



Chapter One:

The Necessity of Next

Acts 1:6-11

September 26, 2021

Ascension Day

Is it at this time you are going to restore the Kingdom? v.6

The long-pent-up prophetic hope of Israel's ascendancy and glory

It is not for us to know endpoints

We receive power for what's near and next: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth v.8

Jesus will come in the same way (v.11): In the fullness of time (see Galatians 4:4)

The Fullness of Time

God does not take short-cuts

God Who made time respects time-bound realities

Creation is a series of building blocks (see Genesis 1)

Israel's long pathway (see Genesis 15:12-16)

Jesus comes as a baby (see Luke 2:40)

Fullness as the right time for something to happen ("kairos")

The Way from Here To There

That you have a special destiny (see Jeremiah 1:5, Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 12:11, 1 Peter 4:10)

But the way from where you are to there is simply the next step

Destiny is better seen in hindsight than in foresight

God fulfills your destiny as you are faithful with the next step

Your **Mission Outposts** are the "nexts" and "nears"

"Mission Outpost": intentionally being Jesus in the relational spheres you are already in

The story of the Deacons and the daily distribution/serving tables: Acts 6:1-6

Chapters 6- 8: Stephen's wonders, martyrdom, Philip's amazing ministry

Leapfrogging "next" in order to speed up destiny often ends up in ruin

Either you are not ready or "it" is not ready

The futility of the "mission to Venezuela"

The sad story of Elizabeth Holmes and Theranos

Faithfulness and attention here is the path to fulfilling your God-calling