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It is common knowledge that the Book of ACTS starts, just like the Gospel of Luke, by it being addressed to a Person called **Theophilus**. As to the identity of this Person, meaning *who he really was*, we will see when we come to Chapter Four of the Book of ACTS.

ACTS 1:3 states that YASHUA *did* many things in order to PROVE that HE indeed HAS RISEN from the dead, as well as taught for 40 days. Luke 24:41-43 John 21:9&13 state that HE also *ate*, during that period. So in the **resurrected body** we continue to eat too. Apart from Revelation 2:7, Chapter 19 states about the *‘Marriage Supper of The Lamb.’* The most quoted Scripture Verse is Revelation 3:20 – “Behold, I stand at the door and knock and if anyone hears My Voice and opens the door, I Will Come into him and will eat or sup with him and he with Me.”

That Verse would primarily refer to the kind of *‘fellowshipping’* that is part and parcel of the Middle Eastern and hence Hebrew Culture. In fact **Jewish People** even today say “**Come Break Bread with me**”, when they meet their friends, just like in Sri Lanka we say “*Come let us have a cup of tea*”. So it is nice to know that there would be *fellowshipping with meals* in the **Resurrected Body too**.

Then The Lord gives them a command as per ACTS 1:4 & 5 “NOT to leave Jerusalem but to wait until they were **‘Empowered’** to DO what they would be *entrusted TO DO [ACTS]*”. When we initially encounter GOD, we feel like going and *‘winning the whole world’*. We become *SO* enthusiastic and **try to ‘Run ahead of GOD’**. What Luke states in ACTS 1:4 & 8, he also mentions at the end of his Gospel – 24:49. That shows they are **‘YASHUA’S Instructions’**, NOT ONLY to the original Disciples, **but to ALL who would become His Disciples, down the centuries.**

(2)

*We must wait until we are **equipped***, mainly through being ‘Properly Discipled’. The Lord goes on to say that the Disciples will be *Equipped* with the ‘**Promise** the Father Himself Made.’ Christ made an important statement during His Earthly Ministry that has made some People wonder about the meaning of which, because due to translational confusions it had become rather ‘clouded’. It is recorded in Mathew 11:12, where He said in effect, ‘From the days of John the Baptist, The Kingdom of God Has Been Advancing Forcefully and ‘Forceful People’ will take it *Forward*, also ‘**Forcefully**’.

Yochanon The Immerser and YASHUA The Messiah [*In English generally called John the Baptist and Jesus Christ*] BOTH ‘Began Their Ministries making identical statements – “*Repent, for The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*”– Matthew 3 : 1 and 4 : 17.

The battle is between The **Kingdom of Light** and the *kingdom of darkness*, from which Father GOD has snatched us out, as per Colossians 1:13.

Anyone NEEDS POWER TO BE VICTORIOUS IN ANY BATTLE. In ACTS 1:5 Our Lord said “For John truly baptized with water but soon you shall be **Baptized with The Holy Spirit**”. So not only we need to be spiritually regenerated or born again, **but NEED to be Spiritually EMPOWERED too.**

This is one of the ‘*Clearest Messages*’ in the Book of ACTS that we **ought to be mindful of**. It is *not just* ‘once in a life time’ experience either, but is an ongoing process as Ephesians 5:18 indicates – “Do not be drunk with wine, that leads to excess, but be filled with The Spirit”. The **sense** there is, ‘*Keep on Being or Getting Filled*’ as many Bible scholars could attest.

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Therefore we all **need** to be ‘Filled with the Holy Spirit’ *daily* for the **Father’s Purposes** to be Accomplished in our lives. It is recorded in **Mathew 7:21** which also is part of the Sermon on the Mount, “*It is NOT everyone* who says ‘Lord, Lord’ that will enter into The Kingdom of Heaven; but he that **DOES the WILL of MY FATHER, WHO is in heaven**”

Therefore it becomes imperative for us ‘*Find out*’ **WHAT The FATHER WANTS us TO DO** and get busy doing **THAT. Then HIS WILL would be done on earth, AS it is IN heaven.**

It would be the desire of every Believer to **Glorify GOD**. Regarding *that*, the ‘*Best Example*’ we have is **Our Dear Lord Himself**. See what HE Himself Said, in what **really** is The Lord’s Prayer, recorded in John 17:4, “**I Have GLORIFIED YOU on the earth by Finishing the Work YOU GAVE ME TO DO.**”

ACTS 1:6 shows that the Disciples met the Lord **MANY times** and then the Apostles asked a **very pertinent** question **to them AS JEWS**, “Will You **restore the kingdom to Israel NOW?**” Verse 3 records one of the important things Christ spoke about, when He appeared to the Disciples over a period of 40 days “....And Spoke about things ‘Concerning The **Kingdom of GOD.**”

It may be strange for many Believers in Christ to realize **that Christ ONLY Spoke about ‘This Kingdom’**. Mark, Luke and John state the ‘**Kingdom of GOD**’ in their Gospels, whereas Matthew states ‘**Kingdom of Heaven**’ in his Gospel. **So it is ALL about ‘The Kingdom’**, even as Matthew 3:1 and 4:17 quoted above clearly show. In what is generally called ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ it is ‘**Thy Kingdom Come**’. Another key Verse is Matthew 6:33 – ‘Seek you **first the Kingdom of GOD and His righteousness**’

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So it appears that our **‘Primary Task’** in *continuing WHAT Christ Started IS taking The KINGDOM OF GOD FORWARD.*

In Greek **‘Tays Basileias’** which is translated ‘The Kingdom’, is not only a geographical Kingdom limited to a certain area, but also means, either ***Rulership or Kingship over a ‘Person’s Life’.*** THAT was **WHAT** Christ initially Spoke about and hence He said the ‘Kingdom of GOD is **WITHIN you’.**

Therefore it is all about **CHRIST REIGNING AS THE KING, IN each and every Believer’s life.**

The Disciples were expecting the **Messiah** mentioned in *their* Scriptures to **Come and Rule geographically** and that is why they asked in Verse 6 “Lord, are you at this time [or now] going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” At that time **they had no idea that would happen only at ‘His Second Coming’.**

Now to something which could be a surprise to many. **This Kingdom is Jewish,** see Luke 1:32 & 33. We need to have a proper understanding of WHAT The Lord was really speaking about.

The Bible is a Jewish Book and **the Messiah it speaks about IS a Jewish Messiah,** Who will ‘Rule over the Jewish People’ as Luke 1:32 & 33 clearly states. Moreover **all** the Books in the Bible **primarily relate to ‘GOD’S Dealings’ with THAT Nation,** as well as the People, called **Judah, Israel, Ephraim or Jacob** in diverse places. **THAT PART of the Prophecy** Angel Gabriel gave the Blessed Virgin of Nazareth is **YET to be fulfilled and will take place ONLY when Christ Returns.**

(5)

AT PRESENT *Christ is Seated AT the Right Hand of The Father, ON The Father's Throne* – [Mark 16:19 and Revelation 3:21] – **which is IN heaven and NOT in Jerusalem, where David's throne was and therefore also will be in the future.**

HE *IS* the King of kings of the whole earth – Revelation 19:16. But HE IS the **King of the Jewish People** as the 'Notice' over His Head on the Cross also stated and **He Will Reign over House of Jacob** forever, as per Luke 1:33.

That is another subject all together and only wanted to point out the fact that **HE is Coming Back primarily as the 'King of the Jewish People'**. I heard that a new book has come out entitled "*When a JEW Rules the world*", about the Millennium.

With regard to this point, would like to draw the reader's attention to what **Christ Himself States** as recorded in the Last Chapter of the Last Book of the Bible. And IT IS *quite significant* as THAT IS the **Main Requirement** the Person **Who would be sitting ON the 'Throne of David NEEDS to Possess.** We know that GOD Being 'All Just' would *Never Do* something that is not Proper or Correct.

So *what are* the requirements needed to sit on king David's throne? The Person HAS to be a Jew, but being a Jew is *not enough.* He also HAS to be *from* the tribe of Judah. But even that is NOT enough. **HE HAS to be from the LINE OF KING DAVID.**

Mathew gives the *lineage* of the Messiah from the side of Joseph, the Foster Father. So after David, he continues down the *line of Solomon* – Mathew 1:6-7 – which shows YASHUA's Lineage from David through Solomon.

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Whereas Luke 3:31 states, ‘**Mattatha son of Nathan, the son of David**, the son of Jesse’. So Luke goes down the lineage of Miriam [*Mary in most English translations*] the Mother of YASHUA.

When we refer to 2nd Samuel 5:14 we see that Nathan was elder to Solomon. So both Gospel Writers attest to the **fact** that YASHUA Came as a normal man into this world **through the ‘Family of King David’**

After stating in Revelation 22:12 that He Is Coming Soon, YASHUA Says in Verse 16 that, “**HE IS the Root and Offspring OF DAVID**”.

HE ***does not*** say ‘I was the Root and Offspring of David’. We know that HE actually is the Creator of David. **YET with regard to HIS Second Coming** to Reign on this earth for a thousand years, **HE Himself Says, HE Will Be Coming Back as the ‘Root and Offspring OF David’**.

Thus HE will be ‘Fully Qualified’ TO SIT ON the ‘Throne of David’ and **Rule over the ‘House of Jacob’**.

The Apostles were very familiar with the fact, as all of them were Jewish, that **the Jewish Messiah Is Coming ‘To Rule Over the Nation of Israel’** and THAT IS *WHY*, they asked that question in the first place. But what they were *not aware of* at the time was the FACT that **GOD’S Plan HAD TO DO with the ENTIRE human race**, that HE Himself Had Created.

In GOD’S Mighty Plan, the **Gospel was to go to the Gentiles TOO**. We have to remember that THOSE DAYS there was *NO* printing and hence the “**Scrolls of Scripture**” were *available ONLY* with the **Jewish People**, some of whom were Greek speaking and so had the Septuagint.

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The Gentile Nations of that time *did NOT know that GOD had Dictated ‘His Will and Purposes’* to a Group of People called *Hebrews, Israel etc. beginning with His servant Moses and continuing through various Hebrew Prophets.*

People in the rest of the world did *not* know about **this GOD then, unless** they were ‘**Proselytes**’ or those who were called “*God fearers*”. Job falls into this second category.

We will look at these People later, **as they are also a PART of the Book of ACTS. The rest of the People in the world at that time did NOT know that a Messiah was even coming.**

There was NO mass media, unlike today and so **what happened among the Jewish People was known among the Jewish People ONLY.**

At this juncture in the narrative of the Book of ACTS, the Apostles were *ignorant of the FACT that GOD’S Plan WAS for the rest of the world was also to ‘Come to KNOW HIM* [John 3:16 and 17:3].

And that was mainly through ‘The Message’ of HIS SON’S Incarnation and Crucifixion *FOR the ‘Atonement of sins’* and also HIS Resurrection, as **death HAD to be defeated,** being Preached *among the Gentile Nations. .*

That part was hidden from these Jewish Disciples at this point in the Book of ACTS and *sadly would continue be so,* down the history of mankind, among the Jewish People *in general,* “**Until the Fullness of the Gentiles IS Complete**”, as Paul states in Roman 11:25.