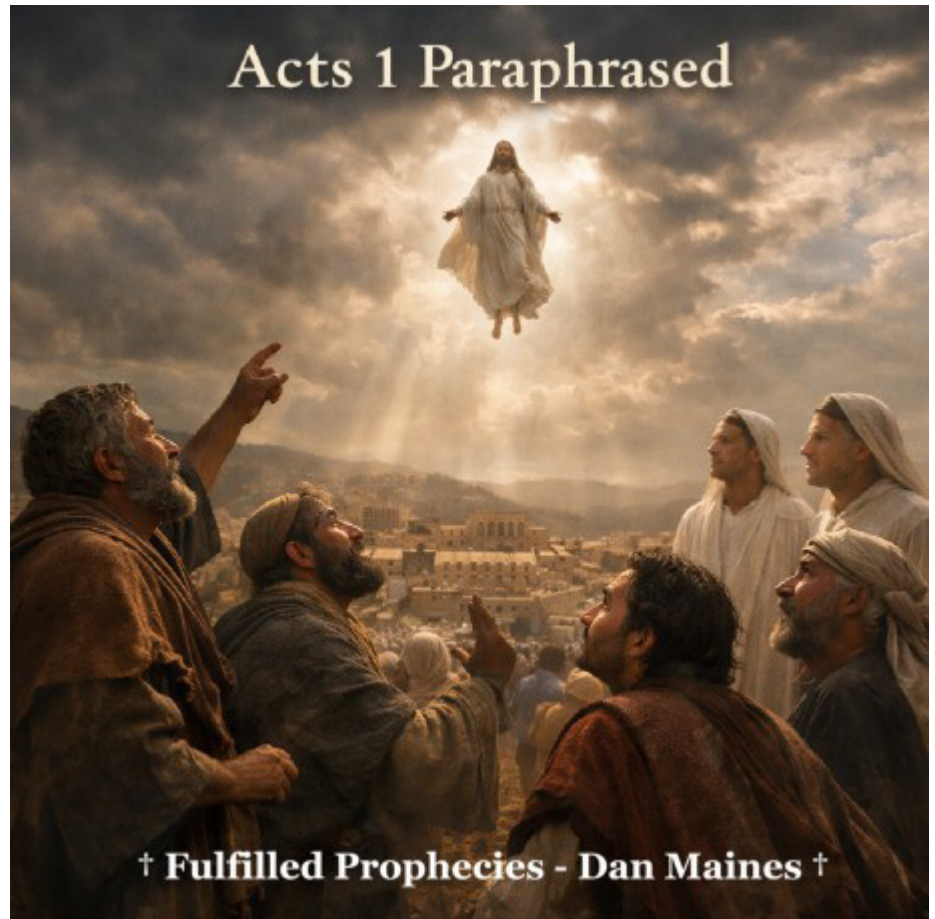
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Acts 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Luke is continuing the account of what Jesus started, now showing what carried on through His people

† This chapter isn't about delay, it's about transition into what was about to be fulfilled in their generation (Matthew 24:34)

† The kingdom wasn't postponed, it was already being established and revealed

Acts 1:1

In my first writing, I explained everything Jesus began to do and teach

† This shows that what Jesus started didn't end, it continued through His followers (Ephesians 1:22-23)

† The focus is on ongoing fulfillment, not a future restart

Acts 1:2

Up until the day He was taken up, after He had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen

† Jesus prepared them before leaving, showing they were ready to carry the message forward (John 14:26)

† The Holy Spirit guiding them shows God's active work already present

Acts 1:3

After His suffering, He showed Himself alive with many clear proofs, appearing to them over forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God

† The resurrection was confirmed openly, not hidden, proving the reality of what had happened (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

† The kingdom was already being explained as something present, not distant

Acts 1:4

While gathering them together, He told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from Me

† The promise was about to be fulfilled soon, not thousands of years later (Joel 2:28)

† Jerusalem remained the center because that generation would witness the fulfillment

Acts 1:5

For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now

† The timing is clear, not many days, showing immediate fulfillment (Acts 2:1-4)

† This connects directly to Pentecost, not a future age

Acts 1:6

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel

† They still expected a physical restoration, showing their misunderstanding (John 18:36)

† The kingdom wasn't political, it was covenantal and already arriving

Acts 1:7

He said to them, it isn't for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set by His own authority

† The exact timing wasn't revealed, but the nearness was already stated elsewhere (Matthew 16:27-28)

† This wasn't postponement, just lack of exact detail

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the land

† The mission was immediate and expanding outward, starting with that generation (Colossians 1:23)

† The phrase ends of the land refers to the known world of that time, not modern global scope

Acts 1:9

After He said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him out of their sight

† The cloud language connects to divine authority and presence (Daniel 7:13)

† This isn't about distance, but enthronement

Acts 1:10

As they were looking intently into the sky while He was going,

two men in white clothing stood beside them

† These are messengers confirming what just happened

† God always confirms major covenant transitions through witnesses

Acts 1:11

They said, men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky, this Jesus who has been taken up from you will come in the same way as you have watched Him go

† The coming is tied to judgment language, not a physical return (Matthew 24:30)

† This matches Old Testament patterns where God comes in judgment through events

Acts 1:12

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away

† Everything stays centered in Jerusalem because that's where fulfillment would happen (Luke 21:20)

† This keeps the timeline grounded in that generation

Acts 1:13

When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James

† The named witnesses show historical reliability

† These are the ones entrusted with carrying the fulfilled message forward

Acts 1:14

All these were continually devoting themselves with one mind to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers

† Unity and expectation marked this moment

† Even Jesus' family now believed, showing the impact of the

resurrection

Acts 1:15

At that time Peter stood up among the brothers, a group of about one hundred twenty persons, and said

† The early assembly was already formed

† Leadership is now shifting to the apostles

Acts 1:16

Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas

† Judas' betrayal was part of fulfillment, not an accident (Psalm 41:9)

† This reinforces that everything was unfolding according to plan

Acts 1:17

For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry

† Judas had a real role, showing even betrayal served a purpose

† This highlights God's control over events

Acts 1:18

Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wrongdoing, and falling headfirst, he burst open and all his insides came out

† This shows the consequence of betrayal

† It also confirms the historical reality of what happened

Acts 1:19

It became known to all who were living in Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Field of Blood

† Public knowledge confirms the event

† This ties the account to real locations and witnesses

Acts 1:20

For it is written in the Psalms, let his place be made desolate,

and let no one dwell in it, and let another take his office
† Scripture was being fulfilled exactly as written (Psalm 69:25;
Psalm 109:8)
† Replacement wasn't random, it was prophetic fulfillment

Acts 1:21

Therefore it's necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us

- † The requirement ensures true eyewitness testimony
- † This guards the integrity of the message

Acts 1:22

Beginning from the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection

- † The resurrection is the central message
- † Eyewitnesses confirm its truth

Acts 1:23

So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias

- † The selection process shows order, not confusion
- † Leadership was handled carefully

Acts 1:24

And they prayed and said, You Lord, who know the hearts of all people, show which one of these two You have chosen

- † God is seen as the one who appoints
- † This shows dependence on divine direction

Acts 1:25

To take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place

- † Judas' end is described as separation from his role
- † The ministry continues despite failure

Acts 1:26

And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles

† This was a recognized method before the Spirit was poured out (Proverbs 16:33)

† The number twelve is restored, showing completeness

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem in that generation, confirming the timing of fulfillment

† Eusebius writes that the early believers understood these events as fulfillment within their lifetime

† Irenaeus affirms that the apostles preached the completed work of Christ in their generation

How It Applies To Us Today

† We aren't waiting for a future kingdom, we live in the reality of what Christ established

† The focus is faithfulness, not speculation about future timelines

† The same message of life and truth continues through us today

Q & A Appendix

Q What does Acts 1 show about timing

A It shows everything was about to happen soon, not in a distant future (Acts 1:5)

Q Did the apostles expect fulfillment in their lifetime

A Yes, Jesus told them some standing there wouldn't die before seeing it (Matthew 16:27-28)

Q Was the kingdom future or present

A It was already being revealed and explained during those forty days (Acts 1:3)

Q What does the ascension represent

A It shows Christ taking authority, not leaving permanently (Daniel 7:13)

Q Why replace Judas

A To fulfill Scripture and maintain the witness of twelve (Acts 1:20)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Acts 1

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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