

Acts 1: Wrong Question, Better Answer

Acts 1:6-8 (with Luke 24:46-49 and Isaiah 49:6) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Forty days with the risen Jesus, and the disciples ask the question most of us would ask: “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus doesn’t give them a date. “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.” He gives them a promise instead: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses**.” That isn’t a pep talk, and it isn’t an order. It’s Jesus telling them what his Spirit is going to make of them. And the phrase “**to the end of the earth**” comes straight out of Isaiah 49:6, where God promises his Servant will be a light for the nations. We still want the calendar. Jesus still hands us the promise. Today we start the book of Acts, and this verse is the frame for all of it.

GO DEEPER, STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **Acts 1:6-8**, then **Isaiah 49:6**, then **Acts 13:47**, where Paul and Barnabas quote Isaiah 49:6 as their marching orders. Ask who “the end of the earth” is for, and whether you’re in it. Then read **Luke 24:46-49** and notice how much of Acts 1:8 Jesus already said at the end of Luke’s first volume.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in Acts: **Acts 13:47** (Isaiah 49:6 quoted as a command) · **Acts 28:31** (the book ends with the kingdom preached “without hindrance”) · **Acts 2:47** (the Lord adds to the church)

Luke’s Gospel: **Luke 24:46-49** (witnesses, power from on high, beginning from Jerusalem) · **Luke 22:29-30** (the Twelve and the kingdom)

Rest of Scripture: **Isaiah 49:6** (light to the end of the earth) · **Isaiah 43:10** (“you are my witnesses”) · **1 Thessalonians 5:1** (the same “times and seasons”)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

God Will Clothe Your Weakness with Power

Marshall Segal · Desiring God (article)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/god-will-clothe-your-weakness-with-power>

A short read on Acts 1:6-8 and Luke 24: what the promised power is for, and why it’s about carrying Jesus’ name.

Commentary on Acts, Volume 1

John Calvin · Christian Classics Ethereal Library (free, public domain)

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom36.html>

Calvin on Acts 1 to 13, free to read online. His comments on 1:6-8 run just a few pages.