

Perhaps the most memorable assignment at Dallas Seminary was given by Prof Howard Hendricks, first semester. We were to make 25 observations from Acts 1.8. We could not refer to any information from any other verse. We walked into class the next period “pumped.” We were all pleased but amazed by what we had discovered with our magnifying glasses and shovels as we pored over those 39 words.

Before you look at the list below, see how many observations you can make.

Acts 1.8

“The message in the bottle”
All we know it that is in the Bible somewhere.

This is the list I made.



1. but . . . Starts in the middle of a sentence
 2. ye . . .you. . .ye. . .me 4 pronouns
 ye = part of a verb
 you = a separate word, umas plural
 ye = part of verb
 3. shall = future tense
 4. shall - only God knows future
 * this person speaks for God
 * it is a prediction, prophecy
 5. ye. . .receive = get something they don't already have
 6. power will come
 7. power will come upon them
 * question: is power limited to this “audience” T.B.D.S.
 8. power will come after, it has a condition, a time frame
 9. power will come after Holy Spirit comes upon
 10. Holy Spirit indicates that this verse is about God
-
- T.B.D.S. What doesn't this verse say?
- a. who speaks?
 - b. who listens?
 - c. when does it happen?
 OT? NT? Jesus' day Paul's day? Moses' day?
 - d. where they are?
 - e. what precedes this statement?
 - f. what follows this statement? *immed?* *soon?* *20 yrs?*
 - g. how is power to be displayed? words? miracles?
 - h. when was this written?
 - i. who wrote this?
-
11. you will be witnesses, **martyres, μαρτυρες** = a testimony
 * *you will be speaking*
 12. you will speak about me
 13. verse has 39 words, duh. 28 in Greek
 14. sentence seems to end with a period.
 15. 4 geographical areas
 * *nearby to far away*
 * *1 city, 2 counties, one global*
 * *Judea & Samaria border one another*
 - *these counties were not friendly to each other*
 * *2 have brief descriptions: all Judea / uttermost part of earth*
 - *“part” (not parts)*
 16. global statement, earth = **ges, γεσ** = we get “geo” [geo-graphy]
 * *not same Word as “world” [John 3.16] **kosmos κοσμος***

DTS, 1985

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