

## Lesson 4 - History of the Church

### From Judaism to Christianity the Acts of the Apostles

- ❖ We know one of the greatest mysteries revealed by God is His desire to call out of the world a people chosen to bear His name.

Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, **to take out of them a people for his name**. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, **upon whom my name is called**, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. (Acts 15:14-18 – Quoting Amos 9:10, 11 from OT)

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (1 Corinthians 1:27)

- ❖ Yet the task of establishing the very Bride of Christ was trustingly placed into the hands of these men. How profound to think that God's entire Church rests completely on the word of the Apostles.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (Eph 2:18-20)

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for **I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ**. (2 Corinthians 11:2)

And the wall of the city (the New Jerusalem) had **twelve foundations**, and in them the names **of the twelve apostles** of the Lamb. (Rev 21:14)

- ❖ We know these men were hand picked and trained by Jesus Christ. Jesus in His last days expressed every confidence that the work that was to be placed into their hands shortly was going to be completed faithfully. Not because of any ability that these men possessed but rather it must be absolutely understood that the power to do the work they did came from the Spirit doing the work through them. Just a glimpse into the 17th chapter of John gives us some insight. This being Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, take note:

- ❖ **The Apostles were chosen:**

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (John 17:6)

- ❖ **The Apostles were equipped:**

For **I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me**; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. (John 17:8)

**I have given them thy word**; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (John 17:14)

- ❖ **The Apostles were judged faithful:**

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; **and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed** that thou didst send me. (John 17:8)

- ❖ **The Apostles were prayed for:**

**I pray for them:** I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. (John 17:9)

- ❖ **The Apostles were sent out:** (which is the meaning of the word apostle)

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have **I also sent them into the world**. (John 17:18)

- ❖ **The Apostles word is expressly authorized:**

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me **through their word**; (John 17:20)

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And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Mat 28:18-20)

**FACT:** The entire Kingdom of God rests entirely on the fidelity of the Apostles teaching and preaching the truth of God's word.

**FACT:** The entire New Testament is a record of the Apostles actions and teachings. (there is no permanent record of Jesus having ever written anything) The New Testament is the Word of God as recorded and taught by the Apostles. Therefore it is a foolishness to establish a doctrine using the argument "I will choose the words of Jesus over the words of the Apostles" First because Jesus never wrote anything!! Second because Jesus already authorized the Apostles "Words" as being "His Words" The Gospel is the Word of Jesus **as told** by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John etc. The point being if you find it impossible to completely trust the Apostolic teachings then it is impossible to become established on the foundation immovable that God rests His kingdom on. All other ground is sinking sand!

**FACT:** The first century church believed and obeyed the Apostles.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:40-42)

**FACT:** There is no contradiction between the teaching of Matthew and the teaching of Peter  
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Mat 28:19)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

**BECAUSE:** The name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost is Jesus

**I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me** out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (John 17:6)

(Speaking of Jesus)

Being made so much better than the angels, as **he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name** than they. (Heb 1:4)

Jesus inherited His name from His Father. Jesus = Yahshua = Yah + shua = Yahweh + salvation = Yahweh has become my Salvation. When I say Jesus, I am saying that the God of the Bible, Yahweh is my salvation.

**FACT:** The Apostles were persecuted specifically for **teaching in the name of Jesus**. The Apostles believed that this was **obeying God** (and not man) to do so.

**Acts 4:17** But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

**18** And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach **in the name of Jesus**.

**Acts 5:28** Saying, **Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?** and, behold, **ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine**, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

**29** Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to **obey God** rather than men.

**Acts 5:40** And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they **commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go.

**BUT:** The Apostles taught in the name anyway, for they knew that this pleased God (and not men).

**Acts 4:19** But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

**20** For we **cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard**.

**21** So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done.

**Acts 5:41** And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they **were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name**.

**42** And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

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### **When we obey the Apostolic command to be baptized in Jesus Name we become the people that God has called out of the world for His Name.**

The Apostles preached in the name of Jesus, prayed in the name of Jesus, rejoiced in the name of Jesus, worshipped in the name of Jesus, hoped in, believed in, trusted in, prays in, and most importantly BAPTIZED in the name of Jesus. How can we even think of doing it differently?

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**Colossians 3:17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

#### **Principles of True Judaism**

1. Monotheistic. (Deut 6:4, Isaiah 43:11)
2. Blood Sacrifice and Tabernacle Plan. (Hebrews 9:22)
3. Jacob's twelve sons become the twelve tribes of Israel.
4. Moses ascended into Mt. Sinai, and came down with the Law.
5. Separation from the world. (Deut 7:6)
6. Distinction of Male and Female. (Genesis 1, Deut)
7. Heart felt worship of God. Shouting to the Lord (Psalms 150), God would speak to His people with stammering lips and another tongue. (Isaiah 28:11)
8. Attentive to the reading of the Word of God. (Nehemiah, Psalm 119)
9. Feasts to remember God's intervention in their lives. (Zechariah 14)
10. Behold, the goodness and severity of God (Romans 11)

#### **Conversion from Judaism to Christianity**

1. Monotheism belief remains (not Trinitarian) see Col 2:9, 1 Tim 3:16, Zech 14:9 and read about Paul's conversion (Acts 9) Paul's revelation was that Jesus was God not a second person of God "Who art thou Lord?" The LORD spoke to him and said "I AM JESUS whom thou persecutest".
2. Tabernacle Plan is fulfilled by Christ. Acts 2:38 is the Spiritual Revelation of Obedience to the Gospel of Christ (which fulfills the Tabernacle Plan).
3. Jesus Christ's twelve apostles start the Church of Jesus Christ. (See Revelation "24 elders")
4. The Apostles ascended into the upper room and came down with the Holy Ghost (Spirit of the Law) Peter preached in this Spirit.
5. The Apostles preached separation from the world. (1 Peter 2:9, 1 Corinthians 7:1)
6. The Apostles taught distinction between male and female for the Church (1 Corinthians 11)
7. The Apostles worshipped God, to where a prayer meeting shook the place. They received stammering lips and another tongue on the day of Pentecost. Every place in the Bible where someone receives the Holy Ghost, they got the same experience. (Acts 2:4, 8:16, 10:44-48, 19:1-5)
8. The Apostles were steadfast in the Apostles doctrine and the people of Thessalonica were noble for reading the word of God, and Aquila and Priscilla expounded the way of God more perfect to Apollos.
9. The Apostles washed each others' feet and celebrated communion in remembrance of Christ. Many of the Epistles were written to remind us of God's intervention in our lives.
10. The goodness and servery of God (Acts 5)

The Acts of the Apostles – Documented History of the early church.

**Acts 2:38, 8:16-17, 10:44-48, 19:1-6, 22:16**

Teaching in the name of Jesus Christ and Repentance, Baptism in Jesus Name, Receiving the Holy Ghost has been preached since Pentecost and is still preached today in the Apostolic Church.