

The Mindset of the Twelve Apostles – Part 1

Gross misinterpretation of Luke 24:47 & Acts 2:39 has led to MUCH false teaching & confusion within the denominational system over the so-called 'Great Commission'. I had a debate with a college roommate some 40+ years ago in which I was insisting that certain things being taught or suggested (from within a strong evangelical Baptist institution) were contrary to the scriptures. Where there was a strong emphasis placed on the commissions given to the Twelve towards Israel (**Mt 10:5; Mk 16:14-20**), I was trying to point out was eventually temporary overridden by Paul's gospel & ministry to Gentiles.

Luke 24:44-49 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. **45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** And ye are witnesses of these things. **49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

...that REPENTANCE and REMISSION OF SINS should be preached in his name AMONG ALL NATIONS, beginning AT JERUSALEM

Acts 2:36-40 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. **37** Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? **38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. **40** And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

...Therefore let ALL the HOUSE OF ISRAEL know assuredly...

...For the promise is unto YOU, and to YOUR CHILDREN, and to ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF

My roommate's insistence was that GENTILES were included in the Twelves' understanding of 'AMONG ALL NATIONS' & 'ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF' and that the 'church' today should be marching in the light of the commissions given to the Twelve. Not only will this be proven WRONG, but will clearly demonstrate that the Apostles weren't anticipating reaching Gentiles until AFTER the return of Christ in the reestablishment of the kingdom back to Israel!

Who EXACTLY was the AFAR OFF to be reached AMONG all nations? According to prophecy it was the Jew in preparation of the establishment of the New Covenant & kingdom back to Israel (**Eze 36:22-29**). The following run of scripture will clearly show the MINDSET of the Apostles in light of commissions given to THEM. Both the 'PREACHING' commission of Mark 16:15-20 (to the Jew) & the 'TEACHING' commission of Matthew 28:16-20 (including ALL nations) MUST be viewed from the VIEWPOINT OF THE APOSTLES expecting the return of Christ in their lifetime... SEQUENCE: 1st Preaching (Jew) 2nd Return of Christ 3rd Teaching (all nations).

Deuteronomy 29:13-15 That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and *that* he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac,

and to Jacob. **14** Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; **15** But with *him* that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with *him* that *is* not here with us this day:

...Neither with YOU ONLY do I make this covenant and this oath

...But with *HIM* THAT STANDETH HERE WITH US THIS DAY before the LORD our God

...and also with *HIM* THAT *IS* NOT HERE WITH US THIS DAY

Ezekiel 11:16-17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. **17** Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

...Although I have cast THEM FAR OFF AMONG THE HEATHEN

...and although I have scattered THEM AMONG THE COUNTRIES

...I will even gather YOU FROM THE PEOPLE, and assemble YOU OUT OF THE COUNTRIES where YE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED

Daniel 9:7 O Lord, righteousness *belongeth* unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, *that are near*, and *that are far off*, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

...to the MEN OF JUDAH, and unto ALL ISRAEL, *that ARE NEAR*, and *that are FAR OFF*, through ALL THE COUNTRIES whither thou hast driven them

Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

...Ye shall NOT have gone over the cities of Israel, TILL THE SON OF MAN BE COME

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

...YE which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory

...YE also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Acts 1:6-8 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? **7** And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. **8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

...Lord, wilt thou AT THIS TIME restore again the KINGDOM TO ISRAEL?

...YE shall be witnesses unto me both in JERUSALEM, and in ALL JUDAEA, and IN SAMARIA, and unto THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH

Acts 2:1-5 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

...there were dwelling at Jerusalem JEWS, devout men, OUT OF EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN

Acts 3:19-21 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; **20** And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: **21** Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

...And he shall SEND JESUS CHRIST, which before was preached UNTO YOU

Acts 3:25-26 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. **26** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

...Unto YOU FIRST God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away EVERY ONE OF YOU from HIS INIQUITIES

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

...they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of JUDAEA and SAMARIA, EXCEPT THE APOSTLES

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

...preaching the word to NONE BUT UNTO the JEWS ONLY

In conclusion to Part 1, regarding the Mindset of the Twelve, the 'AFAR OFF' & 'AMONG all nations', don't include Gentiles, but Jews in light of prophecy in the regathering & establishment of a New Covenant with Israel. The commission was an outreach to the Jew AMONG all nations!

In Part 2, I'll show exactly WHY the Lord Jesus Christ DIDN'T return back then. Also, I'll highlight the ignorance taught over Peter's visit to a Gentile's household in Acts 10. In particular, I'll deal with that SPECIFIC GROUP OF GENTILES in which Paul does refer to as... "And came and preached peace to YOU which were AFAR OFF, and to them that were nigh." **Ephesians 2:17**