



Acts Chapter 8 Continued Part 1

In our study last week on the 8th chapter of the book of Acts we spoke about a lot different things that we found in chapter 8. We spoke about the word “Church” and how there were no “churches” in the land at that time and why calling the Synagogues “churches” paints an intellectually dishonest picture.

We know that the word “church” is a Latin word not a Greek word, and we must remember that up to this point we are not talking about gentiles. We don't see the first “gentile” being saved in the book of Acts up until Acts chapter 10, where Peter has his dream while taking a nap on the rooftop and sees the sheet of unclean animals.

So to say that there were “churches” in the land at that time once again does paint an intellectually honest picture, and this word “church” may have been inserted in the King James translation by it's translators by accident, or it may have been inserted on purpose. We simply do not know... but we should be wise enough to be suspicious in our endeavour to test all things.

We must remember that when the King James translation was being translated there was a war going on between the Roman Catholic church and the Protestant churches who knew full well that Catholicism was not Christianity and that the Roman Catholic church was not following scripture.

So the Roman Catholic Church created it's own army to fight against the Reformation, and they were known as the “Society of Jesus” better known today as “The Jesuit Priesthood”.

We know that King James bible is certainly not inherent, and anyone who thinks that it is, is simply uneducated in the matters of it's creation. The King James version of the scriptures has been corrected several times through out history, and just the fact that the word “LORD” is used to cover up the very name of God over six thousand times... should speak for itself.

However it is one of the best English translations that we have. For more information on this you can visit our website at Holy Impact Ministries.com and go to our Church History section and we have a short video there for you to watch concerning the bloopers and mistakes that had to be fixed with in the not so inherent King James translation.

Not to mention the fact that in the Early King James Bible they had also included the

Apocryphal books, which they later had removed from the King James version due to pressure from the Protestant churches most of which do not accept the Apocryphal books.. but they were included in the earliest 1611 publication of the King James Bible.

And if you download my PDF file for this lesson I have inserted a link that will give you even more information on this that comes directly from “King James Bible Online .org”.

<http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Apocrypha-Books/>

And I say all of that to help us understand that no Bible translation is inherently flawless, and we should be aware of this. So... out of the 47 men that translated the King James Version of the Bible is it too far fetched for us to believe that one or more of these men may have been entrenched in the teachings of Catholicism?

I would submit to you my friends that it is not outside the realm of possibility that one or more of these men may have had a warm spot in their hearts for the teaching of Catholicism. And we see things found in the King James translation that are highly suspicious when it comes to the teachings of Catholicism which were not found in the original Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic languages.

And we could get into the word Easter that also does not belong in the King James Version of the Bible, and once again has been corrected in the modern version of the King James Bible.

And we already know that the word “Lord” does not belong in the King James Version, and the word “Church” in the book of Acts is not in the original manuscripts and neither is the word “covenant” in Hebrews 8:13 because there is no Greek word for “Covenant” and the word “Assembly” in James chapter 2 verse 2 is the Greek word “Synagogue” not “Assembly” and many other things that would lead a Christian towards believing in Roman Catholic Teachings... but that's another study.

We also spoke about what it was like to “contend for the faith” back in those days, and how fearless those devout men were who came to collect the body of Stephen must have been in order to give him a proper burial and to publicly lament over him.

We also spoke about how even though these new believers were being hunted down, and even thought they were being chased out of Jerusalem.. they continued to preach and teach the Gospel message of their Messiah where ever they went, and we spoke about how this caused the Gospel message to spread across the region even faster.

We spoke about the Samaritan rift between the Jews of Jerusalem and the Jews of Samaria and how and why they hated each other.

And so if you have not been with us from the beginning of the book of Acts... I would like to invite you to start at the beginning and take your time, because we've covered a lot of ground up to this point.

And so with that little recap out of the way... I'd like us to return to chapter 8 starting with verse 5, and lets read down to verse 24:

Act 8:6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

Act 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

Act 8:8 So there was much joy in that city.

Act 8:9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.

Act 8:10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great."

Act 8:11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Act 8:13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,

Act 8:15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

Act 8:16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Act 8:17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Act 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

Act 8:19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!"

Act 8:21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Act 8:22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

Act 8:23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."

Act 8:24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

I want us to notice this fellow they call Simon who was a magician and who was well known

through out the land. Notice that they called him “The Power of God That Is Called Great” in verse 10.

We need to remember that the land was filled with all kinds of sorcery and witchcraft, and we must remember King Solomon going to the “Witch of Endor” to bring Samuel up from the grave. Lets take a look at this just to compare some of the strong magic that was in the land back in those days:

1Sa 28:7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor."

1Sa 28:8 So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you."

1Sa 28:9 The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?"

1Sa 28:10 But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

1Sa 28:11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

1Sa 28:12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul."

1Sa 28:13 The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth."

1Sa 28:14 He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

Now we know that what Solomon did by contacting this Witch of Endor was forbidden by God. And we know that even today it is forbidden for a Christian to call on such people according to what is written in the book of Deuteronomy

Deu 18:10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

Deu 18:11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,

Deu 18:12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

So my point is this... how much magic was Simon filled with? What kind of demonic power did Simon hold? Obviously he was powerful enough to get people to think that he had the Power of God, but what god were they referring to?

No matter how deep Simon was into this magic and this sorcery... it does seem as though even Simon himself was clearly amazed at the power that Philip had, and it's clear that Simon was ready to do what ever it took to obtain that same power for himself.

The idea that Simon could buy that power with money told Philip that Simon's heart was not where it needed to be in order to receive the power that he was asking for.

What ever god Simon was worshiping clearly... was not the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

Now... many biblical scholars will proclaim that Simon was not saved. They will say that he was a pagan, or some will say that he was a heretic, and that he was not saved because of his thinking that he could purchase the power of the Ruach Hakodesh, (the Holy Spirit).

But I would suggest that he was able to be saved. Yes Philip reprimands him in verse 20 through 23, but what does Philip say in verse 22:

Act 8:22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

So lets think for a moment.. was it possible for the intent of Simon's heart to be forgiven him? I would submit to you that it absolutely was possible. If Simon truly accepted the Gospel message of Yahshua our Messiah there is no reason to think that he couldn't be forgiven.

If Simon truly accepted the fact that Yahshua Hamashiach (Jesus the Messiah) was indeed the Messiah and that he was a propitiation for his sins, and that he did die for the transgressions of his people, and if Simon truly did pick up his cross and follow after him... I have to believe that Simon indeed was able to be forgiven of the wicked intent of his heart.

The question is... did he?

Well what does he say in verse 24?

Act 8:24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Now let me stop right here to bring something to your attention. For those of you who believe that speaking in tongues is what made Simon believe in the power that Philip had...

When are we told that Simon believed?... was it before or after the Samaritans had received the Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit)?

Notice that it says that Simon believe in verse 13.. but that the Samaritans did not receive the Ruach Hakodesh until after Peter and John came and laid hands on them in verses 14 through 16.

So just to be clear... it was not the fact that everyone was shouting and running around speaking in tongues that made Simon believe, and once again my friends the idea that you must speak in tongues in order to prove that you have the Ruach Hakodesh is nothing short of another man made, man created, man fabricated doctrine not found in scripture anywhere.

No where in the scripture will you find it commanded that you must speak in tongues in order to provide proof that you have the Holy Spirit of God. And for those of you who are still in bondage under that man made, man created, man fabricated false doctrine.. we have a video at HolyImpactMinistries on that topic that will walk you through what the scriptures do and do not say concerning that matter

--TAKE THEM TO WEB SITE AND SHOW THEM--

So I think that Simon was able to be saved otherwise he never would have asked Philip to pray to the Father for him. And this brings up another issue that I think we need to discuss.

Let me ask you this question... what do you think happened to Simon? Do you think he was saved or not?

And if you disagree with me... is that okay?

I would submit to you my friends that is absolutely okay. We do not have to agree on every thing found in the scripture... provided... PROVIDED... the scripture is not clear on the matter.

Notice that no where in the scripture does it say whether or not Simon was saved. It simply does not say. The reader is left pondering this question, and I would agree that many brothers and sisters have a very good argument against Simon being saved.

But in the end.. we're simply not told are we? So can we disagree? Certainly we can.

Is whether Simon was saved or not a salvational issue? Some might say so but I would contend that it is not. But... with that being said...

Lets compare the fist day of the week "Sunday Sabbath" with what we find in scripture. Is it okay to disagree on this topic? I would submit to you that we can not disagree on this topic. Why?

Because the scripture is clear and it is concise.

Is the scripture clear which day the 7thd day "Sabbath" of God is? ..Yes it is.. all we have to do

to find it is look at Exodus 20 verse 10:

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

And no matter how hard you try... no matter how many assumptions you make... no matter how many scriptures you twist.. no matter how many scriptures that you bend.. and no matter how many scriptures you distort...

you and I both know that a 1st day of the week Sabbath is not commanded by any High Priest, its not commanded by any Prophet, its not commanded by any Apostle, it's not commanded by our Messiah, and it's not commanded by our Father in Heaven ANYWHERE IN THE SCRIPTURES.

It's not in there, and you can't find it... and the reason you can't find it my friends... is because it's not in there.

So can we disagree on this topic like we could disagree on the topic of whether or not Simon was saved or not?

NO! We can not disagree on which day the 7th Day Sabbath of God is because the scripture is not open ended on the matter is it?

The scripture says and I quote:

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

And there is no where in the Brit Hadasha... in the Old or the New Testaments, that we are commanded to change what we have already been told by our Father in Heaven. And even the son has told us very clearly that he did not come to abolish the law or the prophets in Matthew 5:17:

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Mat 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Mat 5:19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches

others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

And those of you who have been with us through out this study will have to forgive me but I can not let them go on this matter. I can not let a new viewer go unchallenged when it comes to the truth of what the scripture says.

Most of today's denominational charters of men will wrongly teach that our Messiah “fulfilled” the law and the Sabbath so that we don't have to be bothered with them, and this is nothing more than another man made, man created, man fabricated doctrine of demons.

If indeed the word “fulfill” means that he did it so we don't have to... then why would he say in the very next sentence:

Mat 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

It's time to wake up my friends... it's time to take hold of the truth... and it's time to return to the truth of scripture and to shed the doctrinal theologies, and philosophies of men and their so called... “higher learning”.

So clearly we can not allow ourselves to believe for one moment that our Father who we know is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow has moved, changed, or forsaken his 7th day Sabbath that he commands that we remember, and that he says is a sign between him and his people, and that he says is a perpetual agreement for all generations.

Let me ask you... does God lie? So if he says that his 7th day Sabbath was sanctified, and he says that he made Holy, and he says that it's a sign between him and his people, and he says that it's a perpetual agreement for all generations then if we believe that God can not lie... and if we believe that God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.. And we believe that not the crossing of a “T” or the dotting of an “i” will be removed from the law until Heaven and Earth pass away..

Then we must believe that his 7th day Sabbath was sanctified, and made Holy, and that it is a sign between him and us, and that it is a perpetual agreement for all generations, and... that it is as he says and he alone says... is the 7th day.

So there is a difference between what is debatable with in the scriptures... and what is not.

If it is clearly written in the scripture... then we need to abide by what we find clearly written in

the scripture and not by what man has created by twisting and distorting the scripture.

Deu 4:2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

When Do We Receive The Ruach Hakdodesh (Holy Spirit)?

Now... there is another false teaching that we need to throw to the ground found here in these verses before we can move forward, and that is when does the scripture say that we will receive the Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit)?

Notice once again that the Samaritans did not receive the Ruach Hakodesh when they were baptized did they? Notice verse 11 and 12

Act 8:11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

So were they baptized? Yes they were, but did they receive the Ruach Hakodesh when they were baptized, or even after being baptized? No they did not. Once again lets take another look at verses 14 through 17:

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,

Act 8:15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

Act 8:16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Act 8:17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Many evangelical Christian charters teach that immediately upon faith that you receive the Ruach Hakodesh. But is this what we find in the scripture? ...Once again... no it is not.

You can have “faith” and be baptized and still not have the Ruach Hakodesh according to what we see here in scripture. So if we can have “faith” with out the Ruach Hakodesh, what do we need the Ruach Hokadesh for?

Joh 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Joh 16:14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Ruach Hakodesh is what leads us, and guides us into all truth.

Why are so many Christians so lost and so unhappy, and so ready to fight over what they do not understand? Because they do not have the Ruach Hakodesh. And why do they not have the Ruach Hakodesh? Because they are too filled with themselves and their own vanity.

How many times have you heard a professing Christian proudly proclaim the pageantry and the pomp of Christmas? Knowing that Christmas is not found anywhere in the scripture.

How many times have you hear a professing Christian proudly proclaim Good Friday and Easter? Even though "Good Friday and Easter" are not found anywhere in scripture?

And on and on and on it goes my friends. They are so full of themselves... that there simply is no room for God's Ruach within them. They have decided for themselves that they are going to make void the word of God in order to hold onto their own traditions.

And so there is not Ruach Hakodesh in them to lead them and to guide them to all truth.

They have heard the truth... and rejected it, and therefore are just like the Pharisees of our Messiah's time. And what did he say about them? He said that they are like "Whitewashed Tombs full of dead men's bones". And I would submit to you my friends that this is sadly... what has become of most of today's denominational churches around the world today.

We must remember that Paul himself in Acts chapter 9 received the Ruach Hakodesh after faith, but before he was baptized.

It tells us that even though you might profess that you believe in the Messiah... unless you are ready to surrender your whole heart, mind, body, and soul to him... unless you are ready to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength... there is no room in you for the Ruach Hakodesh to dwell!

You must go to your prayer closet and bow the knee and face the holy land of Jerusalem which is the Holy land of Yahovah your Father.. and you must pray for the discernment that you need... and you must make the promise... that if he will show you the truth... no matter how hard, no matter how outside of your paradigm that it may be... no matter how different it is... that you will DO THE TRUTH.

This is what it takes to receive the Ruach Hakodesh. You must surrender yourself to him. He died to save you, and you save your children, and not only to give you eternal life... but to give it to you abundantly.

But we must understand... it is our hearts that he is after. He has already given you his heart. The question is.. will you give him yours.