



So, as we begin to study the Book of Acts, what if we were to try to imagine ourselves to be among the one hundred and twenty in the upper room (Acts 1:13-15), remembering John 16:12-13, not anticipating unrevealed truth; and then we would be just as surprised as were Peter and other Christians, when the Holy Spirit fell upon Gentiles some seven or eight years after Pentecost before Peter had even finished his sermon. (Acts 10:44 and Acts 11:15). And we would be as ignorant of God's 'PURPOSE and GRACE' program for this Dispensation (2 Timothy 1:9) as were ALL of the LORD's Apostles and disciples until the RISEN Christ revealed this glorious truth FIRST to the Apostle Paul, the Apostle born out of due season (1 Corinthians 15:8) to be the LORD's '**PATTERN**' (1 Timothy 1:16), the LORD's '**WISE MASTERBUILDER.**' (1 Corinthians 3:10), '

THE PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST FOR GENTILES

.' (Ephesians 3:1-3).

HOWEVER, for the LORD's sake and for the members of the Body of Christ's sake, let's be not ignorant now.

Here is a most important hint in the understanding of the Book of Acts and the Epistles of the Apostles: **A reference to some Old Testament Prophecy or Scripture does not necessarily mean its fulfillment.**

But, believing 2 Peter 1:19, we are sure that all of the Prophecies from Genesis to Malachi, not fulfilled during the 'ACTS' period and the life-time of Peter, Paul and John **WILL BE FULFILLED!**

Let me also mention, and we will come back to this later on in our study, that it is not without significance that...as the number 'TWELVE' speaks of the nation Israel, and 'ONE' is the number of the Body of the Mystery, the Joint Body of Ephesians 3:6, that the number 120 (10 x 12), is used in Acts 1:13-15; that 6 Jews and 1 proselyte were chosen in Acts 6:1-6; that 12 apostles stood up on the day of Pentecost and addressed devout Jews from every nation under heaven, saying, "**let all of the house of Israel (12 tribes) know.**" (Acts 2:36). There were 11 Apostles present when the Resurrected Christ met them at the appointed mountain and gave them the so-called great commission of Matthew 28:19-20; but note the number had to be increased to '12' by the selection of Matthias (Acts 1:15-26) before, and in order that Peter

could begin to use the keys of the Kingdom on the Jewish feast day, Pentecost. It is likewise not without significance that when the second of the '12' died (James) (Read Acts 12:1-2), being that Peter was through with his assigned task, using the 'kingdom' keys; that no successor was chosen to take the place of James.

Very Interesting!

In this connection, according to our dated Bibles, the new apostle, Paul (Saul), was not sent forth until 5 or 6 years AFTER the 12 said God had granted repentance unto life unto the Gentiles (Acts 11:18), until after Peter had used the keys, and until after James had died and the apostles were reduced to 'eleven.'

Then we would like to know what all of the Apostles were doing during about 5 years from the time the Christian Jews at Antioch in Syria heard how God had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles (Acts 14:27) until the opening of the conference in Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15? All we know is that the '11' continued to make their headquarters at Jerusalem, with two chief men with them who later went with Paul and Barnabas to take the written decision of all the Apostles. Those two chief men were Judas, surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, also called Silvanus. (Acts 15:22). We refer to these because we shall consider their ministries with Peter and with Paul later on in this series of messages. Then, concerning the Apostle Paul during the five years, just a few short words, "**And there they abode long time with the disciples.**" (Acts 14:28).

Then, of course you were curious about this...There must be a lesson for us in Acts 19:1-10. There we read of the Synagogue, and the 12 Jews who had not heard of the Holy Spirit, and an order so different from the order with Cornelius some years before. An order which is not God's order today, in the gospel and program of grace. The order found was water baptism, imposition of hands, Holy Spirit baptism, speaking in tongues. There must be a reason here why we have the number 'TWELVE' right before the Apostle Paul leaves the Synagogue to take up his great work in the School of a Gentile. **Want more of the "meat" of the Word, let's keep going!**

It is not without significance that the last we hear of the Apostle Peter's ministry, as recorded in the Book of Acts, is his deliverance from the jail in Jerusalem and his appearance immediately thereafter in the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark and the sister of Barnabas. (Acts 12:8-16). Peter says 'good-bye' to us, in these words concerning him in Acts 12:17, "**and he (the Apostle Peter) departed, and went into another place.**" (Acts 12:17).

From Acts 13 to Acts 28, the Holy Spirit tells of many, many places where the Apostle Paul was, even mentioning them by name, as he obeyed the Risen Christ's words in Acts 22:21. But never is the Apostle Peter heard of again during the 'Acts' period except in Galatians 2:1-16, (and there he must have really regretted that he went across the border outside the land of the Jews), and at the Council in Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15. About that time the Apostle Peter was sent to Jews. (Galatians 2:9). Therefore, with Acts 12:17, Peter could truly have said, "*Paul must increase but I must decrease.*"

"Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" Acts 16:31, while there is still time!

So There You Have it!

Spread this message to everyone you know, far and wide. **The time is short**

Grace be to you and peace, from God: our Father, and The LORD Jesus Christ.

In The LORD Jesus Christ,
[The Lion and Lamb Ministry](#)

Pastor David Picos, D.D.
Minister and Ambassador for Christ in the Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-20)

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