

LESSON 20 – PETER DIRECTS TRAFFIC ON KINGDOM HIGHWAY

Acts 1 - 7

THEME: To teach the responsibility of believers to witness for Christ.

What a joyful day it must have been when the disciples received the news that Jesus was alive. He appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time besides His apostles and James. 1 Corinthians 15:6,7. This happened by many convincing proofs over a period of forty days and He spoke to them of the things concerning the kingdom of God. He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. When the apostles had come together, they were asking Him, saying “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:3-8.

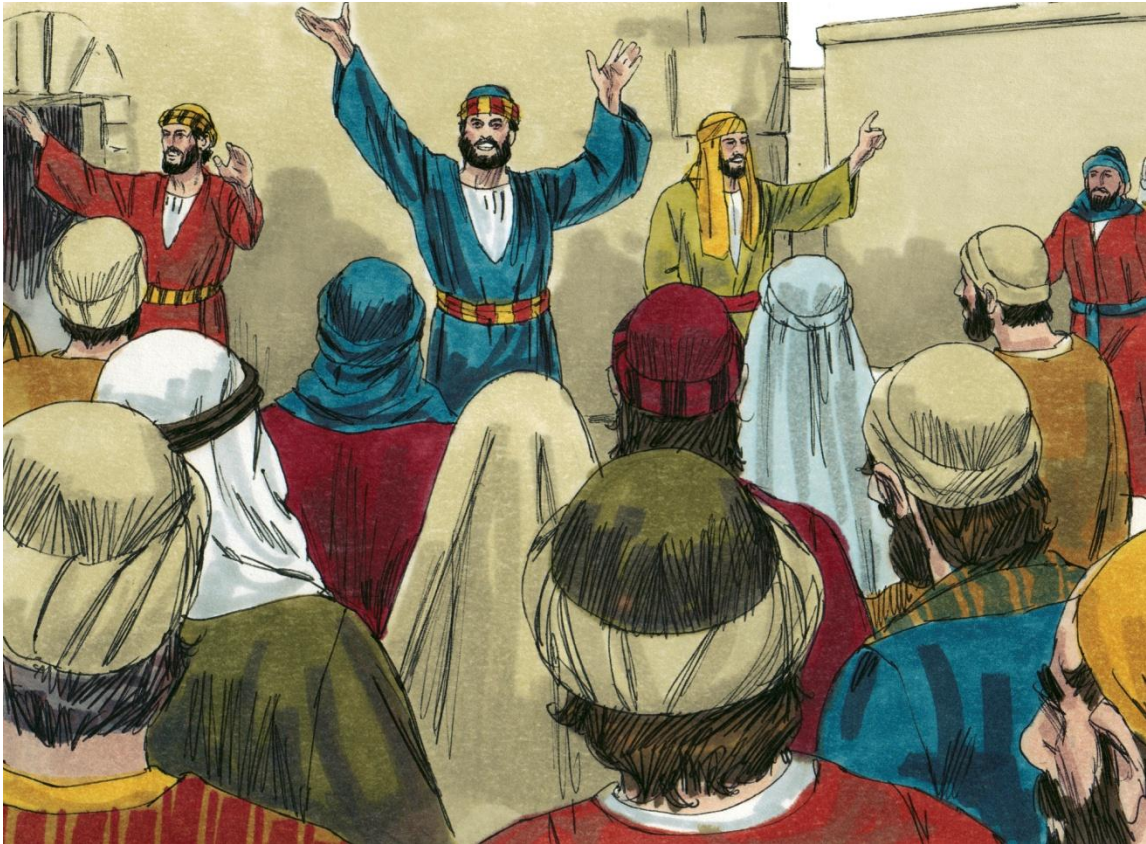
God was giving Israel an opportunity to receive their risen Lord, a basis for setting up the KINGDOM to which KINGDOM HIGHWAY leads, because that was the way the promised blessings of God could come upon the whole world. Why was God being so gracious and giving Israel another chance to repent after they had crucified His Son? It was because:

1. Christ prayed on the cross: “Father, forgive them.” Luke 23:34.
2. It is recorded in Luke 13:6-9 that for three years Christ, while on earth, came to Israel, the fig tree, to find fruit; but found none. We read in this parable that Israel got another year to bear fruit.
3. God wanted to give a final test to Israel to prove their hearts. They permitted the murder of John the Baptist and they demanded the Crucifixion of Christ. Now God wanted to see what they would do when the Holy Spirit was sent.

After the Ascension the apostles returned to Jerusalem and went there to an upper room. There they choose Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot following his betrayal of Jesus and his suicide. Acts 1:15-26.

Pentecost is the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week. Leviticus 23:15-16. It is also called the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:10) and the Feast of the Harvest (Exodus 23:16). When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak of the mighty deeds of God in different languages. Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven, who were amazed and astonished that they could hear them in their own language. Acts 2:1-13.

The apostle Peter raised then his voice and declared to them: "This is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel." He then used the prophecies mentioned in Joel 2:28-32, Psalm 16:8-11, Psalm 132:11 and Psalm 110:1 to explain to them that the Jesus whom they crucified is both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. Acts 2:14-41.



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They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor

with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47.

Now would seem to be the best time for the King to return. Acts 3:19-21. But the rulers of Israel did not want to repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. They did not want KINGDOM HIGHWAY to be ready for the King. The healing of the lame beggar at the gate of the temple caused them to begin to persecute the apostles. The priests, the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees laid hands on Peter and John and put them in jail. Acts 4:1-3. After threatening them, they let them go. Acts 4:21. But Peter and John could not stop speaking about what they have seen and heard. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number. Acts 5:14. The high priest, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees) were filled with jealousy. They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord let them out. Acts 5:17-19.

Finally the rulers of Israel stoned faithful Stephen. The witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. Falling on his knees, Stephen cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7.

What will God do now, since the rulers of Israel are rejecting the risen Lord and resisting His Holy Spirit? Jesus had predicted His rejection by Israel. Matthew 21:42-46. He had said in Matthew 12:31 that blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Again unbelief is going to block traffic on KINGDOM HIGHWAY, even as happened back at Kadesh in the wilderness. Unbelief always brings sorrow and trouble. The apostles saw the risen Christ, and because they saw Him, they believed, becoming powerful witnesses.

Today we believers who live at GRACE AIRPORT have not seen with our eyes the risen Christ, but we have the record of His death, burial and resurrection on the third day in the Bible. God expects us to believe His Word and to become witnesses of what is in the Word. 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16; Hebrews 4:12.

Peter became a good traffic policeman. He pointed the Jews to Christ as the only way of salvation. What kind of traffic policeman are you? God wants each of us to direct people to get aboard SALVATION LINER. Peter preached: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

MEMORY VERSE: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

LESSON 20 – WORK SHEET

Look up the Scripture references and you will find the answers to the following WHAT questions.

1. WHAT did the apostles ask the Lord Jesus about the KINGDOM when He appeared to them after His resurrection? Acts 1:6. _____

2. WHAT did the Lord Jesus answer? Acts 1:7. _____

3. WHAT did the Lord Jesus tell the apostles they would receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them? Acts 1:8. _____
4. WHAT were the apostles to become? Acts 1:8. _____

5. WHAT did Peter on the Day of Pentecost tell the Israelites to do? Acts 2:38. _____

6. WHAT was the reason that God gave the Israelites another opportunity to repent, after they had crucified Christ? Luke 23:34 _____

7. WHAT promise was made to Peter? Matthew 16:19. _____

8. WHAT promise is made to us which should make us desire to labor for our Lord even as Peter did? 1 Corinthians 3:8. _____

9. WHAT is the message which we under GRACE are to give out as we direct travel in GRACE AIRPORT, and invite people to get aboard SALVATION LINER? Romans 10:9,10. _____

10. Write Acts 4:12: _____

