

Lesson 10

GOD'S CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY THE CHURCH

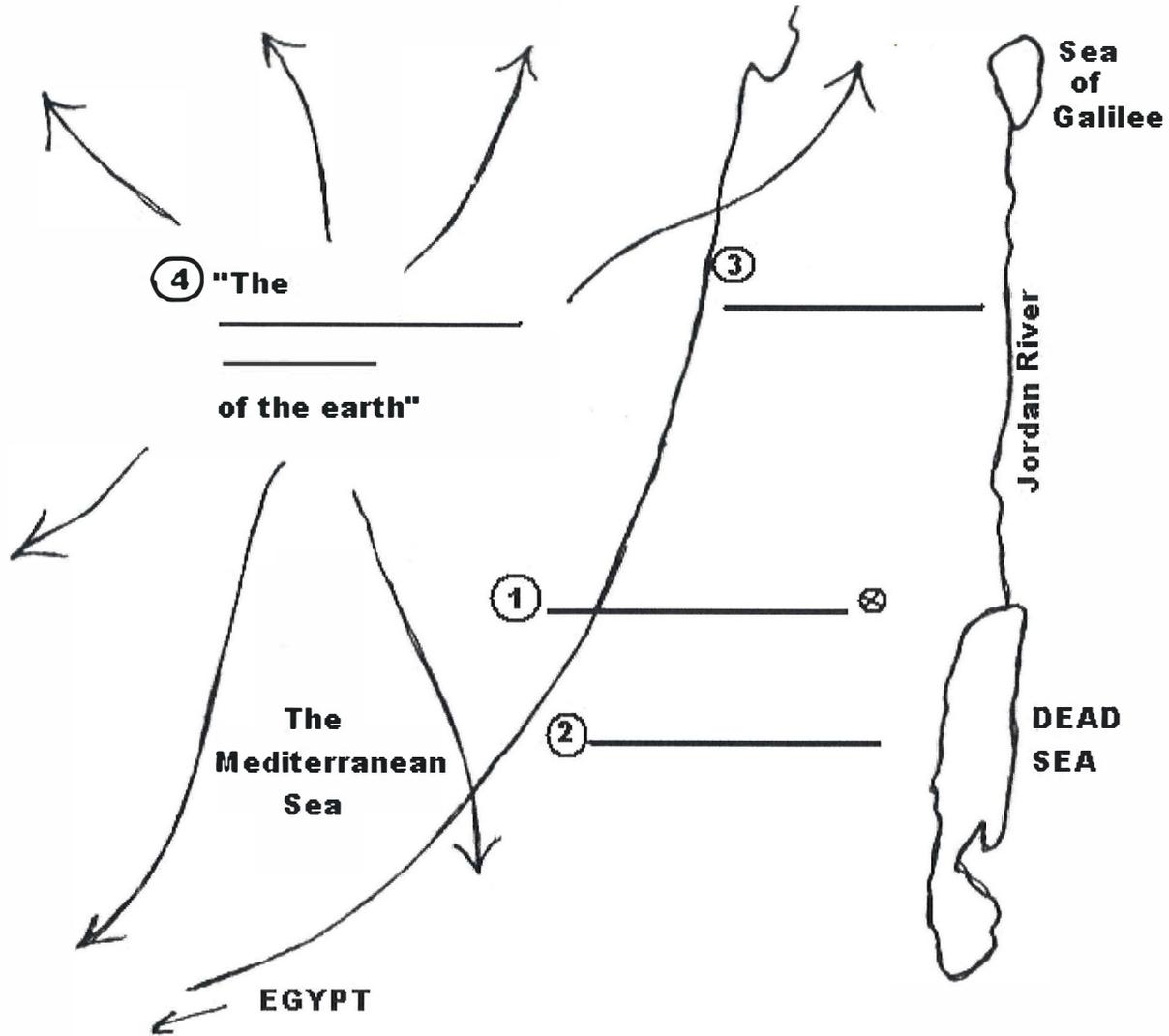
Nationality Makes No Difference in Christ's Church: The Forward Progress of the Gospel to All Nations, to the Jew first

THE FORWARD PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS

Before the Lord Jesus went back to heaven He gave to His disciples a brief, one-verse outline of His NEW PROGRAM in which He would _____ (Matthew 16:18) His Church (Assembly) and call out a _____ (Acts 15:14) for His name. This verse is found in **ACTS 1:8** and could be called "THE BOOK OF ACTS IN A NUTSHELL." It summarizes the entire book of Acts in one verse. Here Christ taught that HIS W _____ would be both

1. **IN JERUSALEM**--the starting point (see Luke 24:49)
(ACTS 2-ACTS 7)
2. **IN ALL JUDAEA**--the home of the JEWS
(ACTS 8:1-4)
3. **IN SAMARIA**--the home of the SAMARITANS
(ACTS 8:5-25)
4. **UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH**--the home of the GENTILES
(ACTS 8:26-ACTS 28).

To help you better understand ACTS 1:8, please complete the following map. To do this, you need to put the following in their proper location: **Uttermost part, Samaria, Judaea, Jerusalem.** [If you need help, the maps found at the back of a good reference Bible would be useful.]



The Gospel of Christ Goes to the JEWS FIRST.

What group of people were present on the day of Pentecost (the day when **the Church** first began)--Jews, Samaritans or Gentiles (Acts 2:5)? _____ Where were these men from (Acts 2:5)? _____ On this special day Peter preached to thousands of people. These people belonged to what nation (Acts 2:22,36)? _____ Therefore, when the CHURCH first began on the day of Pentecost, the gospel went to the **JEWS FIRST**.

In Acts 3 whom did Peter preach to (Acts 3:12-13)? _____ Notice carefully Acts 3:26: "Unto **YOU** (the JEWS, the men of Israel) F_____ God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you." The BLESSINGS of the gospel went **to the JEWS FIRST**.

This same fact is set forth in Acts 13:46: "It was _____ that the Word of God should _____ have been spoken to YOU." Who does the "YOU" refer to (verse 45)? _____ It was NECESSARY for the Word of God to go **to the JEWS FIRST**.

Paul repeats this truth in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the _____ of Christ: for **it** (THE GOSPEL) is the power of God unto salvation to _____ that believeth; _____, and also to the Greek." Does ACTS 1:8 indicate that the gospel would go **to the JEWS FIRST**? _____

Why was it NECESSARY (Acts 13:46) for the gospel to go **to the JEW FIRST**? There are at least four reasons:

1) The gospel must go to the JEW FIRST because "SALVATION is of the _____" (John 4:22).

Salvation is of the JEWS because THE SAVIOUR Himself was a JEW (Romans 9:5; Matthew 2:2). Since SALVATION is of the JEWS it seems right that the message of SALVATION should go **FIRST** to the Jews.

2) The gospel must go to the JEW FIRST because Christ came into the world for the purpose of saving HIS PEOPLE from their sins:

"And thou shalt call His name _____, for he shall save _____ from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Who does "HIS PEOPLE" refer to (Matthew 2:6)? _____ It was to these people that God **first** sent the BLESSINGS of the gospel, "in turning away every one of you (Jews) from his iniquities" (Acts 3:26).

3) The gospel must go to the JEW FIRST because the Jews had the Old Testament Scriptures (the 39 books)--see Romans 3:2 and 9:4. They of all people should have recognized the promised Saviour and should have acknowledged Him as **the Christ** (the Messiah) of Israel. The Jews were given many **promises** (Romans 9:4) concerning the coming Saviour. The Jews should have realized that their Bible spoke about the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:25-36). The Jews should have understood that all of their _____ (Acts 3:18) predicted that _____ (the Messiah) should suffer exactly as He did. Moses (Acts 3:22; 7:37) and all the _____ (Acts 3:24) including Samuel and those who followed after told of the coming Saviour. In fact, Romans 1:1-2 tells us that the gospel was **promised before** by God's prophets in the _____. In Luke 24:44-46 we discover that the Jews should have learned of the death and resurrection of Christ because IT WAS WRITTEN in the law of Moses, and in the _____ and in the _____. This can be seen below:

CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Section	The Specific Passage	Fulfillment in ACTS
LAW OF MOSES	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:22 and 7:37
PROPHETS	Isaiah 53:7-8	Acts 8:30-35
PSALMS	Psalms 16:9-10	Acts 2:25-36

Of course there are **many** other verses in the LAW OF MOSES and in the PROPHETS and in the PSALMS that speak of Christ.

But the Jews failed to see Christ in the Scriptures! It is **not** enough to have and to own a Bible--you must **do something** with the Bible you have. The Jews had the Bible but they crucified the Messiah that their Bible spoke about. We need to take heed to what we do with the Bible that we have (the 66 books), so that we will be ready when the Saviour comes the second time.

God sent the GOSPEL **to the JEWS FIRST** because they should have been the FIRST to recognize the Christ of the GOSPEL!

4) The gospel must go to the JEW FIRST because God wanted to SHOW that He was a gracious God.

Did the Jews DESERVE to hear the gospel FIRST? They were the very ones who crucified the Messiah. [See what Paul, himself a Jew, said about his fellow Jews in 1 Thessalonians 2:15.] Why did God seek to bless them? Why did God make known the message of SALVATION to the JEW FIRST? They should have been the last to hear! In fact, **they did not deserve to hear at all!** They rejected God's Saviour! Why didn't God reject them? [Because of our sins and our rebellion against God, none of us deserve to hear God's good news, whether we are Jews or Gentiles. That is what the grace of God is all about--God's wonderful love and kindness to those who do not deserve anything but God's wrath and judgment.]

The following verses show how very undeserving Israel was:

1. **Matthew 27:22.** What did Israel want to do with their Messiah?
_____ (see verses. 23-26)
2. **Acts 2:23.** "Ye have taken, and by _____ hands have _____ and _____."
3. **Acts 2:36.** "that same Jesus, whom ye have _____"
4. **Acts 3:14-15.** "But ye _____ the Holy One and the Just, and desired a _____ to be granted unto you; and _____ the _____."
5. **Acts 5:30.** "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye _____ and _____ on a tree."
6. **Acts 7:52.** "Which of the prophets have not your fathers _____? And they have _____ them who showed before of the coming of the Just One, of whom ye have been now the _____ and _____."
7. **Acts 10:39.** "Whom they _____ and _____ on a tree."
8. **Acts 13:27-28.** "They have fulfilled **them** (the Scriptures) in _____ him, and though they found no cause of death in him, yet they desired Pilate that he should be _____."
9. **1 Corinthians 2:8.** "They... _____ the _____ of glory."
10. **Zechariah 12:10.** "And they shall look upon me whom they have _____" (compare Zechariah 13:6; John 19:37; Revelation 1:7).

Yet it was this wicked and guilty people **who heard the gospel FIRST!** How gracious God is to those who deserve no kindness at all. When Israel's SIN was greatest, God's GRACE was even GREATER: "where _____ abounded, _____ did _____ abound" (Romans 5:20).

Has God been gracious **to you?** To better understand this, let's seek to answer this question:

WHO REALLY CRUCIFIED CHRIST?

There are several answers that we might give:

1. **THE JEWS** crucified Christ because they told Pilate, "LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED" (Matthew 27:21-25).
2. **JUDAS** crucified Christ because he betrayed Him (John 13:2).
3. **THE DEVIL** crucified Christ because he worked in Judas to do this wicked deed (John 13:2) and he "bruised Christ's heel" (Genesis 3:15).
4. **PILATE** crucified Christ because he delivered Him to be crucified even though he knew Christ was innocent (Matthew 27:26).
5. **THE ROMANS** crucified Christ because they nailed Him to the cross (Matthew 27:27,31,35).
6. **GOD THE FATHER** crucified Christ because God in His perfect plan determined that the Son of God should become a man and die (Acts 2:23; Revelation 13:8) and "it pleased the LORD to bruise Him" (Isaiah 53:10).
7. **JESUS** crucified Christ because He freely **lay down** His life and gave His life for His sheep (John 10:11-18).
8. **I CRUCIFIED CHRIST** because He died *FOR ME*.
It was for **my sins** He suffered and bled and died! **My sins** nailed Him to that cross (see Isaiah 53)!
I CRUCIFIED THE MESSIAH!

And yet God in His grace has allowed me to hear the gospel! God has invited me to put my whole trust in the Crucified One! God has been so gracious to ME, a person who does not deserve one drop of His kindness.

The Bible gives us two simple definitions of GRACE:

1. Ephesians 2:7

Grace is "GOD'S _____ toward _____ through _____."
_____."

2. Titus 3:4

Grace is "the _____ and _____ of God, our _____,
toward _____."

How gracious God is to those who deserve no kindness at all! When my sin was greatest, God's GRACE was GREATER! Grace greater than all my sin!!

The gracious hand of God reached out not only to the JEWS, but also to the SAMARITANS and to the GENTILES and unto the uttermost parts of the earth!

The Dividing Decision

"IF YOU HAVE THE SON, YOU HAVE LIFE. IF YOU DON'T HAVE GOD'S SON, YOU DON'T HAVE LIFE."
— I JN 5:12 (BECK TRS.)

