

ACTS CHAPTER 1 PART 2:

So lets recap just a little bit, as we're moving through the book of Acts it's important to keep in mind what we've already learned so far.

First of all we know that the book of Luke, and the book of Acts were originally 1 book not two, and the title of that one book was “History Of Christian Origins”. We also know that that one book was not written by an Apostle, but was written by a Physician by the name of Luke, who we know traveled along with the Apostle Paul at least in part.

We also know that the one book known as “History of Christian Origins” was separated somewhere between 64ad and 140ad... and we know that the book of “Luke” was widely known by the early church, while the book of Acts, had not grown to be so popular.

Now we have to ask ourselves why was the book of Luke popular and the book of Acts not so popular?

Well.. when we enter in Marcion of Sinope, we can see why the book of Acts was being muzzled at the time. Marcion of Sinope... who the Bishops of the churches that Paul and the Apostles had set up at that time pointed directly to Marcion and called him a “Christian Heretic”. Once again I want to take us over to the Encyclopedia Britannica and read directly from their web site concerning this Marcion of Sinope:

Marcion of Pontus, (flourished 2nd century ce), , Christian heretic. Although Marcion is known only through reports and quotations from his orthodox opponents, especially Tertullian's Adversus Marcionem (“Against Marcion”), the principal outlines of his teaching seem clear. His teaching made a radical distinction between the God of the Old Testament (the Creator) and the Father of Jesus Christ (the God of Love).

According to Marcion, that distinction had been obscured at the very earliest stages of the Christian movement, and, among the Apostles, only Paul had understood it. Because the corruptions that had consequently been introduced into the life and message of the church and into the very text of the New Testament had to be expunged, Marcion edited his own versions of the biblical books. His collection of those books that he regarded as authoritative seems to have had some influence on the formation of the church's canon of the New Testament, and various elements of early Christian creeds, such as the widespread equation of Father with Creator, may have been formulated partly in response to his teachings.

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Marcion-of-Pontus>

It's important for us to know and understand once again that the early church after the death burial and resurrection of our Messiah... **DID NOT HAVE A NEW TESTAMENT in their Bibles.**

All they had was the Hebrew scriptures in the Torah and the Tanakh.. **they did not have the 27 books of the "New Testament" that we have today.** And at that time.. it was hard to tell a non believing Jew from a Jew who believed in Yahshua, or a Gentile who believed in Yahshua, from a Jew who believed in Yahshua, because they all believed in much of the same thing.

They all believed in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Prophets found in the Torah and the Tanakh.. they all knew that the Laws of Yahweh our Elohim were still in effect, they all knew how and when to keep the Passover, and Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits, and Shavuot, and the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles.

You see they understood that our Messiah just as he said in Matthew 5: 17. **did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets...** they knew that not the crossing of "T" or the dotting of an "i" would pass from the Law until all was accomplished, and they knew that all of the Apostles who set up those early churches always kept the Laws, Commandments, Precepts, and Appointments, or Yahweh our Elohim.. there was no question.

It wasn't until men like Marcion of Sinope come on the scene in about 140ad, about 70 years after the destruction of the Temple.. that anyone believed that a Gentile Church had replaced the Jews and Gods Chosen Israelite people.

But then again, you didn't think that Hasaton, our adversary was going to let this life saving Gospel Message from our Messiah go UN-hindered did you?... of course not. Our adversary was already hard at work working through men like Marcion of Sinope who were prophesied about in the book of Jude. It's one chapter read it for yourself... in fact... that's your homework for this week... write that down... read Jude... it's only one chapter and won't take all that long.

And we know that some church authorities even flat out rejected the book of Acts as being too Jewish, just like Marcion of Sinope... are you surprised? ... You shouldn't be! It is and was the work of Satan himself, trying to squelch the Gospel of our Messiah from almost the very beginning.

Those who believed that the book of Acts was true and believed in the whole gospel message were persecuted and murdered for their faith time and time again.

And so if you will remember we spoke last week about John Chrysostom back in about 400ad telling us that the book of Acts had almost been forgotten, or was never really circulated through the early churches, and his fight to keep the book of Acts alive and to educate the early Christian churches about the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is the only book in the Bible that tells us what Yahshua did after his resurrection, and the 40 days that he spent with the Apostles, and much of went on in starting the first Christian churches, that's why Luke originally entitled it "History Of Christian Origins"... because that's what it was... the history of Christian origins, and it not only tells us about the origins of early Christianity, but also tells us about the Apostle Paul... It tells us who he was, where he came from, how we became an Apostle, what his history was all about.

With out the book of Acts all of this would still be by enlarge... unknown.

We also learned about this knew concept called "baptism" and how John the Baptist came baptizing with water but soon the Apostles and the rest of his followers would be baptized with the Holy Spirit, also known as the helper that would remind us what Yahshua himself had taught us.

And with that we learned what this knew covenant that was prophesied in the book of Jeremiah was really all about:

E2

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jer 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Notice here in Jeremiah 31:33, our Elohim tells us very clearly that this new Covenant is for "THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL". In other words it's not for unbelievers, it's not for those who have assimilated themselves into the world... this "New Covenant" is only for those who have been grafted into the "HOUSE OF ISRAEL".

If you are not grafted into the Olive tree of Romans 11, and your are not in Messiah, and he in you... then you are not Abraham's offspring, and you are not heirs to the promise as stated by Paul in Galatians 3:29 and you are therefore NOT PART OF THE HOUSE OF

ISRAEL!

And if you are part of the “House Of Israel” then you already know that according to Jeremiah 31:33... you now have the Laws of Yahweh our Elohim written in your heart and in your mind... and you already know that his laws are not nailed to some tree somewhere.

How was Yahweh our Elohim going to write his laws in our hearts and in our minds?

E3

Eze 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Eze 36:28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Now if we take a look at Acts 1 verse 6, we can clearly see, that the Apostles still at this point really had no idea what Yahshua's death, burial, and resurrection, was all about. At this point in time they're still thinking that he's come to take back the Earth and Tabernacle among them, and that he's going to free them from this Roman rule that they're under, because this is what was prophesied in the Torah what the Messiah would do.

So we can see that they're still a little bewildered if you will... concerning what it is that he's doing, and which prophesy he's fulfilling. But notice what he tells them... he says *its not up to you to know the times or seasons that the father has decided by his own authority.* So in other words... not yet... but these things are still to come.

Now... with that in mind... I want us to see something very profound and important that we see, know, and understand.

In the book of Matthew we find our Messiah sending out the twelve to spread the good news, but **ONLY TO THE JEWS, AND THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL!** He specifically orders them not to go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans....who were all Gentiles at that time.

E4

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,

Mat 10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Mat 10:7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

So... before his resurrection he commanded them to only go to the Lost Sheep Of Israel, and remember the Lost Sheep of Israel was the Northern Kingdom that God had divorced and dispersed into the four corners of the Earth for committing adultery with all of these other Gods and Idols... so once again **he was fulfilling the prophecy of the two sticks of Ezekiel**, bringing both the Northern house of Israel, and the Southern house of Judah back together again as one stick in his hand, so that the bride could once again return to her husband.

Once the two kingdoms were restored into one Olive tree... then the rest of the nations could be gathered to her, and only then... could the promise of Yahweh our Elohim be fulfilled... we... would be his people... and he... would be our God.

E5

Eze 37:16 "Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.'

Eze 37:17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

Eze 37:18 And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by these?'

Eze 37:19 say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand.

Eze 37:20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes,

Eze 37:21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land.

Eze 37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.

*Eze 37:23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and **they shall be my people, and I will be their God.***

*Eze 37:24 "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. **They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.***

Eze 37:25 They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their childrens children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever.

*Eze 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. **It shall be an everlasting***

covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

Eze 37:27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Eze 37:28 Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

So you see Yahshua needed to make the two sticks one again... he needed to let the Lost Sheep of Israel know the good news, and that he had come to make the two sticks one again... the kingdoms one kingdom... one Olive Tree, so that the rest of the nations could be gathered to them, and grafted in.

Now... lets take another look at Acts 1:9

Act 1:9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

Act 1:11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

So what were these two angels trying to tell the Apostles? They had just seen the physical body of the Messiah raised up into a cloud and being taken into Heaven, and these two angels are their to testify that he will return... why two angles... why not one?

E6

2Co 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

E7

Deu 19:15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

So we have not one but two witnesses there testifying that he would return just as he was taken. And what else do we see in Matthew 24:25 that our Messiah had already told us?:

E8

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Mat 24:26 So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they

say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Now... I want us to watch this now... as Matthew tells us about his return in the clouds, the book of Daniel tells us about his arriving in Heaven in the clouds:

E9

Dan 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

Dan 7:11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.

Dan 7:12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Dan 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

Dan 7:14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

So now we have some insight as to both where he went, and how he will return. He will return just as he left. Now... what do we see the Talmadim, (the Apostles) doing after he leaves them?

E0

Luk 24:50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.

Luk 24:51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

Luk 24:52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

Luk 24:53 *and were continually in the temple blessing God.*

Once again my friends, they were in the Temple praising Yahweh our Elohim, they knew where to go, and their Jewish roots once again can be seen here in what they're doing inside the Temple. Now if these Jewish Apostles were praying to another God other than the Jewish God of Abraham Issac, and Jacob they would have never been aloud in the Temple, so there should be no mistake that these men were still adhering to the Jewish faith that they had always known, and that their Messiah had told them was not abolished in any way. (Matthew 5:17)

And just as we have seen our Messiah ascend from the Mount of Olives, we'll also see him return to the Mount of Olives, lets read Zachariah 14:1 through 7:

Zec 14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst.

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

Zec 14:4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

Zec 14:5 And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Zec 14:6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost.

Zec 14:7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

So we can see that our Messiah will indeed return to the Mount of Olives when he returns, but before we leave Zachariah, lets take one more look at Zachariah 14 verse 2 again:

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

We know today that Jerusalem has already been divided into two halves, **the eastern half is occupied by the Arabs**, and **the Jewish people occupy the western half**, and we know that the Palestinian people are proclaiming that Jerusalem will soon be their capitol city.

And we also know that there's no way that Israel is going to allow this to happen. And at the same time we can also see the world gathering together around Israel, and pushing this division of Israel as a solution to the Israeli / Palestinian conflict... even the United States is now agreeing with the European nations that Jerusalem should be divided into two states.

So we can see clearly that all of the players are in place, and the prophecy of Ezekiel can't be far off. Which means... that the return of our Messiah is just around the corner and may well be much much sooner than the world thinks.

In Acts 1:14 **we see that the women were also in prayer with the men at this time.** Just for clarification... there is no separation of men and women according to God's law, it was a custom of men and women to be separated when worshiping in the synagogue however we don't see that commanded in the scriptures. **So there's no indication that women are second class followers.** This is simply not found anywhere in scripture, and I want to make that abundantly clear as we move forward.

Now we also see Peter in Acts 1:15 standing up and taking charge as the leader and making a speech, so we can know and understand that Peter was esteemed above the others in some degree, especially after the Messiah had praised him in front of the other Apostles in Matthew 16:18:

*Mat 16:18 And I tell you, **you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

Mat 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

WHY DOES YAHSHUA SAY HE'LL GIVE THE KEYS TO PETER?

Mat 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

*Mat 16:16 Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"*

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

So here's my question... is it just Peter that he promises the keys of Heaven to? Or are we all promised the keys of Heaven? Is it not been given to all who believe and confess that he is the Messiah just as Peter did? Yahshua says "blessed are you Peter, **for blood**

has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in Heaven. Does the Ruach Hadodesh, the Holy Spirit not reveal to all of us who he is? And if this is so, and true.. then how is it that a so called “Christian Church... a denominational charter of men” can proclaim from this scripture.. that their Pope has single handedly replaced Peter, and that this man who sits on his golden thrown has the power to make you bow the knee to him and kiss his golden ring?

And by what power does this Pope.... proclaim that he is the Vicar of Christ? Did Peter ever proclaim anywhere in scripture that he was the replacement of the Messiah? And how many Popes have there been all claiming to be Christ the Messiah on Earth... the vicar of Christ?

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

Do we have the eyes to see... and the ears to hear?

Now keep in mind.. the Apostles were commanded to wait in Jerusalem for what the Father had promised them at Pentecost. Did they know what was coming at Pentecost?.. no.. they had no idea what was going to happen at this point in time, all they knew is that they were commanded to wait in Jerusalem, they had no idea when it was going to happen.. only that it would happen in Jerusalem.

So while they're waiting in Jerusalem Peter knows he needs to find a 12th Apostle to replace Judas who had betrayed Yahshua, so they begin to look at who was with them while the Messiah was teaching and preaching to them. And Peter quotes what happened to Judas was prophesied by David in Psalms 69, and Psalms 109. So next week, we'll take a look at why Peter knew that it was important to have 12 Apostles and not just 11.

What was it that drove Peter to draw lots for the missing Apostle? That will be our opening discussion next week as we move forward in the book of the Acts Of the Apostles.

God bless and close.