

Date: 4/19/20 sf3146  
Title: Forty Days After  
Text: Acts 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel. <sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. <sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

- Rained 40 days and 40 nights
- Israel in the Wilderness 40 years
- Moses on Mt. Sinai 40 days and nights
- 12 spies Promise Land 40 days
- Goliath taunted Israel 40 days in a row
- David reigned 40 years
- Solomon 40 years
- Josiah 40 years
- Jesus 40 days and 40 nights
- Jesus stayed on Earth 40 days after His resurrection Acts 1:3

At the time among the Jews, the number forty was not generally used to signify a specific number, per se, but rather more used as a general term for a large figure. When it was used in terms of time, it simply meant a “long time”. Thus, the phrase “40 days and 40 nights” was just another way to say a “really long time”.

The number forty also had great symbolic meaning to the Jews and today among Christians and Muslims as well. The number forty to the Jews is a number that, when used in terms of time, represents a period of probation, trial, and chastisement (not to be confused with judgment which is represented by the number nine.)

What was the significance of remaining 40 days on Earth before returning to Heaven?

**Jesus strengthened their conviction.**

v.3 appeared to many

Convincing proofs.

Taught them about the Kingdom of God.

**Jesus clearly stated His commands.**

v.4 wait for me do not leave Jerusalem

Go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.

Matthew 28 Teaching them to observe...

**Jesus set them apart for service.**

v.8 Holy Spirit Shall come upon you

**Jesus showed more of God's glory.**

convincing proofs

v.9 taken up into the clouds

**John 21:25** - Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.