

***Study of Acts 1***  
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The book of Acts is a very important book and as its title points out, this book describes how the apostles and Messiah acted out their faith, their belief system. The very first thing that the writer says, I believe sets the theme for the whole book.

If you ask any believer in Messiah, did Messiah **KEEP** and **DO** the Law, the Torah of our heavenly Father perfectly, then I believe that most, if not all will say yes He did. Some will add that He kept it perfectly so that ***we would not have to***. In other words, when these so called believers in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob say that Messiah did indeed **KEEP** the Law, the Torah of the Father, **BUT** that He **KEPT** the Law, the Torah so that we would **NOT HAVE TO KEEP IT**; what they are saying in essence **IS**, Elohim created the human race as a race of failures, a group of individuals that **CANNOT** and or **WILL NOT** follow His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His directives for life.

Since according to Scripture our heavenly Father **IS** inerrant, which means that He makes **NO** mistakes, this man made belief system would have us believe that Elohim purposely created us to fail.

I cannot accept that premise because I know that my Elohim is a loving caring compassionate Father who would never ever give me **ANY** task that I could not do without providing the means to do it. The Scriptures are very plain and clear to understand. *Jeremiah 31:31* and *Ezekiel 36:26-27* tells us that our Heavenly Father made a Covenant with us which we broke, and because of His great love grace and mercy our heavenly father renewed His Covenant with us and He lovingly filled every willing heart with His Holy Spirit to cause all those willing hearts to walk out His statutes and His ordinances and His Torah. If you add what Paul said, *I can do **all** things through Messiah who strengthens me*, then saying that Elohim created us knowing we would fail is actually blasphemous, for it calls Elohim a liar.

In verse one, the very first verse, the theme for the whole book of Acts is set. The writer, believed to be Luke, says, *I have written of all that Yeshua began to do and teach*. This is a very profound statement.

The writer is saying, *In my book I have written of how Messiah lived, how HE acted and what He taught and what He lived*.

As I said before, most **if not all** believers in Messiah believe that He **KEPT the Law, the Torah of Elohim perfectly**. So then, **IF** He did indeed **KEEP** the Law, the Torah perfectly, which the Scriptures emphatically support and the writer of Acts says that He taught what He lived, that therefore means that what Messiah taught us **WAS** the Torah of our heavenly given to Moses at Mount Sinai, His Torah that teaches us how to live the life that our Heavenly Father wants us to live, a life of righteousness *Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, IF we observe to do ALL these Commandments before YHVH our Elohim, as He has commanded us*. Therefore, **IF** Messiah lived and taught the Torah and John tells us in *1John 2* that *we ought to walk as He, Messiah walked*, then that means that we too ought to walk in a Torah obedient life. *1 John*

2:4 He that says I know Him, and **KEEPS NOT** His commandments, is a liar, and the **TRUTH**, the Torah (Psalm 119:142) is not in him. 5 But whoso keeps His Word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. 6 He that says he abides in Him **ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.**

If that is the case, which I believe the Scripture says it is, then what is or was Messiah's role? Messiah's role was to teach us how to live a totally surrendered Torah obedient life to our heavenly Father, and to equip us, through His teaching and instructions, His doctrinal teaching, to walk as our heavenly Father wants us to walk, walk in **HIS** paths of righteousness, (*Deuteronomy 6:25*). John tells us in *2John 9* *Whosoever transgresses, and abides NOT in the doctrine of Messiah, has NOT Elohim. He that DOES abide in the doctrine of Messiah, HE HAS both the Father and the Son.* To understand what John is saying here in *2John 9* we have to KNOW What Messiah's Doctrine was? Was it something New that He came to teach us? What do the scriptures say? Messiah said in *John 7:16* *My Doctrine is NOT My own but it is the Doctrine of Him that sent Me.* This confirms to us that Messiah lived a Torah obedient life, and because of it He was crucified on the cross, so that we could learn from Him and walk as He walked, in total surrendered obedience to our heavenly Father's sound doctrine, His life Giving Torah.

Messiah's death reconnected every believer with the Father through His Holy Spirit, who the Father so graciously gives to every surrendered heart to *cause* that surrendered heart, to walk out the life of Messiah, His Torah obedient Life and do the things that Messiah did. Messiah told us in *John 14:12* *and greater works than these shall you do, IF you believe in Me and the life that I lead because I go unto the Father.*

Now I believe we have established the theme and the purpose of the book of Acts, and therefore we can now begin our study of this book.

The book of Acts tells us, what Yeshua did and what He taught, and, that He did it steadfastly until the day that He was taken up, and furthermore, He, Messiah, through the Holy Spirit, gave Commandments unto the Apostles whom He had chosen.

Well, if Messiah lived a Torah obedient life and He taught what He lived, what do you think are the Commandments or the doctrine that He gave to the Apostles? One does not have to be a rocket scientist to understand that Messiah gave the Commandments of the Father to the Apostles, so that they could in turn give them unto the people. In the book of John which is the book prior to the book of Acts, we are told in *verse 1* *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word WAS Elohim,* and in *verse 14* it says, *and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

So we have the Word of YHVH becoming flesh, living among the people and the apostles, and then teaching them Torah everyday that He was with them. Then when He was taken up to heaven, He commanded them to do exactly the same as He did, can there be any room for doubt that Elohim created all of us to walk in victory and in His Truth, Elohim's Truth which **IS** His Torah, and when we do, He showers us with blessings. Read *Leviticus 26: 1-13* and *Deuteronomy 28: 1-14.*

My friends, Messiah is the living Torah and to say that Messiah would teach anything that is contrary to the Word of our heavenly Father is to say that Messiah would teach something that is contrary to Himself and the Father's Torah, for He is the Living Word, the Living Torah of the Father and to say that He would teach against what the Father has Commanded is blasphemy.

*Verse 3* tells us of the infallible proof that Messiah died and rose again and that before He was taken up to Heaven, He Commanded the Apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard of Me.

What is the promise of the Father that Messiah is referring to here? Can anyone tell me where it is found in Scripture?

It is found in *Ezekiel 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you*, Why did YHVH put His Spirit within them and through them into us? He did it so that His *Spirit would cause us to walk in His statutes and KEEP His judgements and do them*, read *Ezekiel 36: 26-27* for yourself and you will see, that what I say is correct. The Holy Spirit was given to us BY our heavenly Father for one specific purpose, and that **IS** to cause us, to cause every believer who has surrendered his heart to the Father to walk out His Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.

Well **IF** the Spirit that the Apostles received, caused them to walk out the Torah in their lives, what do you think they **TAUGHT** when they were sent out to teach the world the Word of YHVH?

*Verse 5* is a very curious verse for me, for I was taught that there were two baptisms and that you weren't filled with the Holy Spirit unless you were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Now that I have studied the Scriptures for myself, I can attest that this teaching **IS** nonsense.

First of all when you are baptized in the name of the Father or the Son, you receive all of what YHVH has to offer. He does not give you a little bit of this and a little bit of that and then make you return for more. When you have the Son, you have the Father and His Holy Spirit, for they are **ONE**, they are Echad, according to *Deuteronomy 6:4* (The Shemah)

So what is this baptism spoken of here in *verse 5*?

I want you to notice first that when we are baptized we are baptized by other people as witnesses. But here, it is the hand of Elohim that does the work and later on when they are actually covered by the Holy Spirit there was a sound **LIKE** a mighty rushing wind that comes into the room and then flames or tongues of fire come to rest above the head of each of the twelve Apostle. The word *baptized* means fully immersed. Therefore the Apostles were fully immersed in the Holy Spirit, represented here by the tongues of fire.

I will admit however that **IF** I ever encounter a group of people that are baptizing other people in the *baptism of the Holy Spirit* and **THERE IS** the sound of a mighty rushing wind and I see tongues of fire come to rest on the heads of those that are being baptized, I will have to reconsider my position on this matter.

My dear friends, our heavenly Father, empowers people to accomplish certain tasks through and by His Holy Spirit. No one can baptize you or immerse you in the Holy Spirit except Yahweh Himself and then it will only be because He has a special task for you to do, and it will not have to be evidenced by you speaking in tongues or knocking people over.

*Verse 7* tells us that it is not for us to know the times or the season which the Father has put in His own power. Since Yahweh created us, He knows us intimately and therefore He knows that we cannot handle knowing the future because it would harm us if we knew.

*Verse 8* supports what I told you about being immersed in the Holy Spirit. Yahweh had a special task for these Apostles and He knew that they would need help to accomplish those tasks that He had given them; therefore He immersed them in His Spirit, the same way that He did the Patriarchs, to equip them to do His will.

They indeed received power after the Holy Spirit came upon them. But what was the power for and why did they receive this Holy Spirit power? They received this Holy Spirit power so that they could be witnesses. Witnesses of what? Witnesses of the life of Messiah. What is the life of Messiah that they were to be witnesses of? They were to be witnesses to the world of the FACT the Messiah lived a totally Torah obedient life.

The word *witness* is not difficult to understand. It means that a person reports exactly what they saw and heard. You do not add to or take away from what you have heard or seen. But you report exactly what you have seen and what you have heard. That is the definition of being a witness, you report the true facts exactly as it happened.

Therefore the power that the Apostles received was to be **TRUTHFUL WITNESSES** of the living **TRUTH**, the Torah obedient life that Messiah lived **ALL** the days that He was here on earth with us, Messiah who **IS** the Word of Elohim made flesh, YHVH's Living Torah, and that all that believe in Him were to emulate Messiah's life and be Torah obedient also.

*Verses 9-11* Messiah is taken up to heaven in front of witnesses, we are told that there were *two men* that spoke to the Apostles and said, *You men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into Heaven? This same Yeshua which is taken up from you into Heaven shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into Heaven.*

These two witnesses are telling us that Messiah will return to the very spot that He left from. In other words, He will return to exactly where He left from and that my friends, is Jerusalem. These are all warnings for us so that **IF** we hear that Messiah has returned and it is not at Jerusalem, exactly where He left from, then we are to know and understand that, whoever this person is who claims to be Messiah **IS A LIAR** and we are to stay away from him regardless of what signs and wonders he performs.

After Messiah was taken up to Heaven, the disciples returned to the city of Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet. It says that they were all of one accord. To be of one accord, means that they were in agreement. They were all in agreement with what? They were in agreement with the way that Yeshua lived and with what He taught. If Messiah **IS** indeed the Living Torah *John 1:1* **THEN** what Messiah lived and taught is the Torah of our heaven; y Father given to Moses at Mount Sinai.

In *Deuteronomy 18:18* Yahweh said unto Mosheh *I will raise them up a prophet like unto Moses from among their brethren and I, Yahweh, will put My Words in His mouth and He shall speak unto them ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM.*

*John 7:16 My doctrine is not My own, but it is His that sent Me.* This was spoken directly from Yeshua's mouth.

*John 6: 38 For I came down from Heaven **NOT** to do **Mine own will BUT** to **DO the will of Him that sent Me.***

*John 4:34 My meat is **TO DO THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME and TO FINISH HIS WORK.***

*John 8: 28 I do nothing of Myself **BUT as My Father has taught Me, I speak these things.***

*John 8:55 I know Him and Keep His sayings (His sayings are Torah)*

*John 9:4 **I MUST work the works of Him that sent Me** while it is day. (the works are the Torah)*

*John 12:49 -50 For I have not spoken of Myself **BUT the Father who sent Me, He gave Me a Commandment WHAT I SHOULD SAY AND WHAT I SHOULD SPEAK.** And I KNOW that His Commandments, His Torah is Life everlasting; **whatsoever I speak therefore, EVEN AS THE FATHER SAID UNTO ME, SO I SPEAK.***

I could go on much longer but the point I am making is that Messiah/YHVH lived the life of an obedient Son, He obeyed and lived and taught His Father's Torah, His Father's Words. Therefore if the Apostles were in agreement with the way Messiah lived and with what He taught, that means that they were in agreement with Torah and that they would teach what they were in accord with. Peter said *Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Yeshua.*

The word *fulfilled* is the Greek word *pleroo*. This word *pleroo*, in the Septuagint is used in *1 Kings 14* and it is translated as *confirm*. The Hebrew word that is used here is מלא, *male*, which means *to accomplish, confirm, consecrate* etc. It is Strong's #4390

So what Peter is saying is that the Scripture that David spoke in *Psalms 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.* This Scripture needed to be fulfilled or confirmed, and it was confirmed by the actions of Judas Iscariot

Messiah was betrayed by a person from His own house, a person that sat under Messiah's teaching and saw all the miracles that our Heavenly Father did through Messiah and yet, still betrayed Him. *Psalms 69: 16-26; Psalm 109: 4-8*

In *verse 15* Peter says, we need to replace Judas as an apostle and I suggest that it be someone that has been with us or accompanied us all the time that Adonai Yeshua went in and out among us. So they appointed two people, Joseph called Barsabas (son of Sabas) and Matthias (gift of Elohim) and they prayed to Yahweh, who knows the hearts of all men, to choose between these two men and appoint one to take the place of Judas.

*1 Samuel 16:7* But Yahweh said to Samuel, *Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For Yahweh does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart.* Also *1 Chronicles 28:9; 29:17; Jeremiah 11:20; 17:10*

So they trusted Yahweh to make their decision for them and they gave their lots after praying fervently to Yahweh to guide them and the lot fell on Matthias, *Gift of Elohim*, and he was numbered with the 11 apostles bringing the number back to 12 which represents Elohim's perfect government.

What are we to learn from Chapter One of Acts? How would you summarize this chapter? Keeping in mind, that the first chapter sets the theme for the whole book. We learned that Messiah taught His Apostles by words and examples. In the Hebrew mindset, which is the mindset that the bible was written in, it is not only what you profess to believe that is important, but what you **DO IS** also of **PARAMOUNT** importance, for if you **SAY** and **DO NOT DO**, then you are a hypocrite. Messiah lived a Torah obedient life or else He could not have been our spotless Lamb for it says in *1John 3:4* that **Sin** is the transgression of the Torah. Therefore if He was sinless it means that He lived a Torah obedient life. And if He lived a Torah obedient life, then we can rest assured that He also taught His disciples to live a Torah obedient life as He, Messiah, had lived and instructed them to teach others to do the same. The life that Messiah lived **IS** a Torah obedient life.

We have also learned that **NOT** all that hear the Word of Elohim will respond positively and that people from our own house may betray us. Furthermore we have learned that Messiah's life was the fulfillment or confirmation of prophecy of the coming Messiah, spoken of in the Scriptures. *But most of all we learned that we must TRUST Yahweh and acknowledge Him in all that we do. Amein*

*Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.*

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein*