

# THE WORLD TOMORROW

## Radio Program Transcript

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March 1979 (W-8208)

HOW DOES GOD PUT THE DOCTRINES, THE TEACHINGS, THAT WE ARE TO BELIEVE AND WE'RE TO PREACH, INTO THE CHURCH? HE NATURALLY DOES IT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. SO, HERE IS A BASIC TEACHING OF THE DOCTRINE IN I CORINTHIANS 1:20, WHERE THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH, "NOW, I BESEECH YOU BRETHREN IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST THAT YOU ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING." HE DOESN'T WANT JOHN SPEAKING ONE THING AND HENRY SOMETHING ELSE AND PAUL SOMETHING ELSE, AND THEN SOMEBODY ELSE SOMETHING ELSE. WE ARE COMMANDED TO ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING.

NOW, THAT THING MUST COME FROM GOD AND NOT FROM THE DESIRES OF MEN. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? OR DO SOME OF YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE THE DESIRES OF MEN CONTRARY TO GOD?

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH WAS NOT IN HARMONY. NOTICE A LITTLE FURTHER HERE, THE VERY NEXT VERSE, "FOR IT HAS BEEN DECLARED UNTO ME OF YOU, MY BRETHREN, BY THEM WHICH ARE OF THE HOUSE OF CHLOE THAT THERE ARE CONTENTIONS AMONG YOU. [GOD DOESN'T WANT THESE CONTENTIONS; HE DOESN'T WANT THESE DIFFERENCES OF ONE SAYING, WELL, I DON'T LIKE THAT DOCTRINE AND I WANT TO GET THIS WATERED DOWN AND I WANT THAT CHANGED.] THIS I SAY THAT EVERYONE OF YOU SAITH [AND THIS SEEMED TO BE ALL OF THEM], I AM OF PAUL, OR I OF APOLLOS, AND I OF CEPHAS, AND I OF CHRIST." SO THAT WAS THE TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH.

IF EVERYBODY TEACHES WHAT HE BELIEVES, AND THE WAY HE SEES IT, WE ALL HAVE NOTHING BUT TERRIBLE CONFUSION IN THE CHURCH. OUR TEACHINGS AND DOCTRINES MUST COME FROM GOD. HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN? WELL, GOD SHOWS IT TO CHRIST, AND THEN CHRIST PUTS IT IN THE CHURCH. AND I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW.

IN ACTS 7:38, "THIS IS HE THAT WAS IN THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS..." BACK IN THE DAYS OF MOSES. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ARE CALLED THE CHURCH THAT WAS IN THE WILDERNESS. IN OLD TESTAMENT LANGUAGE, THEY ARE CALLED THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL, BUT CONGREGATION AND CHURCH MEAN THE SAME THING. THEY'RE JUST TWO DIFFERENT ENGLISH WORDS THAT HAVE THE SAME MEANING EXACTLY.

THE QUESTION IS, HOW DID GOD PUT TRUTH IN THE CHURCH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT? LET'S GO CLEAR BACK THERE. HE CALLED MOSES ESPECIALLY. MOSES DIDN'T SEEK GOD, BUT GOD HAD THIS BURNING BUSH THERE AND THAT LITTLE INCIDENT, AND HE TALKED TO MOSES.

SOME IN ISRAEL BEGAN TO CHALLENGE MOSES AND HIS LEADERSHIP, BACK HERE IN NUMBERS 12. AND MIRIAM, WHO WAS THE SISTER OF MOSES, AND AARON HIS BROTHER SPAKE AGAINST MOSES BECAUSE OF THE ETHIOPIAN WOMAN WHOM HE HAD MARRIED. THEY DIDN'T LIKE THAT. YOU SEE, THEY SAID THEY HAD TO TAKE IT IN THEIR HANDS TO CORRECT HIM. GOD WAS THE ONE TO CORRECT HIM IF HE HAD DONE WRONG, AND GOD HAD NOT CORRECTED HIM FOR THIS. THEY SAID, "HATH THE ETERNAL INDEED SPOKEN ONLY BY MOSES? HATH HE NOT SPOKEN ALSO BY US? AND THE LORD HEARD IT, AND THE ETERNAL CAME DOWN IN A PILLAR OF A CLOUD AND STOOD IN THE DOOR OF THE TABERNACLE AND CALLED AARON AND MIRIAM AND THEY BOTH CAME FORTH AND HE SAID, HEAR NOW MY WORDS. WHEREFORE THEN WERE YOU NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK AGAINST MY SERVANT MOSES?" GOD SAID WE OUGHT TO BE AFRAID TO SPEAK AGAINST HIS ANOINTED AND THE ONE THAT HE HAS CHOSEN AND CALLED AND PUT IN TO LEAD HIS WORK.

WHAT WAS IN THE CHURCH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT? NEXT WE'LL COME TO NUMBERS 16. KORAH AND DATHAN AND ABIRAM AND ON, SONS OF REUBEN, TOOK MEN AND THEY ROSE UP BEFORE MOSES WITH CERTAIN CHILDREN

OF ISRAEL, 250 PRINCES OF THE ASSEMBLY.

THESE WERE PEOPLE IN HIGH POSITIONS UNDER MOSES. MOSES HAD APPOINTED THEM AS GOD HAD DIRECTED HIM, FAMOUS IN THE CONGREGATION, MEN OF RENOWN: AND THEY GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER AGAINST MOSES AND AGAINST AARON, AND SAID TO THEM, YE TAKE TOO MUCH UPON YOU, SEEING ALL THE CONGREGATION ARE HOLY. EVERY ONE OF THEM, AND THE ETERNAL IS AMONG THEM: WHEREOF THEN LIFT YOU UP YOURSELVES ABOVE THE CONGREGATION...?" THEY DENIED THAT GOD HAD PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE.

WE COME OVER TO VERSE 25, "AND MOSES ROSE UP AND WENT UNTO DATHAN AND ABIRAM; AND THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL FOLLOWED HIM. AND HE SPAKE UNTO THE CONGREGATION SAYING, DEPART, I PRAY YOU, FROM THE TENTS OF THESE WICKED MEN, AND TOUCH NOTHING OF THEIRS, LEST YOU BE CONSUMED IN ALL THEIR SINS.... AND MOSES SAID, HEREBY SHALL YE KNOW THAT THE LORD HATH SENT ME TO DO ALL THESE WORKS, FOR I HAVE DONE NONE OF THEM OF MY OWN MIND.' YET THEY SAID THAT HE HAD MADE A LEADER HIMSELF. "THEN THE EARTH OPENED HER MOUTH AND SWALLOWED THEM UP AND THEIR HOUSES AND ALL THE MEN THAT APPERTAINED TO KORAH WENT DOWN INTO THE PIT AND THE EARTH CLOSED UPON THEM AND THEY PERISHED FROM AMONG THE CONGREGATION."

NOW, I'VE SHOWN YOU THAT HE DEALT WITH ONE MAN AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT HE HAS ALWAYS DEALT WITH ONE MAN AT A TIME.

LOOK AT THE NEW TESTAMENT. JESUS CHOSE 12 DISCIPLES, DIDN'T HE? AND YOU WILL SAY THEY WERE ALL EQUAL — OR WILL YOU? THEY WERE TO BE TAUGHT. A DISCIPLE IS A STUDENT, A LEARNER, ONE BEING TAUGHT, OR ONE LEARNING. SO WHILE THEY WERE DISCIPLES, THEY WERE REALLY IN SCHOOL, LEARNING. LATER, THEY GRADUATED, SHALL WE SAY, AND THEY BECAME APOSTLES.

MANY HAVE NOT REALIZED THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS DEALT WITH PEOPLE THROUGH ONE MAN. LET'S COME TO A LITTLE OF THAT — A FEW THINGS THAT I THINK WE'VE READ OVER AND OVER AND OVER, AND HAVE NOT STOPPED

TO REALIZE AND PUT TOGETHER. SO WILL YOU TURN NOW TO THE FOURTH CHAPTER OF MATTHEW AND VERSES 18 AND 19?

"AND JESUS, WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, SAW TWO BRETHERN, SIMON CALLED PETER, AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA FOR THEY WERE FISHERS, [NOW THIS IS THE FIRST ACCOUNT OF JESUS CHOOSING A DISCIPLE. AND THE FIRST ONE NAMED WAS SIMON PETER. NOTICE HE WAS NAMED FIRST.] SO JESUS SAID TO THEM, FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."

NOW THEN WE COME A LITTLE FARTHER INTO MATTHEW 10:2. OF COURSE, YOU ALL KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE IT MENTIONS THE APOSTLES AND THEIR NAMES. "NOW, THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES ARE THESE; THE FIRST [WHO WAS THE FIRST? WHO IS NUMBER ONE?...]SIMON, WHO IS CALLED PETER..." AND THEN HE WENT ON AND NAMED THE OTHERS. BUT I WANT TO SHOW YOU THAT PETER WAS ALWAYS FIRST IN A WAY THAT I THINK WE'VE READ OVER AND NEVER QUITE GRASPED AND NEVER QUITE REALIZED BEFORE.

MATTHEW 16:13, "WHEN JESUS CAME INTO THE COASTS OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI, HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING, WHOM DO MEN SAY THAT I, THE SON OF MAN, AM? AND THEY SAID, SOME SAY THOU ART JOHN THE BAPTIST. SOME SAY ELIJAH, AND OTHERS, JEREMIAH, OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS. HE SAID UNTO THEM, BUT WHOM SAY YE THAT AM? AND SIMON PETER [THE ONE WHO SPOKE UP; HE WAS THE LEADER] ANSWERED AND SAID, THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM [NOT TO THE OTHER DISCIPLES; HE'S TALKING RIGHT NOW TO SIMON PETER.] BLESSED ART THOU, SIMON BAR-JONA [THAT IS, THE SON OF JONA]; FOR FLESH AND BLOOD HAS NOT REVEALED IT UNTO THEE [NO HUMAN BEING OR MAN], BUT MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE [WHO'S HE SPEAKING TO? UNTO THEE, PETER. HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT?], THAT THOU ART PETER [YOU SEE, HE ISN'T SAYING THIS TO THE OTHER APOSTLES]...AND UPON THIS ROCK [NOW, PETER MEANS A "PETRA," IT MEANS A SMALL STONE, BUT THE ROCK MEANS CHRIST] I WILL BUILD MY

CHURCH [YES, BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNER-STONE] I...I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL [WHICH MEANS THE GRAVE HERE] SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT, AND I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE [NOW WHO'S HE TALKING TO? PETER. HE DIDN'T SAY TO ALL OF YOU, THE OTHERS IN THIS PLACE.]...I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU [PETER] SHALT BIND ON THE EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN."

IN ANOTHER PLACE, JESUS WAS TALKING TO ALL TWELVE AND SAID THAT WHAT THEY WOULD BIND WILL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHAT THEY LOOSE WILL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN. BUT HERE HE SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT TO PETER.

IN A SENSE, THAT APPLIES TO AN APOSTLE ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME. AND I REALIZE THAT THAT CAN APPLY TO ME TODAY.

NEXT, NOTICE IN MATTHEW 18:15. THIS IS ONE OF THE PLACES, AND THERE IS A PLACE IN LUKE, I'M SURE TOO, WHERE IT SPEAKS TO ALL OF THE TWELVE. IN MATTHEW 18, "AT THE SAME TIME CAME THE DISCIPLES TO JESUS SAYING, WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM...?" NOW, THERE'S A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE DISCIPLES — THAT WOULD MEAN THE TWELVE — AND JESUS. THEN IN VERSE 18, "VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, WHATSOEVER YOU SHALL BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER YOU SHALL LOOSE ON EARTH WILL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN." HE SAID IT TO THE WHOLE TWELVE. BUT AT LEAST IT IS APOSTLES AND NOT THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE.

NEXT LET'S COME TO JOHN 21:15, "SO [THEN ALSO] WHEN THEY HAD DINED, JESUS SAID TO SIMON PETER, SIMON, SON OF JONAS, LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE?" HE SPOKE TO PETER AND ABOUT PETER MORE THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS. PETER WAS UNQUESTIONABLY THE LEADER OF THE APOSTLES. SO PETER SAID TO HIM, "YEA, LORD; THOU KNOWEST THAT I LOVE THEE." AND JESUS SAID TO HIM THEN, "FEED MY LAMBS." THEN AGAIN, HE SAID TO HIM A SECOND TIME,

"SIMON, SON OF JONAS, LOVEST THOU ME?" AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, "WHY YES, LORD, THOU KNOWEST THAT I LOVE THEE." HE SAID UNTO HIM, "FEED MY SHEEP."

FEEDING HIS SHEEP WAS GIVEN TO PETER, TO BE THE HEAD OVER THE FEEDING OF THE FLOCK, AND NOT TO THE TWELVE ACTUALLY. OF COURSE, I PRESUME THAT TO SOME EXTENT IT MEANT THE TWELVE TOO. BUT THIS LITERALLY IS SPEAKING OF PETER AND NOT THE OTHERS. IT'S PUTTING PETER FIRST.

LET'S GO ON INTO THE BOOK OF ACTS. I JUST WANTED TO SHOW YOU THAT EVEN THROUGH THE TIME OF THEIR TRAINING AS DISCIPLES, PETER IS MENTIONED FIRST IN MANY WAYS.

NEXT, LET US COME TO ACTS 3. "NOW PETER AND JOHN WENT UP TOGETHER INTO THE TEMPLE AT THE HOUR OF PRAYER, BEING THE NINTH HOUR. AND A CERTAIN MAN LAME FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB WAS CARRIED, WHEN THEY LAID DAILY AT THE GATE OF TEMPLE WHICH IS CALLED BEAUTIFUL, AND ASK ALMS OF THEM THAT ENTERED INTO THE TEMPLE; WHO SEEING PETER AND JOHN ABOUT TO GO INTO THE TEMPLE, ASKED ALMS. [HE WAS A BEGGER. AND HERE AGAIN IS PETER, NOT JOHN.] AND PETER, FASTENING HIS EYES UPON HIM WITH JOHN, SAID [BUT IT'S PETER WHO SAID IT], LOOK ON US, AND HE [THE CRIPPLE] GAVE HEED UNTO THEM, EXPECTING TO RECEIVE SOMETHING OF THEM [MONEY OR SOMETHING]. THEN [IT WAS] PETER [WHO] SAID, SILVER AND GOLD HAVE I NONE; BUT SUCH AS I HAVE GIVE I THEE: IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH RISE UP AND WALK." AND THE MIGHTY MIRACLE HAPPENED. SO THAT WAS THE VOICE OF PETER.

NOW COMING TO VERSE 11, "AS THE LAME MAN WHICH WAS HEALED HELD PETER AND JOHN, ALL THE PEOPLE RAN TOGETHER UNTO THEM IN THE PORCH THAT IS CALLED SOLOMON'S [RIGHT AT THE TEMPLE], GREATLY WONDERING. AND [VERSE 12] WHEN PETER SAW IT, HE ANSWERED UNTO THE PEOPLE, YE MEN OF ISRAEL, WHY MARVEL YOU AT THIS?" THIS CONVERTED ANOTHER 2,000 PEOPLE, AND IT WAS PETER, NOT THE OTHER APOSTLES.

WE COME TO THE NEXT CHAPTER NOW,

AND ACTS 4:8, "THEN PETER, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, SAID UNTO THEM, YE RULERS OF THE PEOPLE, AND ELDERS OF ISRAEL, IF WE THIS DAY BE EXAMINED OF THE GOOD DEED [THAT WE HAVE] DONE TO THE IMPOTENT MAN [THAT IS, HEALING THAT CRIPPLE], BY WHAT MEANS HE IS MADE WHOLE; BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU ALL, AND TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, THAT BY THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED, WHOM GOD RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD, EVEN BY HIM DOTHS THIS MAN STAND BEFORE YOU WHOLE. THIS IS THE STONE THAT WAS SET AT NOUGHT BY YOUR BUILDERS, WHICH IS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER [OR THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH].... NOW WHEN [VERSE 13] THEY SAW THE BOLDNESS OF PETER AND JOHN [BUT PETER WAS THE SPOKESMAN. PETER IS THE ONE WHO DOES, THAT TAKES THE LEAD EVERY TIME.]...."

ACTS 5:12, "AND BY THE HANDS OF THE APOSTLES [IN THIS CASE IT MEANS ALL OF THEM] WERE MANY SIGNS AND WONDERS WROUGHT AMONG THE PEOPLE [VERSE 15] INSOMUCH THAT THEY BROUGHT FORTH THE SICK INTO THE STREETS, AND LAID THEM ON BEDS AND COUCHES, THAT AT THE LEAST THE SHADOW OF PETER [IT DOESN'T MENTION THE OTHER APOSTLES] PASSING BY MIGHT OVERSHADOW SOME OF THEM SO THAT THEY WOULD BE HEALED."

TURN TO THE CHAPTER 9:32, "AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS PETER PASSED THROUGHOUT ALL QUARTERS, HE CAME DOWN ALSO TO THE SAINTS WHICH DWELT IN LYDDA. AND THERE HE FOUND A CERTAIN MAN NAMED ENEAS, WHICH HAD KEPT HIS BED EIGHT YEARS, AND WAS SICK OF THE PALSIE. AND PETER SAID UNTO HIM, ENEAS, JESUS CHRIST MAKETH THEE WHOLE: ARISE, AND TAKE UP YOUR BED. AND HE AROSE IMMEDIATELY." AND ALL THAT DWELT AT LYDDA WERE AMAZED BY WHAT THEY HAD SEEN.

NOW THE 38TH VERSE, "AND FORASMUCH AS LYDDA WAS NIGH TO JOPPA, AND THE DISCIPLES HAD HEARD THAT PETER WAS THERE, THEY SENT UNTO HIM TWO MEN, DESIRING HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT DELAY TO COME TO THEM. THEN PETER AROSE AND WENT WITH THEM. WHEN HE WAS COME, THEY BROUGHT

HIM INTO THE UPPER CHAMBER AND ALL THE WIDOWS STOOD BY HIM WEeping... [VERSE 40] BUT PETER PUT THEM ALL FORTH, AND KNEELED DOWN, AND PRAYED; AND TURNING HIM TO THE BODY SAID, TABITHA, ARISE. AND SHE OPENED HER EYES: AND WHEN SHE SAW PETER, SHE SAT UP. AND HE GAVE HER HIS HAND, AND LIFTED HER UP; AND WHEN HE HAD CALLED THE SAINTS AND WIDOWS, PRESENTED HER ALIVE."

I HAD NEVER UNTIL RECENTLY PUT ALL OF THESE SCRIPTURES TOGETHER, AND WHEN YOU GET THEM ALL, IT'S JUST PETER, PETER, PETER, PETER, ALL THE WAY ALONG.

I WANT YOU TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION THIS TIME ON THIS FAMOUS 15TH CHAPTER OF ACTS. IT STARTS WITH THE FACT THAT SOME OF THEM WERE UP AT ANTIOCH, "AND CERTAIN MEN WHICH CAME DOWN FROM JUDEA TAUGHT THE BRETHREN, AND SAID, EXCEPT YOU BE CIRCUMCISED AFTER THE MANNER OF MOSES, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED. WHEN THEREFORE PAUL AND BARNABAS HAD NO SMALL DISSENSION AND DISPUTATION WITH THEM [NOW HERE COMES THE DISPUTATION ABOUT DOCTRINE], THEY DETERMINED THAT PAUL AND BARNABAS, AND CERTAIN OTHER OF THEM, SHOULD GO UP TO JERUSALEM UNTO THE APOSTLES AND THE ELDERS ABOUT THIS QUESTION. [VERSE 6] AND NOW THE APOSTLES AND THE ELDERS CAME TOGETHER FOR TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER." NOW AT FIRST THE WHOLE CHURCH WELCOMED THEM, BUT NOW THEY'RE HAVING A MEETING TO SETTLE THIS MATTER.

"AND WHEN THERE HAD BEEN MUCH DISPUTING GREAT CONTROVERSY. THEY HAD NOTHING BUT CONTROVERSY. ONE MAN THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY, AND ANOTHER THE OTHER. IT WAS PETER THEN WHO STOOD UP (NOW NOTICE WHO SETTLED IT), "PETER STOOD UP, AND SAID UNTO THEM, MEN AND BRETHREN, YOU KNOW HOW THAT A GOOD WHILE AGO GOD MADE CHOICE AMONG US, THAT THE GENTILES BY MY MOUTH SHOULD HEAR THE WORD OF THE GOSPEL, AND BELIEVE. [VERSE 10] NOW THEREFORE WHY TEMPT YOU GOD, AND PUT A YOKE UPON THE NECK OF THE DISCIPLES, WHICH NEITHER OUR FATHERS NOR WE WERE ABLE TO BEAR? BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH THE GRACE OF

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WE SHALL BE SAVED, EVEN AS THEY. THEN ALL THE MULTITUDE KEPT SILENCE...”

PETER HAD SETTLED IT. THE OTHERS WERE ARGUING AND DISPUTING. PETER ROSE UP AND SETTLED IT. NOW NOTICE THE NEXT VERSE.

“ALL THE MULTITUDE KEPT SILENCE, AND GAVE AUDIENCE TO BARNABAS AND PAUL [WHAT DID THEY DO?]...BARNABAS AND PAUL, DECLARING WHAT MIRACLES AND WONDERS GOD HAD WROUGHT AMONG THE GENTILES BY THEM.” THEY MERELY GAVE THEM A REPORT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENING BEFORE THEY CAME THERE, THE MATTER OF THIS FROM UP AT ANTIOCH WAS NOW SETTLED AS SOON AS PETER SETTLED IT.

“AND AFTER THEY HAD THEIR PEACE, THEN JAMES ANSWERED, SAYING...” NOW JAMES WAS THE PASTOR OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AT THAT TIME — THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM, WHICH REALLY WAS THEN THE HEADQUARTERS CHURCH, AND THAT’S WHY THEY WENT UP THERE. NATURALLY HE’S WHAT TODAY WE WOULD CALL THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING. SOMEONE HAD TO LEAD IT OUT. THIS WAS MERELY AN OFFICIAL DUTY, BUT PETER IS THE ONE WHO SET THE DOCTRINE.

NOW THEN, “JAMES ANSWERED AND SAID, MEN AND BRETHREN, HEarken UNTO ME: SIMEON [OR SIMON, MEANING PETER] HAD DECLARED HOW THAT GOD AT THE FIRST DID VISIT THE GENTILES, TO TAKE OUT OF THEM A PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME. [IN OTHER WORDS, PETER HAD SETTLED IT.] AND TO THIS AGREE THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS; AS IT IS WRITTEN.” AND THEN HE QUOTES QUITE A LITTLE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.

FINALLY, IN VERSE 19, “WHEREBY MY SENTENCE IS [AND HE JUST SIMPLY MAKES OFFICIAL WHAT PETER HAD SETTLED AND HAD MAKE TRUE]...IS THAT WE TROUBLE NOT THEM, WHICH FROM AMONG THE GENTILES ARE TURNED TO GOD: BUT THAT WE WRITE UNTO THEM, THAT THEY ABSTAIN FROM POLLUTIONS OF IDOLS, FROM FORNICATION, AND FROM THINGS STRANGLED, AND FROM BLOOD. FOR MOSES OF OLD TIME HATH IN EVERY CITY [NOW THIS MEANS EVEN AMONG GENTILES] THEM

THAT PREACH HIM, BEING READ IN THE SYNAGOGUES EVERY SABBATH.” IN OTHER WORDS, MANY GENTILES WERE COMING INTO THESE MEETINGS ON THE SABBATH.

“THEN IT PLEASED THE APOSTLES AND THE ELDERS, WITH THE WHOLE CHURCH, TO SEND CHOSEN MEN OF THEIR OWN COMPANY TO ANTIOCH WITH PAUL AND BARNABAS....”

WELL, THAT SETTLED THE MATTER, THAT REALLY COVERS THAT. BUT PETER IS THE ONE WHO MADE THE DECISION. IF YOU READ IT CAREFULLY, YOU CAN’T GET ANY OTHER MEANING OUT OF IT.

NOW TURN TO GALATIANS THE SECOND CHAPTER. PAUL IS JUST SPEAKING HOW ABOUT 14 YEARS AFTER HE WENT UP TO JERUSALEM, AND BARNABAS TOOK TITUS WITH HIM. AND HE WENT UP BY REVELATION, AND COMMUNICATED UNTO THEM THE GOSPEL WHICH HE PREACHED AMONG THE GENTILES (WHICH HE HAD GOTTEN, OF COURSE, DIRECTLY FROM CHRIST), “BUT CONTRARIWISE [VERSE 7], WHEN THEY SAW THAT THE GOSPEL OF THE UNCIRCUMCISION [IN OTHER WORDS, TO THE GENTILES] WAS COMMITTED UNTO ME, AS THE GOSPEL OF THE CIRCUMCISION WAS UNTO PETER THAT SHOWS THAT PETER WAS THE HEAD OF ALL OF THE APOSTLES, NOW THAT PAUL WAS MADE THE HEAD OVER THE GENTILES, PETER HAD LATER GONE ON TO THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, WHICH WERE IN WESTERN EUROPE AND IN ENGLAND.

NOW THEN, COME TO EPHESIANS THE SECOND CHAPTER. “NOW THEREFORE, YOU ARE NO MORE STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS, BUT FELLOW CITIZENS [NOW THESE WERE GENTILES IN EPHESUS]...BUT FELLOW CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS AND OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD [THAT’S FAMILY LANGUAGE — A HOUSEHOLD — IN THE FAMILY OF GOD], AND ARE BUILT UPON [NOW THIS IS THE CHURCH] THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.”

I WONDER IF YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT TO SEE WHAT PROPHETS WERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND WHAT THEY DID? THERE IS NOT A SINGLE PROPHET IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT HAD INPUT INTO THE

DOCTRINE. BUT THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS DID. AND MOST OF THE PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE WRITING THINGS THAT WERE NEVER GIVEN TO ANCIENT ISRAEL AT ALL. ACTUALLY, WHEN MOST OF THE PROPHETS WROTE, IT WAS AFTER BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH HAD BEEN SENT INTO SLAVERY. THERE WAS NO WAY THAT THESE THINGS COULD GET TO THEM. IN THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL, FOR EXAMPLE, WE FIND HE WAS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH, HE WAS AT THE RIVER KEBAR, AND HIS MESSAGE WAS GO TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. AND THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD GO TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. HE MERELY WROTE THE BOOK. AND THE MESSAGE WAS FOR SOMEONE IN OUR DAY TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, WHO KNOWS THAT THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL IS HERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN ENGLAND AND IN WESTERN EUROPE.

REALLY, WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT ALL OF THE DOCTRINE, ALL OF WHAT WE BELIEVE, AND WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVED 1900 YEARS AGO, WAS PUT INTO THE CHURCH BY THE APOSTLES. THEY GOT SOME OF IT FROM THE PROPHETS. BUT IT WAS PUT IN BY THE APOSTLES. THAT'S WHY THE CHURCH IS ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, AND CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE. CHRIST HAD TAUGHT THEM DIRECTLY. BUT JESUS CHRIST IS THE WORD OF GOD IN PERSON. CHRIST'S APOSTLE TODAY GOT THE SAME TRUTH FROM THE WORD OF GOD IN PRINT. AND THIS SAYS THE SAME THING EXACTLY THAT CHRIST SAID IN PERSON.

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