

Some Of The Events Leading Up To Acts Two

Many events transpired before the first conversion to Christ. Let us set before our minds some of these events. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ had to take place before the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. One might ask why must Christ die? Let us not try to manufacture an answer, but simply go to God's Word for the answer. In Heb. 9:15-17 the inspired writer states-- And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 16 For where a testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him that made it. 17 For a testament is of force where there hath been death: for it doth never avail while he that made it liveth. The death of Christ was first revealed to man by God in Gen. 3:15 and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. It is imperative that we understand that Christ (The Son of God) followed the pattern that God established. Again, one may ask, how do we know there was a pattern to follow? Turn to Mark 28-28 [And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was reckoned with transgressors.] , and John 19:28-30 After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, saith, I thirst. 29 There was set there a vessel full of vinegar: so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit. Do you see that Jesus not only followed the scriptures ("pattern"), but fulfilled those very scriptures pertaining to Him.

Due to the misconception of many it is essential that we understand what is revealed in Acts the second chapter. Therefore permit me to just place before us a few more scriptures. Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There are some here of them that stand [by], who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power. We can see from this scripture that the kingdom of God was near by and it would be recognizable (POWER). Jesus after His resurrection gives "The Great Commission". This is recorded for us in Mat.28:18-20-And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto

the end of the world. Mk.15:15-18-And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned. 17 And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. creation. ; Lk.24:46,47-and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. As always, it is imperative when studying God's Word to understand; Who is speaking, To whom it is being spoken to, on this occasion it is Christ speaking and He is speaking to His eleven disciples. Now we see that the "Kingdom of God" was to come with "power", the disciple (eleven) were told by Christ what to teach and where to start. In Acts 1:8 we read-But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Now lets put it all together, the eleven were to wait in Jerusalem, the kingdom would come with power when the Holy Spirit came upon the eleven.

As Genesis is a book of beginnings so is the book of Acts. Let us recall that "All Authority " both in "heaven" and on "earth "has been given to Jesus the Son of God, after His death. The kingdom of God promised by the Old Testament prophets had its beginning on this day of Pentecost. This day marks the beginning of the "last days" spoken of by the prophets. The holy Spirit began His work of reprovng the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment on this day. Notice that He started with those who were suppose to "know the scriptures" (Jews). In Ax. 2:5-Now there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. Notice the word modifying the noun men-"devout".

These are the men (devout) that should have recognized the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies, that were taking place right before their eyes. Isa.2:2-And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many peoples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from

Jerusalem., and (Mic.4:1-7). Right here in Acts 2 is the glorious fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies, this is the time when the "law went forth from Jerusalem". From this great and glorious day until the second coming of Our Lord and Savior at the end of the world, this law of pardon is to be preached in the name of Christ; Acts 2:14-36.

It shouldn't surprise us of the two different responses of the people gathered on this occasion, they were in doubt, "what meaneth this?", or the others mocking saying, "These men are full of new wine". To this very audience, the first gospel sermon is preached by Christ's disciples on Pentecost as the apostles start their labor under the great commission. Next week we will look at the sermon that Peter preached.