



Inheriting The Promise

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"Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:12-14).

In response to the message from the angels, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. Like Paul the apostle, they were "not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19). As they returned, the pertinent question could have been "what next"? This scripture outlines salient principles for inheriting the promises:

- 1) **Remember the first command.** Before, the angelic message, Jesus had already commanded them "... that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me" (Acts 1:4). It is always important to remember the first command and stick to it faithfully, if the end result is to be achieved. Cutting corners will not accelerate the fulfilment of promises, but rather can potentially derail one from the path of fulfilment.
- 2) **No "Solo-Pilot".** On return to Jerusalem they "went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James" (vs 13). They could have resorted to their individual homes to pray on their own, but they not only recognised but also utilised the power of united corporate prayers, as highlighted in verse 14 - "These all **continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**".
- 3) **Remain faithful to the command.** This scripture does not tell us how many witnessed the ascension of Jesus and heard the angelic message. Some believe that based on Paul's ac-

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count of post resurrection appearances of Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, the number could have been above 120. Note verse 6 **"After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once..."**. If this is true, then Acts 1:15 suggests that not all who heard, remained faithful to the command - "And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty)". What happened to the over 380? Truly, as Jesus declared "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

- 4) **Carry out the instruction:** Those who obeyed, went on with the business of prayer. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14).
- 5) **Follow Through with faith and patience:** "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12). Speaking of the importance of persevering till the end, Jesus challenged His listeners "... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).
- 6) **Cross the finishing line.** Not everyone who start a race, finishes it. King Solomon pointed out that "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit" (Ecclesiastes 7:8). And Jesus confirmed that it is only those who "... endure to the end... shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Because of the faithfulness of those who patiently waited, we today have the privilege of learning of God's faithfulness in fulfilling promises. There are promises for you to inherit!