**

**An Unexpected Journey**

February 25, 2024 | Acts 1:1–11 | Pastor Taylor Bradbury

**The risen and ascended Christ gives his redeemed**

**people heavenly power for a global mission.**

**Acts 1**

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 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.”

Leader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

1. **A salvation accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ (1–5)**

**1**Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, **2**just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, **3**it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4**that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1–4)

1. **A mission empowered by the Spirit of Jesus (6–8)**

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
     and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
     and my blessing on your descendants. (Isaiah 44:3; see also Isaiah 32:15, Joel 2:28)

The Church is the pilgrim people of God. It is on the move — hastening to the ends of the earth to beseech all men to be reconciled to God, and hastening to the end of time to meet its Lord who will gather all into one…It cannot be understood rightly except in a perspective which is at once missionary and eschatological. (Lesslie Newbigin, *The Household of God*, 25).

**3. A hope bolstered by the ascended Lord (9–11)**

13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.14And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13–14)