

ACTS 1:8 - P.S.

In Acts 1:7, Christ told His disciples they would not know the times or seasons, so that they could give a genuine kingdom offer.

In Acts 1:8, they were told that after they were endued with power, they were to evangelize and teach in a certain territorial way.

A. Acts 1:8 - [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.]

P.S.

This verse was just a part of their overall one commission.

1. Most lump these commissions (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:8; John 20:21-23) together, believing they are all Christ's orders to follow for the Body Church of today.
2. But remember, since there was no revelation of the Body of Christ until after Paul was converted and progressive revelation was given to him, the commission here in Matthew-John could only be, or applied, to the Kingdom Gospel to help try to bring in the Millennial Kingdom Program to Israel.

B.

What we notice in these commissions:

them, saying, All power is given unto me in and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name Matt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto heaven and in earth. Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am Amen.

- a. This shows there was now a universal potential to the preaching of the Kingdom Gospel - Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah that has been prophesied. He has suffered (Isaiah 53) and He's alive (Psalm 16:10).

John 6:69 - And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 11:27 - She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

- b. Before, their preaching had been restricted to Israel only.

Matthew 10:5-7 - These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: Matt. 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Matt. 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

*But here, it is Israel first - then to the nations.

- c. The commission in Matthew 28:20 was to teach others [to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:] while He was on the earth.

Romans 15:8 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:

Galatians 4:4 - But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

- (1) *This would be Israel's covenant promises and their responsibility to the Law.
- (2) Under Law they needed to go to the Temple, practice sacrifices, Sabbaths, Feasts, and ordinances.

Examples:

Matthew 23:1-3 - Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Matt. 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: Matt. 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Matthew 5:17, 19 - Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Matt. 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:16-17 - And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? Matt. 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God*: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Matthew 6:14-15 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also for give you: Matt. 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father for give your trespasses.

** Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

2. Mark 16:16

Us Today?

-19 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

*Mark's commission required faith and water baptism for forgiveness of sins - salvation.

- a. Mark 1:4 - John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- b. At Pentecost in Acts 2:38 - 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.

- c. This message included signs and wonders accompanying their Kingdom message to Israel. As we study Acts, we will see that those signs and wonders **did** follow the Kingdom gospel while God was dealing with Israel/Jews in the early Acts period.

Acts 2:22, 4:10 - Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

- d. **These signs were telling the nation of Israel that Jesus Christ was their Messiah, that **judgment** was coming if they would not repent of their sins and unbelief, and that their message had Millennial Kingdom conditions where disease would be banished and nature restored from the curse.

Isaiah 35:4-6 - Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Isaiah 35:6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

*The Jewish people who knew Scripture **expected** this. So when Christ came, and after His ascension, the disciples continued this truth. Of course, they made their choice in Acts 7 **not** to believe.

Luke 4:18 - The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

3. Luke 24:45-49 - Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things. Luke 24:49 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.

*This goes along with Acts 1:8. The Israel first kingdom message was to be carried out in a definite Divine order. Jerusalem and Judaea must **first** receive/believe their message before it could ever go to the Gentile nations.

Mark 7:27 - But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

Acts 3:26 - 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.

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.

**Today, we do not ever follow their order!

4. John 20:20-21 - Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

a. Question? To whom had the Father sent Jesus?

Matthew 15:24 - But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

b. But now (early Acts), they could present their Messiah with the greatest miraculous sign **ever** in history - Messiah had been crucified to death, but now He's an alive-resurrected Messiah. If Israel should ever believe, it was then! Christ is entrusting them with His Kingdom message to proclaim.

5. John 20:22-23 - [And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: John 20:23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.]

a. Christ gave them, at that moment (Holy Spirit), a **foretaste** and a pledge of earnest that was to come at Pentecost. They experienced something right **then**.

b. Verse 23 simply is saying that not only was Christ going to give them the Holy Spirit, but He would also send them out with His **authority**. They were able to act in His stead and only do what He would have done (Matt. 18:18-20). Peter would have the authority to act in Messiah's place and Heaven's place (Matt. 16:15-19).

c. The disciples were able to tell if one's heart believed or lied (Acts 5). They **knew** if one did, or did not, believe Jesus was Messiah. They had the authority to tell at once that if they would repent and be water baptized, **then** their sins would be forgiven and they would receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). If the Jews would not believe, the Apostles had the authority to tell them their sins were **still** retained.

d. So the power of declaring authoritatively whose sins were forgiven and whose sins were not was conferred on the 12.

*Note: Remember, it had been the high priest's job to do this. But Christ has taken that **away** from the high priests because of their unbelief and apostasy. Now beginning for Israel, it was the **12** who would declare who the "Little Flock" (true believers) and the true Israel were.

e. Remember: 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.

*So in early Acts, the 12 were given authority in Israel as a **foretaste** of what their Kingdom responsibilities might be like as the New Covenant would be implemented (Jer. 31:31; Ezek. 36:24-27).

EX: Acts 4:29-31, 33 - And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

C. Have you noticed what's "missing" in this commission to Israel?

1. Grace is not mentioned **once**.
2. The cross is not presented as **good** news.
3. The D.B.R.'s accomplishments have **little** significance of victory over sin or justification.
4. There is nothing about Spirit baptism into the Body of Christ.
5. There is nothing about living under grace or grace living, but only under Law and Kingdom **material** blessings.

D. Where is our commission given?

II Corinthians 5:18, 20 - And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 2Cor. 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Romans 16:25-26 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, Rom. 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

1. All Scripture is profitable. But it is in Paul's epistles (Romans-Philemon) that we receive **our** commission for the Body of Christ.
2. Our message is not to give life to establish a Kingdom here on earth. Our commission is to get people saved to take them **out** of this world, a called-out Body of Believers to go to **Heaven**.
3. Our message is the Gospel of Grace to all. It does not matter if one is a Jew or a Gentile. It is a message of reconciliation to **God** for whosoever will **believe** the Gospel (D.B.R.).

Acts 20:24 - But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Ephesians 2:15-16 - Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; Eph. 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Rapture

THE KINGDOM PROCLAIMED

1st GREAT COMMISSION

Matt. 10:5-7

To the Hebrew Nation Alone

Compare

Matt. 15:24
Rom. 15:8

The Savior dies for sin

Isa. 53:1-12



Israel rejects the lowly Jesus but is forgiven

Luke 23:34
Acts 3:17-21

THE KINGDOM OFFERED

2nd GREAT COMMISSION

Acts 1:8

To All Nations Beginning With Israel

Compare

Luke 24:47
Acts 3:25,26

The Chief of Sinners Saved

I Tim. 1:13-16



Israel rejects the glorified Lord and is judged

Rom. 10:21
Rom. 11:7,25

THE KINGDOM POSTPONED

3rd GREAT COMMISSION TODAY

II Cor. 5:19

To All Without Distinction

Compare

Rom. 11:32
II Cor. 5:16

THE KINGDOM ESTABLISHED

Matt. 24:14

Rev. 11:15-17

Rev. 20:1-4

Christ returns to earth