

THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE HISTORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

EXPOSITION OF CHAPTER EIGHT

In chapter 8 we see Philip, another of the 7 Deacons chosen in chapter 6, spreading the Gospel to Samaria

VERSES 1-4, PERSECUTION SCATTERS THE WORD

Saul, who later on becomes the Apostle Paul, is introduced here in verse 1 as being a leader in the persecution of the Early Church. He makes a systematic persecution of the believers, going from house to house and brought men and women to prison (vs.3). Paul's conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ is dealt with in Acts, Chapter 9.

Great persecution came against the Church at Jerusalem. The devil has tried Religious and Political opposition from without; he has tried Spiritual corruption from within, and here we see the enemy seeking TO SCATTER THAT WHICH HE COULD NOT DESTROY OR CORRUPT.

God, also, has His hand in the matter, for one of the great dangers within the Church has been and we might add, still is the danger of getting caught up in self-serving.

You see, the message of the Church is not only:

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden ... and learn of Me" (Matthew 11:28,29).

The message of the Church is also:

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15).

God means for His word, the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, to go into "all the world ... to every creature. Persecution of the Church by the enemy is one means which God uses to scatter the Church.

We see here in Chapter 8, that the persecution of the Church did not destroy the Church, but rather scattered the Church "abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria ... (and they) went every where preaching the WORD".

2. VERSES 5-8, 12, 26-40 - PHILIP, THE EVANGELIST

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the pattern Evangelist, the Father's Herald, who announced the Good News of salvation and redemption.

Luke 4:18,19

There are three specific references to "Evangelist" in the New Testament.

1. The office/ministry of Evangelist is listed among the 5 fold Ascension Gifts of Jesus given to, and set in the Church.

Ephesians 4:8,11

2. Timothy was to do the "work of an Evangelist".

II Timothy 4:5

3. Philip is called an Evangelist. It is also worth to note that Philip "proved himself" in the local Church at Jerusalem as a Deacon first before his ministry as an Evangelist came into operation.

Acts 21:8

Acts 6:5

The English word evangelist is not a translation, but rather is a transliteration of the noun form of euaggelizo, pronounced "yoo-ang-ghelee-on." This Greek word has the meaning of "a messenger of good" (eu, well angelos, a messenger).

Euaggelizo in its verb form is most often translated preaching, preached, preach - here in Acts, Chapter 8 it is translated preaching or preached in verses 41, 12, 25, 35, 40. In each of these verses they are preaching the good news of the Gospel of Jesus.

Preached in verse 5 is not a translation of euaggelizo, but rather of kerusso, which is a general term for proclaim, the message may either good or bad news.

An EVANGELIST then, is one who preaches, proclaims, announces the good news of the Gospel, "...That God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them... (and that) whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (2 Corinthians 5:19, John 3:16). He is a "good news messenger"

Philip was a Bible Evangelist. What he was and what he did measured up to the standard of the Word.

Philip's Ministry to the Samaritans, vs 5-8,12

1. He went to Samaria. Jerusalem first then Samaria.

Acts 1:8

The Samaitans were looked upon. as dogs, Gentile dogs. They were a mixture of race, being placed in the Cities of Israel after the House of Israel was taken into captivity to Assyria. These people became known as Samaritans.

2 Kings, chapter 17

John 8:48

Luke 17:16

2. Philip preached Christ. A person, not merely a Doctrine

Acts 8:5

3. Philip preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and The Name of Jesus Christ

Acts 8:12

Acts 4:12

Matthew 10:7,8

4. Philip preached the Gospel of the Kingdom with signs following. The sick were healed, devils cast out, the lame were healed.

Acts 8:6,7

Mark 16:15-20

5. The Samaritans received the Word, and were born again and then water baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:12, 16

John 1:11-13

John 3:1-5

1 Peter 1:23

Philip's Ministry to the Ethiopian Eunuch vs. 26-40

In the midst of great crowds and blessing, Philip is called to the desert by the Angel of the Lord to minister to one hungry soul.

Acts 8:26

(Christ is concerned with the individual, not just the multitudes).

Philip was immediately obedient to the Lord vs. 27.

The hungry soul was an Ethiopian, and a person of the line of Ham, of Cush. A dark colored man. He was a man of great authority under Candace the Queen of Ethiopia, having charge of all her treasure.

He had come to Jerusalem to worship. There was a hunger in his heart for the TRUE GOD, the God of Israel.

What had he found at Jerusalem? Ritualism, form, ceremony, tradition, unbelief, spiritual deadness, Temple corruption, impersonal theology and religion.

As he reads the Scripture he realizes he lacks understanding. Though he understood not the Word, he still read it!: God had someone at the right time to guide he into the correct understanding of the Word he was reading.

The Spirit of God worked both ends. He worked on Philip, and He was working on the Ethiopian. Evangelist and convert would be brought together by the operation of the Spirit.

The Spirit goes before the Word, and works with and through the Word.

Psalm 68:18-19, 31

Ephesians 4:8,11

"Ethiopia would stretch out her hands to God," and He who had ascended on high and gave "Gifts to men" would have that ministry Gift there at the right moment.

Philip ran to him, and preached to him from the word which he was reading, JESUS!! His life, ministry, death, burial and resurrection, ascension and exaltation.

Philip preaches from Isaiah, Chapter 53, the greatest Messianic revelation in all the Old Testament Prophets.

The Ethiopian is baptized in water, verse 36. Believing with all his heart. There was nothing to hinder his obedience to this ordinance.

The first baptized believer of Africa.

Philip's ministry to the Ethiopian accomplished, the Spirit of the Lord "caught him away". Supernatural transportation.

Philip is now on a new mission field. The Spirit puts him down in Azotus where he preached in all the cities between there and Caesarea.

THESE WERE THE SIGNS OF A BIBLICAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY.

3. VERSES 9-11, 13, SIMON THE SORCERER.

Here in these verses we see the first contact of Christianity with the power of Witchcraft.

Simon, which means "hearing" was a practitioner of sorcery. Sorcery in verse 9, and the noun form in verse 11 is a translation of the Greek word magia, which means "to practice magic".

Simon then was a practitioner of magic.

It is also worthy to note that the Greek word for sorceries as used in the following Scriptures is pharmakeia, from which we get our words, pharmacy, or chemist and it means "makers of enchanters with drugs".

Revelation 9:21

Revelation 18:23

Revelation 21:8

Revelation 22:15

Also, the same word, pharmakeia, is translated witch craft in Galatians 5:20.

The practice of sorcery and magic arts were condemned under the Law of Moses, and the practitioners were under Divine Judgment.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Isaiah 47:9-12

Isaiah 57:3

Paul brought Divine Judgment upon a Sorcerer.

Acts 13:6-12

Egypt, Babylon, Greece, Rome and all nations had their wise men, necromancers, sorcerers, and magic arts, endeavoring to contact the spirit realm.

Daniel 2:2

Malachi 3:5

Exodus 7:11

Satanic Cults and Occultism increasing in these End times are simply a renewal of these Ancient Cults.

With the increase of DRUGS and thus drug addition it is evident that the evil spirit of pharmakeia is behind or associated with many of these drugs.

Sorcerers have always been and still are opposers of God's Messengers.

Here in Acts 8:9-11 in this Samaritan City where Philip was preaching Christ unto the people, there was a man named Simon who practiced the art of magic and had the whole city spell bound (bewitched).

However, Philip's Ministry in Christ was greater than the power of Simon and his evil ministry in the city.

Verse 12

Contrast Philip's Ministry and Simon's Ministry.

PHILIP

- An Evangelist
- Herald of Good News
- Preaches Christ
- Liberated the people
- There was the power of the Gospel
- The Kingdom of God, LIGHT
- Philip, full of the Holy Spirit

SIMON

- A sorcerer
- An enchanter, used black magic
- Made himself to be some great one
- Bewitched the people
- Used the power of satan
- The Kingdom of satan- DARKNESS
- Simon full of the evil spirit

verse 13, however sees Simon recognizing that there was greater power in Philip than that in which he operated, and he believes and is baptized under the Ministry of Philip.

In Acts 19:13-20, we see believers bringing their Black Magic Books and burning them in the fire, as the power of God was revealed.

4. VERSES 14-25 - PETER AND JOHN, THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

The Church at Jerusalem hears that Samaria had received the WORD OF GOD preached by Philip. So they send Peter and John to Samaria, who then lay hands on the Samaritans that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Here we see the wonderful cooperation and recognition and flowing together of the various ministries in the Church, given by the Ascended Lord. Peter and John supplied something that Philip lacked. There was recognition not competition.

Verses 18-24. Another area in which Peter helped the Church in Samaria pertained to Simon.

Philip has baptized Simon upon his confession of faith, but the Holy Spirit allowed the coming of Peter and John and the reception of the Holy Spirit by the Samaritans to expose that which was hidden in Simon's heart. There was the need of the right circumstances to expose this area in his life.

Simon SAW that the Holy Spirit was given by the Ministry of the Laying on of Hands, and sought to purchase this "gift" and "power".

There must have been some visible, or audible tangible evidence that he "saw" that made him covet such power. He did not covet the power that Philip had in healing the sick, casting out devils, etc., but he did desire this "power

When this secret tin of Simon's heart was exposed, Peter deals with it in strong language.

1. The evil thought of his heart.
2. Desired to purchase the Gift of God with money.
3. Simon had no part nor lot in this matter.
4. His heart was not right with God.
5. Called on to repent of this wickedness.
6. Ask and pray to God for forgiveness of heart.
7. Peter perceives he is in the gall of bitterness.
8. Simon was in the bond of iniquity
9. Simon asks Peter to pray for him that none of these judgments would come upon him.

Now concerning Simon the question is, was he truly saved/born again or was he a Prodigal Pig (2 Peter 17-22), (A Prodigal Pig is a person who has an enlightened soul, but has an unregenerate spirit.)?

The general consensus is that Simon did not have a real born again experience, but was purely an external experience, thus a Prodigal Pig.

However, if we come to that conclusion, then we must also come to the conclusion that none of the Samaritans under Philip's ministry had a true born again experience.

If this, then, is the case, the ministry of Peter and John was then, not a ministry of the Laying on of Hands that they might receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, but rather a ministry of salvation.

My personal opinion and observation based solely on verse 13 which says, "... Simon himself believed also...", that is to say, Simon like the other Samaritans believed, is that Simon had a real born again experience, but became envious of the ministry power of Philip (vs. 13c) and likewise, envious of Peter and John. This envy in his heart became a root of bitterness. (Hebrews 12:15, Deuteronomy 29:18).

Verse 25. Here we see Peter and John TESTIFYING and PREACHING, in the villages of the Samaritans.

There needs to be both. We can only truly preach that which we have experienced and testify too.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE HISTORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

EXPOSITION OF CHAPTER NINE

The ninth chapter of Acts centers around the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who later is to become the Apostle Paul, whom the Lord had especially chosen to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.

1. VERSES 1 - 2, SAUL - THE DESTROYER

The name Saul means "Destroyer".

Saul of Tarsus was one of the main leaders in the persecution of the Early Church. Under his leadership many men and women were put in prison.

Acts 7:58

Acts 8:1-4

Acts 9:1-2

Consider who Saul was: Philippians 3:1-7.

- circumcised the 8th day. Under the covenant of circumcision.
- of the stock of Israel. Of pure Hebrew origin.
- of the Tribe of Benjamin. Of Rachel, not Jacob's handmaid.
- a Hebrew of Hebrews. Of the upper-class
- touching the Law - a Pharisee. The strictest sect. Acts 22:3; 23:6; 26:5
- concerning zeal - persecuting the Church. Acts 22:3-12; Galatians 1:13-14.
- touching the righteousness of the Law - blameless. Externally righteous. A morally righteous man.
- a tent-maker. Acts 18:3.
- a Roman Citizen. Acts 22:28.

Here we see Saul with letters of authority from the High Priest to slaughter and persecute and imprison the followers of Jesus.

2. VERSE 2, THE PEOPLE OF "THE. WAY".

It is worthy to notice the use of this expression "The Way", as seen in the Book of Acts.

The Early Church believers were known as people of "The Way".

Refer to the following Scriptures in Acts: Acts 9:2; 18:26; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14,22;

Also consider:

1. In Genesis 3:22,23, "The Way" to the Tree of Life was barred by the Cherubim and Flaming Sword.
2. In Exodus 26:31-33, "The Way" into the Holy of Holies was barred by the Cherubim inwrought in the Veil.
3. In Matthew 27:50-51, God rent the Veil from top to bottom, and "The Way" was made manifest by the Eternal Godhead in the Atonement at the Cross.
4. In Hebrews 9:6-11, Paul tells us that Jesus is a NEW and LIVING WAY, and that now we have access into the Holiest of All, by the Blood of Jesus.
5. In John 14:6, Jesus declared "I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life."

The way is a Person. HE JESUS is the Way. All other ways of mankind lead to destruction. The rent Veil is God's sign that "The Way" is open into His eternal presence, through the Blood Atonement of the Lamb of God.

This then was the glorious truth involved in calling the Early Disciples "The People of "THE WAY."

Judaism carried on the form in the Temple, declaring The Way was still closed. For 1500 years the Veil testified that this was so. None dared enter without Blood.

God's testimony of the Rent Veil signifies The Way is open, and The Way to God is through Christ.

No wonder they were called "The People of The Way."

3. VERSES 3-9. SAUL APPREHENDED OF CHRIST.

There are three accounts of Saul 's conversion to Christ.

Acts 9:3-9; 22:1-21; 26:1-8

Prominent points of Saul's conversion:

- The Light from heaven, at midday, outshines the Sun. This Light is the glory of God upon His Son. It is the outshining of the Son of Man.

John 17:1, 5, 22-24

- Saul hears a voice and falls to the ground. Those with him heard the voice, saw the light, but did not hear the actual words spoken to Saul.

John 12:28-29

- Saul was persecuting Christ. Christ was suffering affliction, persecution and prison, etc, in the members of His Body.

Colossians 1:24

1 Corinthians 8:11-12

- Saul recognized this as a Divine visitation, super natural. Imagine Saul's amazement when the Voice answered " I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." The despised, hated and crucified Nazarene; but now, the risen, ascended and glorified Son of God. The very One Stephen saw in his death and martyrdom.

- Saul in SUBMISSION.

"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Saul now submits to the Lord Jesus. even as unto the Lord God.

- The Lord's will for Saul to be Confirmed

- The Glory of the Heavenly Light BLINDED Saul's eyes. It was a supernatural blindness. His literal blindness was symbolical of that spiritual blindness upon the heart and mind of the Jew.

- Three Days and Three Nights. Saul fasted 3 days and three nights; a total fast from food and drink. This identified him with the 3 days and nights of Calvary's Atonement.

Matthew 12:39-40

4. VERSES 10-18, THE DISCIPLE ANANIAS

As the Lord prepared both Philip and the Ethiopian, working at both ends and bringing them together in His way and time, so He does the same here. Saul and Ananias - both prepared by visions by the same Lord.

In verse 13, we have the first use in Acts of the word "saints" as spoken concerning Christians.

Let us consider the emphasis on "The Name" in these verses.

- Saul called upon the Name. To invoke in prayer or worship, even as Old Testament Saints' called on the Name of the Lord (God).

1 Corinthians 1:2

Acts 9:21 "This Name."

- Saul was a chosen vessel to bear My Name.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

A Vessel unto Honour.

- Chosen to suffer for His Name's sake. He who had caused others to suffer for that Name would now suffer for that Name himself.

- Calling upon the Name. In water baptism.

Acts 22:16

Romans 6:3-4

- Preached boldly in the Name.

Acts 9:27, 29

Saul was willing to live and die for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. VERSE 15, THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

Ananias confirms Saul's Ministry. Saul would be a witness to:

1. The Gentiles, Apostle to the Gentiles.
2. The Kings.
3. The Children of Israel

Acts chapters 13 - 28 deals with that fulfillment.

How touching and comforting it must have been to Saul as in verse 17 he hears Ananias say "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus..." Confirming the same Name upon which he, himself had called on the Damascus Road.

Thus Saul is converted, healed of blindness (spiritual as well as physical blindness), baptized in water and baptized (filled) with the Holy Spirit, and is ministered to in the laying on of hands relative to his life's ministry.

No wonder Paul said, in I Timothy 1:16, that he was a "pattern to them that should believe".

6. VERSES 19-22, SAUL AT DAMASCUS "CERTAIN DAYS"

In these verses we find that Saul began preaching that JESUS was indeed the very Christ, proving by comparison of the old Testament prophecies and types and by the facts concerning the history of Jesus of Nazareth that He indeed was the exact fulfillment of all these Scriptures, that He was the very Son of God.

Verse 22, ".. Paul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, PROVING THAT THIS IS VERY CHRIST."

(Refer to pages 70-71 of notes)

7. GALATIANS 1:15-24, ACTS 9:23-30, SAUL TO ARABIA, BACK TO DAMASCUS.

In Galatians chapter 1, verses 15-24, Paul gives the order of the events of those early years after his conversion on the road to Damascus. When we take into account this order of events we find evidence of a period of time between Acts 9:22 and Acts 9:23 where Saul goes to Arabia and then comes back to Damascus.

"And after "THAT MANY DAYS WERE FULFILLED..." (v.23) covers this time period between verse 22 and 23.

Galatians 1:15-16. Saul's conversion on the Damascus Road.

Acts 9:1-18

Then "certain days" at Damascus preaching Christ.

Acts 9:19-22

Galatians 1:17 - Journey to Arabia. The "many days" of Acts 9:23. In Arabia, undoubtedly Paul "received of the Lord" that which he delivered unto the churches." Which revelation is unique to his Apostolic ministry. And, then through him, by the Spirit, to others.

Galatians 1:11-12
1 Corinthians 11:23
Ephesians 3:2-3
Philippians 4:9
2 Timothy 2:2

Galatians 1:17 - His return again to Damascus. Then comes the basket episode and his escape.

Acts 9:23-25
2 Corinthians 11:32-33

Galatians 1:18-19 - His journey after 3 years to Jerusalem, to see Peter and James only. In Jerusalem 15 days.

Acts 9:26-29
Acts 22:17-21

Galatians 1:20-21 - Paul goes to the regions of Syria and Cilicia, then back through Caesarea to Tarsus, his own home town.

Acts 9:30

The information as given above is briefly covered in Acts 9:23-30. Barmabas "Son of Consolation" was a real blessing to Saul as he took him and introduced him to the Apostles at Jerusalem in his short visit there. Later on, God would knit the hearts of these two men together and separate them to the Ministry unto the Gentiles.

8. VERSE 31, THE CHURCH AT REST.

"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Rest Matthew 11:28
Edified 1 Corinthians 14:12

Walking 1 John 2:6

Comfort..... John 14:16; 2 Corinthians 1:4

Multiplied..... Genesis 1:28

9. VERSES 32-35. MINISTRY OF PETER AT LYDDA & SARON

Peter came down to the Saints (literal Holy ones, set apart, or separate ones) at Lydda.

All believers are called to be Saints.

Here at Lydda, a lame man in healed. The power of the Name of Jesus once again manifested as further proof that the Risen Christ was confirming His Word with signs following in His Church.

Mark 16:17-20

The result? Two cities "turn to the Lord", that is to say, turning from the power of Satan and the Kingdom of darkness unto the power of Christ and the Kingdom of Light.

10. VERSES 36-43, MINISTRY OF PETER AT JOPPA

At Joppa we see the power of resurrection life. Here we have the first record of any Apostle raising the dead.

Matthew 10:8

Resurrection life is manifested against the power of death.

Dorcas as a disciple had a ministry of helps, of good works, and works of mercy, "which she did".

Verse 40 - Peter puts all forth from the room, even as Jesus did (Matthew 9:25), kneels down and prays concerning the will of God, and then having obtained it, speaks the Word of Faith.

- So did Elijah. 1 Kings 17:19-23

- So did Elisha. 2 Kings 4:33-35

This was the GIFT OF MIRACLES in operation.

Verse 42 - "Many believed in the Lord." Not all!

Every healing and miracle in Acts was a powerful demonstration of the reality of the Resurrected Christ. the ascended Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth.

John 11:45-48

John 12: 9-11

Luke 16:30-31

THE BOOK OF ACTS
THE HISTORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

EXPOSITION OF CHAPTER TEN

Acts, chapter ten begins the fourth step of the Commission of Christ as set forth in Acts 1:8.

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was to be taken into the whole world in this order:

JerusalemChapters 2 - 7

JudeaChapter 8:1,40

Chapter 9

Samaria..... Chapter 8:5-25

The Uttermost part of the earth ... Chapters 10-28

First we see the Church among the Jews, then the transition period from the Jews to the Churches established among the Gentiles.

In these Chapters (10 - 28) THE DOOR OF FAITH is opened to the Gentiles.

It is important at this point to consider some brief facts concerning God's plan and purpose in the Dispensation of Time as regards the Gentile Nations. for Acts, chapters 10 and 11 give a complete departure from all that has been so far, as the Lord by His Spirit opens the Door of Faith to the Gentiles.

Giving the Gentiles access to the Father by the Holy Spirit is the "mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God" (Ephesians 3:9).

Ephesians 2:11 - 3:6

1. THE GENTILES

The word gentile is a Latin word which means nation. This corresponds to the meaning of both the Hebrew and Greek words which are translated gentile. Even though the literal meaning of the word is nation, and does not make reference to a specific nation or group of nations or people, in both the Old Testament and New Testament as well as in its common usage in the English language today, the word is used to distinguish the non covenant nations people from the covenant nation Israel, that is to say, non Jews from Jews.

The first use of the word "Gentiles" in the Bible is in Genesis 10:1-5 (5) and is a reference to the sons of Japheth and their descendants.

After the Flood we have the Origin of all Nations, both Hebrew and Gentile Nations.

Genesis, chapters 9:19-27, 10 and 11

All the earth is divided according to the 3 sons of Noah.

Shem..... The Blessed Nation - Gen. 9:26

Ham..... The Servant Nations - Gen. 9:25

Japheth..... The Enlarged Nations - Gen. 9:27

Now from the call of Abraham through the First coming of Jesus Christ, God dealt specifically with the CHOSEN HEBREW NATION - not with the Gentile Nations.

To the Chosen Nation was entrusted:

- The Sacred Writings, the infallible Scriptures.
- The Covenants, and the Promises therein.
- The Giving of the Law, and the Shekinah Glory
- And of most importance, The Seed Race, through whom Christ THE SEED should be born according to His humanity.

Romans 3:1-2

Romans 9:1-5

The choice of the Hebrew race was distinctly for the purpose of preserving the Sacred Scriptures, holding the Covenants and Promises, and the preservation of a Seed line from which the Messiah would be born to bless the whole world.

However, in spite of all these God-given advantages and privileges, the Chosen Nation generally proved to be a failure and became more evil and corrupt than the surrounding Gentile Nations.

Jesus Christ "came unto His own (House) and His own received Him not (John 1:11).

In the ministry of Christ and the Apostles before the Cross, none were to go to the Gentiles, but only to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel." They were not to go into any city of the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:5-8

At different times however, Gentiles did reach over into the Dispensation of Grace, and through faith, received blessings from Christ, which shamed the Chosen Race in their unbelief. This is seen in the healing of the Centurion's servant, the woman of Canaan's daughter delivered of a vexing spirit, and the saving of the Samaritan woman and her witness to her own City.

These examples became a shadow of the coming blessing, response and faith of the Gentiles after the death. resurrection of Jesus Christ, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh".

Also, in the old Testament different Gentiles were blessed in relation to the Chosen Nation. This is evidenced in these incidents:

- The City of Ninevah under the Ministry of Jonah.
- Daniel a witness in Babylon.
- Joseph a testimony in Egypt.
- Elijah and Elisha blessed different Gentiles. Luke 4:24-28

- Ruth and Rahab were Gentiles, yet through Grace and Faith came into Covenant Blessing in Israel.
- Other Gentiles became blessed by the Covenant by the rite of Circumcision and keeping of the Law, as proselytes.

Genesis 17:12-13

Exodus 12:48

2. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE GENTILES

The Prophets foretold the day coming in which the Gentiles would be blessed.

Genesis 22:18 (Galatians 3:8, 14-16, 29)

Isaiah 11:1-5, 10; 42:1-16; 49:6-12, 22; 54:3; 60:1-5, 11, 16; 61:6-9; 66:19

Jeremiah 16:19

Malachi 1:11

"In thy Seed (Christ) shall nations be blessed."

"I will give Thee (Christ) for a Light to the Gentiles."

"My Name shall be great among the Gentiles"

3. NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE GENTILES

Luke 2:32

Matthew 12:18-21 (John 12:20-24)

Galatians 3:14

The Lord tells the Disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature; and to go into all the world discipling all nations, even to the uttermost part of the earth.

Matthew 28:18-19

Mark 16:17-20

Acts 1:8

Peter the Apostle does not yet realize or understand the full plan to include the Gentiles in the ONE BODY. This distinctive revelation was given to the Apostle Paul, who became the Apostle to the Gentiles, even as Peter was the Apostle to the Jews.

Acts, chapter 9 brings to view the Apostle to the Gentiles, while Acts, chapter 10 shows Peter opening the Door of Faith to the Gentiles which ministry he passes on to Paul to continue. Peter is simply preparing the way for Paul.

In Acts, chapters 2,3,&4 Peter uses **The Keys of the Kingdom** to open the Door of Faith to the Jews.

In Acts, chapter 10, Peter uses these same **Keys of the Kingdom** (the Word, the Name, the Spirit, and Prayer; refer to page 84 of Acts notes) to open the Door of Faith to the Gentiles.

Matthew 16:18-19

Now, once the Door was opened, it remains open for Paul to step into and continue the Apostolic Ministry to the Gentiles.

Revelation 3:7-8

With this background, let us now take a look Peter's ministry here in Acts 10, as he is sent to the Gentiles to open the Door.

4. VERSES 1-8, CORNELIUS - THE GENTILE

Cornelius is a Centurion of the Roman Army, whose command is called the Italian Band. Though he is a Gentile, he is a devout man, one that feared God with all his house, a giver of alms, and a man who prayed to God always.

The Lord gives Cornelius a vision.

The Angel in the vision tells Cornelius the necessary details for his full obedience. He told him the Apostle's name, the City where he was lodging, the occupation of the host, the street address and to send men to bring Peter back.

Cornelius was immediately obedient to the Vision.

5. VERSES 9-20. PETER THE JEW

The Lord gives Peter a Vision.

Once again, as with Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch and with Paul and Ananias, we see God through the Holy Spirit working both ends. God works upon the Gentile (Cornelius) through a vision and then He works on the Jew (Peter) through another vision and in this way prepares both the Gentile and the Jew for that which is to take place.

Peter the Apostle with the Keys of the Kingdom.

Matthew 10:1-5

Matthew 16:19

In the Vision given him by the Lord, Peter sees a sheet let down from heaven, touching four corners of the earth, having in it both clean and unclean beasts.

FOUR is the number of earth. a world-wide, universal number.

The Vision was repeated three times. THREE is the number of God's perfect testimony.

Deuteronomy 19:15

Deuteronomy 17:6

Genesis 41:32

The common and unclean were about to be cleansed by God.

Now. the interpretation of this dream was much deeper than the setting aside of the Ceremonial Law of Meats, as in Leviticus chapter 11, which Law had no place in the Dispensation of Grace.

Colossians 2:16-17

Hebrews 13:9

1 Timothy 4:4

Romans 14:1-6

In the Vision are symbolic, the Nations of to Peter, the animals, birds, etc. that is to say, they represent all the World, both Gentile and Hebrew.

Daniel 7:1-10

Daniel 8:1-7ff

Revelation 13:1-2

The meaning of the Vision was that God was opening the Door of Faith to the whole world, all the Gentile Nations (the common, unclean) as well as the Nation of Israel, was to be made clean by God, who only can cleanse the common/unclean and make them clean.

Verse 19 - "The Spirit said... I have sent them". It was the work of the Holy Spirit fulfilling the Word of the Son of God. The Spirit and the Word working together as one. The Holy Spirit is seen at work in the earth building the Spiritual Body of Believers and the local Church.

6. VERSES 21-33, PETER GOES TO CAESAREA

The Holy Spirit has been leading Peter beyond the wall of Judaism into a deeper understanding and revelation of His eternal plan.

- The Spirit brought in the dews.
- The Spirit brought in the Ethiopian.
- The Spirit brought in the Samaritans.
- And now the Spirit is bring in the Gentiles, they are by Faith to be grafted into The Good Olive Tree.

Romans, chapter 11

Verses 25-26-Peter refuses the worship of Cornelius. Both are men The Romans worshipped Caesar as God.

This was deification of man. Peter, however, would not accept worship of any man.

Verse 30 - Cornelius tells Peter and his company that he was fasting four days ago, and at the 9th hour he received the Vision giving him the heavenly information required.

The four days is typical of the 4 Days of the Lord, or 4000 years, from Adam to Christ, at the end of which the Word and the Spirit comes to the Gentiles to take out of then a people for His Name.

Acts 15:14

2 Peter 3:8

Psalm 90:4

Exodus 12:3-6

John 11:39

It was at the 9th hour, or 3 p.m., this was the time of the Evening Sacrifice. God always works in connection with the Atonement and the Sacrifice of His only Son.

Verse 32 connects with Acts 11:14 - "Words by which we can be saved."

God uses "words" the Word to bring us salvation.

Romans 10:17

7. VERSES 34-43. PETER'S SERMON TO THE GENTILES.

Peter perceives (has spiritual insight into) that God is above all Nations and looks upon the heart. All Racial, Religious and Social prejudices are dissolved in this fact. God is no respecter of persons, or races, whether Jew or Gentile.

Peter's ministry of the Word to Cornelius and his household covered the main points in the Life of Jesus. It covers Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan, His ministry, His death, Burial and resurrection.

Jesus is spoken of as being the fulfillment of the Prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Verse 38 - God (The Father) anointed Jesus of Nazareth (The Son) with the Holy Spirit (The Spirit). Here we see the Godhead involved in the whole plan of Redemption.

- The Father - The Anointer. Luke 4:18-21
- The Son -The Anointed. Acts 10:38; John 3:34
- The Holy Spirit - The Anointing. 1 John 2:20-27

There was complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit to make Christ real to the heart.

Remission of sins comes through believing in the name of Jesus.

8. VERSES 44-48. THE SOVEREIGN OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

God promised to pour out His Spirit "upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28).

The Holy Spirit had only been poured out upon the select in the Hebrew Nation in Old Testament Times; upon Prophets, Priests and Kings!

In the Book of Acts, we have two Sovereign Outpourings of the Spirit.

- The 1st was upon the Jews, Acts 2:1-4
- The 2nd was upon the Gentiles, Acts 10:44

All other outpourings were through the Ministry in the Church, and by the Laying on of Hands,

Man baptizes with water, Acts 1:5

Jesus Christ is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

When Peter was interrupted by the Outpouring of the Spirit upon the Gentiles, he realized that he could not refuse them Water Baptism, as one was the pointer to, or completion of the other.

Matthew 3:11

If it was good enough of the Lord Jesus to baptize the Gentiles with the Holy Spirit, then it was good enough for Peter to Baptize them in Water.

How did they know the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit? They heard them speak with tongues and magnified God.

Peter commanded them to be baptized in water. Water Baptism was not "an option" in the early Church. It was necessary to full obedience

Matthew 3:15