

Life after Jesus: what comes next?

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The Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)

1

**'Why do you just stand here looking
at an empty sky?'**

2

'Why do you just stand here looking at an empty sky?'

- 'Don't just stand there, get on with it!'

3

'Why do you just stand here looking at an empty sky?'

- 'Don't just stand there, get on with it!'
- 'Yes, but what?'

4

'Why do you just stand here looking at an empty sky?'

Birth: 'The angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news.'" (Luke 2:10)

Resurrection: 'Two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.' (Luke 24:4)

5

What changed from meeting Jesus?

What are we now supposed to do with it? What comes next?

6

'Why do you just stand here looking at an empty sky?'

7

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'You will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (v8)

8

'Why do you just stand here looking at an empty sky?'

'You will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (v8)

'Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait** for the [Holy Spirit that] my Father promised' (v4)

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What comes after meeting Jesus?

1. Don't wait for God: be a witness

1. To be a witness, wait on God

10

1. Don't wait for God: be a witness

11

What does 'witness' mean?

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What does 'witness' mean?

To live on earth as it is
heaven

13

**How do the Twelve understand
'witness'?**

14

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'After his suffering, Jesus presented himself to the disciples and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.' (v3)

15

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'You will be my witnesses' (v8)

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How do the Twelve understand 'witness'?

'After his suffering, Jesus presented himself to the disciples and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.' (v3)

'You will be my witnesses' (v8)

'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' (v6)

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What does 'kingdom' mean?

18

What does 'kingdom' mean?

All nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. [...] **and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.'**

Daniel 7.13-14

19

What does 'kingdom' mean?

'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.** He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

All nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. [...] **and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.'**

Daniel 7.13-14

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Jesus is bringing the kingdom

- Proclaim the kingdom of God
- Gather and teach followers
- Care for the poor
- Heal the sick
- Challenge authorities

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The Twelve are living the kingdom

- Proclaim the kingdom of God ⇒ Philip in Acts 8
- Gather and teach followers ⇒ Peter and John in Acts 4
- Care for the poor ⇒ the Twelve in Acts 6
- Heal the sick ⇒ the Twelve in Acts 5
- Challenge authorities ⇒ Peter in Acts 4
- **They even resurrect people** => Peter raises Tabitha from the dead in Acts 9.

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Live on earth as it is in
heaven

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Your experience of Christ
becomes your testimony

24

The Church is the more complete witness to Christ

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The Church is the more complete witness to Christ

⇒ We cannot be complete witnesses outside the Church

26

The Church is the more complete witness to Christ

⇒ We cannot be complete witnesses outside the Church

⇒ The Church's mission is to give people a taste of heaven

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2. To be a good witness, wait on God

28

2. To be a good witness, wait on God








God is in charge, not us

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2. Wait on God

'Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait** for the [Holy Spirit that] my Father promised' (v4)

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Clergy	Clergy	Clergy	Ops manager
			
Youth pastor	Schools pastor	Students pastor	Kids lead
			
Life events administrator	Exec assistant	Buildings manager	Who's who?

31

			
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Youth pastor	Schools pastor	Students pastor	Kids lead
			
Life events administrator	Exec assistant	Buildings manager	Who's who?

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The Holy Spirit is everywhere in the early Church

- **Founds the Church**
- **Governs the Church**
- **Appoints leaders**
- **Directs mission strategy**
- **Empowers all Christians to preach, to perform miracles**
- **Cares about church finances**

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Radical changes in the early church

'you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**'

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Radical changes in the early church

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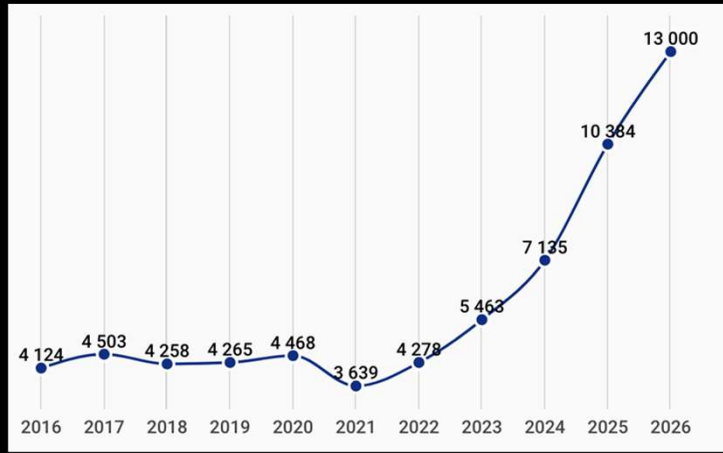
⇒ Through the Holy Spirit, the Church turns from a Jewish sect to universal religion.

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Where is God on the move?

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Where is God on the move?



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x4

Adult baptisms in the French catholic church

Where is God on the move?



Aix-en-Provence Easter 2022

Response: 'Why are you standing here looking at the empty sky?'

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Response: 'Why are you standing here looking at the empty sky?'

1. Kneel: ask for the Holy Spirit

2. Look up: Jesus is coming

3. Stand: Hear the call to be a witness

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