

A SYNOPSIS OF THE TRANSITIONAL BOOK OF ACTS

- I. AS AN HISTORICAL BOOK, THE BOOK OF ACTS SHOWS A GRADUAL BUT PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF TRUTH DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BETWEEN THE OFFERING AND REJECTION OF THE KINGDOM AGE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRESENT CHURCH AGE.
- A. The Old Testament Ordinances on Meat (food) and Drink Were Done away with at Calvary (Col. 2:13-17).
1. Nobody knew about this fact until Acts 10:9-20 (see also Acts 11:1-18). This took place about eight years after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Jesus had forty days to tell the apostles about this fact (Acts 1:3) but chose not to tell them.
- B. The Body of Christ Was Formed Corporately in Acts 2:1-4, but Nobody Knew about It until Jesus Revealed It in Acts 9:4-5.
- C. Salvation Was by a Finished Blood Atonement at Calvary (Heb 9:11-17) but Nobody Preached It until Acts 8:35-38.
- D. New Testament Salvation Is by Grace through Faith alone (Eph 2:8-9; Tit 3:5), but It Was not Stated as a Plan of Salvation until Acts 15:7-11.
- E. Because of this Progressive Revelation, most Sects and Cults Rely on the Book of Acts for Their Doctrine. They “wrest the Scriptures to their own destruction” (2 Pet. 3:16) by Refusing to Advance Doctrinally beyond the Transition Period Covered in the Book of Acts.
- II. ALTHOUGH JESUS CHRIST IS SAID TO BE “The Same Yesterday, and Today, and Forever” (Heb 13:8), HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT WORK, SPEAK, HEAL, MINISTER OR ANSWER PRAYER THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITIONAL BOOK OF ACTS. BEFORE HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION, JESUS CHRIST COMMISSIONED THE APOSTLES TO ONLY GO TO THE JEWS (Mat 10:5-6), BUT AFTER HIS RESURRECTION, JESUS COMMISSIONED THE APOSTLES TO GO TO ALL NATIONS (Gentiles – Mat 28:16-20).

- A. The Signs of the Apostles Accompanied Them during this Transitional Period (Mark 16:16; Luke 10:17; Acts 2:4; 5:12; 2 Cor 12:12; 11:13; Rev 2:2).
- B. The Official Message to the Jews (Israel – Acts 2:8-10, 14, 22, 29, 36, 38) Was Preached to the Gentiles in Acts 10 and They Received the Gift of the Holy Ghost **without** the Laying on of Hands and **without** Being Baptized in Water (Acts 10:42-48).
- C. After Acts 7, the Lord Did not Heal Anyone in Jerusalem and Did not Supply Their Physical Needs through any Miracle (Acts 11:29).
- D. The First Definite Statement on Justification and Imputed Righteousness Was not Given until Acts 13:14-49.
- E. The final Statement in the Book of Acts on the Content of the Apostle Paul's Preaching Was not Given until Acts 20:16-21.
- F. The Apostle Paul's Sign Gift of Healing, Exercised in Acts 14:8-10 and 28:8-9 (see also Acts 19:11-12), Was Failing by the end of His Ministry (1 Tim 5:23; 2 Tim 4:20).
- G. The Apostle Paul Was Unable to Pray Himself out of Jail in Acts 23, 24, 25 or 28 and the Lord Did not See Fit to Get Him out either, like He Did in Acts 16:25-34 or Like He Got the Apostle Peter out in Acts 12:5-11.

III. IN THE TRANSITIONAL BOOK OF ACTS, TONGUES ONLY ACCOMPANY A SALVATION MESSAGE AND ARE A SIGN FOR JEWS WHO DO NOT BELIEVE SOMETHING.

- A. In Acts 2, there Are no "Unknown Tongues," just as there Is no "Baptism of the Holy Ghost" in 1st Corinthians 14.
 - 1. There is no record that any of the new converts at Pentecost ever spoke in tongues (read Acts 2).
 - 2. Only the Twelve Apostles spoke in tongues in Acts 2 in order to show unbelieving Israel that God had given them the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:17 to 2:21).
 - 3. The proper use of tongues is **always** to convince a Jew who does not believe something (1 Cor 1:22; 14:21-22).
- B. Tongues Are **never** Used when Unbelieving Jews Are not Present (Acts 8:36-39; 16:12-15; 16:30-34; 18:5-8).

1. In Acts 10, when Cornelius and his household spoke in tongues, God showed the Apostle Peter and the Jews with him that the Gentiles had received the Holy Ghost **before** they were baptized in water and **without** the laying on of hands. This explains Peter's surprise in Acts 10:45.
2. In Acts 19, the converts of Apollos, who only knew about John the Baptist's water baptism, prophesied and spoke in tongues for the benefit of the Jews in the Synagogue mentioned in Acts 19:6.

IV. SALVATION AND RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST VARIES THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD COVERED BY THE BOOK OF ACTS.

- A. In Acts 2:36-38, There Is no Mention of the Laying on of Hands in order to Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.
- B. In Acts 8:5-18, the Samaritans (half-Jews) Did not Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost until after the Apostles Laid Hands on Them, even though They Believed and Were Baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus (v.16).
- C. In Acts 10:34-38, the Gentiles Received the Holy Ghost without the Laying on of the Apostles' Hands before They Were Baptized in Water.
- D. In Acts 15:1-11, both the Jews and the Gentiles Were Said to Be Saved by Faith (v.9), through Grace (v.11), and Were Given the Holy Ghost (v.8). There Is no Mention of the Laying on of Hands or of Anyone Being Baptized in the Name of Jesus, or of Anyone Speaking in Tongues.
- E. In Acts 19:1-6, the Jews Did not Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost until after They Were Baptized in the Name of Jesus and not until the Apostle Paul Laid Hands on Them.