

CHAPTER 16

THE KINGDOM OFFERED TO ISRAEL

SURVEY OF ACTS

As you begin your adventure through Acts, you will notice that the Kingdom theme is continued and God is still working with Israel. It is helpful to know that Acts is chronologically arranged and takes us from the Kingdom being offered to Israel to the apostle Paul who revealed the Church. Many changes in commands are observed during the unfolding of this thirty-year period.

JESUS' COMMANDS TO ISRAEL

After the resurrection, what did Jesus command the eleven apostles to do?

Mark 16:14-20

(1) vs. 15

(2) vs. 16

(3) vs. 17

Why was water baptism given to Israel? Mark 1:5; Acts 2:38. See: page 26 to review Baptisms.

Christ gave Israel the commands of repentance, water baptism for the forgiveness of sin which preceded the gift of the Holy Spirit to be followed by a miracle. This pattern can be seen in the following verses. Read the context to determine to whom it is spoken.

Compare:

Salvation	Miracle
Acts 2:38,41	Acts 2:41-43
Acts 4:32	Acts 4:33
Acts 5:14	Acts 5:15-16
Acts 8:12,16	Acts 8:13,17-18
Acts 8:36,38	Acts 8:39
Acts 9:17; Acts 22:16	Acts 9:18
Acts 10:1-2,44-45	Acts 10:46-48

What did the apostles ask the Lord Jesus after the resurrection? Acts 1:6

What was Jesus Christ's answer to them? Acts 1:7

When would Israel receive the Kingdom's "time of refreshing"? Acts 3:19

Where did Jesus Christ tell the apostles to go? Acts 1:4

What was the Holy Spirit to do? Acts 1:8

What prophecy to Israel was about to be fulfilled? Acts 1:4-5

What happened to the Lord Jesus? Acts 1:11

Where did the Lord Jesus go? Acts 1:11

Why did there need to be twelve apostles? Matthew 19:28

What was still being offered to Israel? Acts 1:6; 3:19-20

After Judas hung himself, the apostles decided to choose someone to replace Judas. How did they know Judas was to be replaced? Acts 1:20

What were the two qualifications needed to be a candidate for apostle?

Acts 1:21-22

a. _____ b. _____

What two men were qualified to be an apostle? Acts 1:23

a. _____ b. _____

What man was chosen? Acts 1:26

NOTE:

Paul could not have been a candidate because he did not have these qualifications nor was he even saved until years later.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

The feasts were given to Israel to picture what Jesus Christ would do for them in the future. Israel celebrated the feast of Passover yearly to thank God for their deliverance from Egypt. They offered the Passover lamb, Exodus 12:1-10, which looked forward to the time when Jesus, the Lamb of God, would shed His blood on the cross for sin. Jesus Christ died on feast of Passover (John 19:14), He was raised on the feast of Firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20), and at the feast of Pentecost in Acts 2, Israel was given the Holy Spirit to prepare them for the spiritual harvest. The next event to occur was the feast of Trumpets, when Christ would have returned to regather Israel. See: Page 22 for further information on the Feasts.

Was the coming of the Holy Spirit PROPHESED to Israel? Ezekiel 36:26-27

What would the Holy Spirit cause Israel to do? Ezekiel 36:27

What then was Israel to do? Isaiah 60:3

When was the Holy Spirit given to Israel? Acts 2:1-4

What did Joel's prophecy say about the Holy Spirit? Joel 2:28-29

What did Joel's prophecy say would follow the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Israel?
Joel 2:30-31

The "day of the Lord" is the Great Tribulation and deals with the sufferings that Israel as a nation will experience. Matthew 24:21. For a study of this time period, turn to page 90.

To whose sons and daughters did the prophecy refer? Acts 2:5,14,22,36; 3:12

How did Peter tell Israel they could receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:38

a. _____ b. _____

What followed repentance, water baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:43. Notice that Peter and the apostles obeyed Jesus' last commands to His disciples before His ascension. Mark 16:16

Why did Peter and John go to Samaria? Acts 8:14-17

a. _____ b. _____

At Samaria, how did the believing Jews receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 8:17

Where was the Holy Spirit to come? Acts 8:16

How did Israel as a nation respond to the Holy Spirit? Acts 7:51

REMEMBER THESE POINTS

- (1) At Pentecost and in early Acts, God was working with Israel as a nation.**
- (2) Christ still proclaimed the Kingdom to Israel. Acts 1:6; 3:19**
- (3) Pentecost was the "last days" of Israel. Acts 2:14-16**
- (4) The Holy Spirit was prophesied to come to Israel. Ezekiel 36:26-27**
- (5) The Holy Spirit came at the feast of Pentecost and prepared Israel for spiritual harvest. Acts 2:1-3**
- (6) The Holy Spirit came UPON believing Israel after belief, water baptism, and a miracle which followed. Acts 2:38,43; Mark 16:14-18. Compare Acts 2:4 with Acts 11:15; Acts 1:8; Acts 8:16; Acts 10:44.**
- (7) Israel received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. Acts 8:17; 9:17**
- (8) Israel as a nation rejected God, the Holy Spirit. Acts 7:51**

COMPARISON STUDY OF THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Have you ever compared the working of the Holy Spirit? Let's discover how the Holy Spirit worked with Israel in the Old Testament, at Pentecost, and how He is working in the Church today. Fill in the main points and then compare His working.

ISRAEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

See Page 35

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

ISRAEL AT PENTECOST

See Page 60

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)

TODAY IN THE CHURCH

See Page 80

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)

LIFE APPLICATION

Name three reasons why it is important to know how the Holy Spirit works today in the Church, the Body of Christ.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____