

## The Seed of The Kingdom

Acts 1:1-3

In weeks past we have seen that the overall conquest of God's kingdom in Acts is structured after the days of creation, and the inauguration of God's kingdom reflects the days of creation in chapters 1-2. Now I want to, very briefly, explain the seed of God's Apostolic kingdom in 1:1-3. Aligning the order of the original Greek text, I've offered a translation of the passage on the left and a summary of the themes on the right side:

The first word I made concerning everything, O God-Lover,

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|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1. that Jesus both began to do and to teach, until the day -   | 1. Light of Christ life                          | Day 1 - Light            |
| 2. after He commanded the apostles through the Holy Spirit,  | 2. <u>Forming</u> apostolic barrier of KOG       | Day 2 - Barrier          |
| 3. whom He had chosen -  | 3. KOG <i>filled</i> first with apostles         | Day 3 - Initial Plants   |
| 4. when He was taken up:   | 4. Christ, the Light-Bearer, Ascended            | Day 4 - Heavenly ruler   |
| 5. whom also He presented Himself living   | 5. Christ <i>gives (fills)</i> living evidence   | Day 5 - Living fish/fowl |
| 6. after His suffering by many infallible proofs,  | 6. Suffering <u>Form</u> : apostles will conform | Day 6 - New Adams        |
| 7. during forty days of being seen by them and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. | 7. 40 days of teaching, work is finished         | Day 7 - Christ's rest    |

The following is a brief explanation of how I see these phrases reflect the days of creation.

1. Jesus is the Light of the World and He dwelled with His Apostles until the day of His ascension. This corresponds with God creating light on Day 1.

2. Jesus gave commands to His Apostles through the Holy Spirit. The Apostolic writings and doctrinal commands constitute the boundary of the Apostolic kingdom of God. "Apostolic Succession" as propagated by Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy does not define the boundary of the Apostolic Church. It is the Apostolic doctrine that defines that boundary. Just as God made the firmament barrier on Day 2, here Christ institutes the only legitimate barrier of His kingdom: Apostolic doctrine given by the Lord Himself.

3. Christ choose the Apostles. Just as on Day 3 God initially filled the earth with plants, even so the Apostles were the initial plants with which God started filling His kingdom. They were the elected foundation with Christ being the chief cornerstone (Eph.2:20).

4. Christ was taken up. He ascended beyond the firmament barrier that was made on Day 2. Ruling stars, moon, and sun were made on Day 4 and place *within* the firmament. Now the Ruling Christ ascends *above* the rulers of the Old Creation. Christ the Light-bearer of all creation was enthroned in the highest of heavens, and creation was subject to Him. When that happened all angels, and all creation praised Him. See Rev. 4-5.

5. Christ presented Himself to the Apostles as *living*. Likewise on Day 5 of creation God filled the earth with life. He filled the seas with fish and the land with fowl. I see the Apostles as being filled with the living evidence of Christ. Their witness of Christ authorized them to be an Apostle. See Acts 2:21-22, I John 1:1-4

6. Jesus' "suffering by many infallible proofs" is mentioned here. Notice the "suffering" is singular. This is focusing on his death. His death sets the standard for the Apostolic church. We are brought into conformity to his death. His death is the form, the mold, the pattern, and even *goal* to which the church of God of is called to strive for. In His death humanity is remade, or re-created. Adam went through type of good death-sleep on the 6<sup>th</sup> Day. God woke him and glorified him with a beautiful bride. Likewise Jesus died to His human will (good-death), and chose to suffer the penalty of death (bad-death) on our behalf. And in His resurrection God glorified His Son with a bride. (Eph.5)

7. After Jesus' resurrection He was with the Apostles for 40 days. His work on earth was complete, just as God's work of making earth was complete, and He rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Jesus was tested for 40 days before He began his earthly ministry. Now Jesus rests for 40 days with His Apostles before He begins his heavenly ministry of interceding for us. The initial and final stages of Jesus' earthly ministry are enclosed with "40 days".