

And Beyond
Acts 1:8b
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Here & There

Let's go.

Acts 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Here and there

- 1) Jesus called us to be goers – 1:8 *you will be my witnesses*...
 - a. Jerusalem: Local
 - b. Judea: Regional
 - c. Samaria: Cross-cultural
 - d. To the end of the earth: International

Paul Barnett: “It is difficult to overestimate the effects of Paul’s assault on Christians in Jerusalem, provoked as it was by Stephen’s attack on the Temple and ‘Moses.’ Believers from Jerusalem were scattered throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria and beyond the borders of the land of Israel to the safety of Damascus and Antioch. Had these events not occurred, Christianity may have remained a Jerusalem-based sect to be swept away in the Roman invasion of 66-70 together with groups like the Essenes and the Sadducees.”¹

2) Jesus called us to be senders.

3) Jesus promised us the ability to go and send – 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses

George Liele: Former slave and America’s first international baptized missionary.² His ministry transformed Jamaica leading to thousands of people becoming followers of Jesus in the early 1800s.³

Changing climate of world missions

- Post-Christianizing in the West: If objective truth does not exist, then missions makes no sense.
- Rise in anti-missionary sentiment.
- Rise in national missions partnerships.
- The climate may change, but the mission remains.

How can you get involved?

- Pray
- Give
- Go

“Let’s face it: There aren’t many things you can do in this world that really last. Most of the things we give so much of our time and energy to die out even before we do. And the ones that outlive us usually endure, at most, for a generation or two—and then our efforts are forgotten. “*Everything is meaningless . . .*” said Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes. “No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them” (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 11). Well, that may be true in ordinary human terms. But in God’s greater world, things have a lot longer shelf life—that is, an eternal one! It’s worth letting this sink in: The only things that last forever besides God and his heavenly kingdom are people. No, we can’t take any of our possessions, accomplishments, or trophies with us. But we can take our family members. Our sons and daughters. Our grandkids. Our parents. Our siblings. Our aunts and uncles. Our cousins. Our friends. Our coworkers. Our neighbors. Even the guy who fixes our car, or the folks who dry-clean our clothes. Every one of them was created in the image of God, and they were made to know him. But they need to be reached. They need to hear the Good News, and perhaps the story of how God reached and redeemed you. They need spiritual answers and some assistance in putting the puzzle pieces together.” – Mark Mittelberg, *Contagious Faith: Discover Your Natural Style for Sharing Jesus with Others*⁴

¹ Paul Barnett, *The Birth of Christianity The First Twenty Years* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005), 32.

² <https://www.imb.org/2018/06/26/missionaries-you-should-know-george-liele/>.

³ <https://baptistcourier.com/2018/08/a-freed-slave-was-americas-first-missionary/> <https://www.imb.org/2018/06/26/missionaries-you-should-know-george-liele/>

⁴ Mark Mittelberg, *Contagious Faith: Discover Your Natural Style for Sharing Jesus with Others* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021), 207.