

"Peter's Ministry"

Part 10

Acts 10

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Acts we will finish chapter 10. The last time we were together we were looking at the message that Peter preached to Cornelius and his house. It was the message of Jesus Christ, His finished work upon the cross and how He had made forgiveness available to whosoever would believe.

Notice Acts 10:43

The prophets had all testified of Jesus Christ and Peter was telling Cornelius that He had come as they had foretold.

"The Results of the Gentile's Faith"

Notice Acts 10:44

It was at the moment that these Gentiles heard and believed that they became New Testament believers/Christians. They were at this moment given the Holy Spirit. These are the first Gentiles to be brought into the body of Jesus Christ. Before this happened, the church was Jewish in the sense that it was made up of Jews but now the door was opened to the Gentiles and it would not be long until the church would become mostly Gentile.

Notice Acts 10:45-46

Evidence of the Gentiles becoming New Testament believers was their ability to speak in tongues. We have considered the gift of tongues before but there is more on this gift that I want to share with you. People who get saved today do not manifest their salvation by speaking in tongues. This is a gift that no longer exists today.

1 Corinthians 13:8

⁸ *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

In order to understand the gift of tongues we need to understand the purpose of the gift. We see the purpose of the gift in 1 Corinthians 14.

1 Corinthians 14:21-22

²¹ *In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

The gift of tongues was for a sign to unbelievers and in the New Testament it was a sign to unbelieving Jews. Now to understand what the gift of tongues was a sign of we must look closer at what Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 14.

1 Corinthians 14:21

²¹ *In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

Here in this verse Paul is quoting from the book of Isaiah 28. Let us notice what is recorded in Isaiah.

Isaiah 28:1, 7-8

Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

⁷ *But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.*

⁸ *For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.*

The spiritual leaders of Isaiah's day had turned away from the Lord and they had fallen deep into sin. God therefore sent Isaiah to warn them and to call them to repentance. But they only mocked Isaiah. For this reason, God would send judgment upon them.

Isaiah 28:9-11

⁹ *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*

¹⁰ *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:*

¹¹ *For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.*

Because the people would not listen to Isaiah whom God had sent to call them to repentance, God would bring judgment from a people who spoke a different language. This would be the Assyrians and they would carry the northern tribes into captivity. This is the very point that is being made with the gift of tongues. The Jews had rejected Jesus Christ as their King and therefore God would bring judgment through a people who spoke a different language and that would be the Romans in AD 70. That is when the gift of tongues ended. But there is more to consider in the Word of God. Isaiah 28 is not the only passage that helps us to see that tongues/foreign languages were a sign of judgment. If we look closely at several passages, we can see a pattern that is developed.

- **God has a message for the people.**
- **The people refuse to listen to God.**
- **God causes tongues to be heard as a sign of judgment.**
- **Dispersion follows.**

Genesis 11

We see this pattern established first of all in Genesis 11.

- **God's message for the people.**

Genesis 9:1, 7

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

⁷ *And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.*

- **The people refuse to listen.**

Genesis 11:1-4

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

² *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.*

³ *And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.*

⁴ *And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

- The sign of tongues.

Genesis 11:7

⁷ *Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

- The people scattered.

Genesis 11:8

⁸ *So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

Deuteronomy 28

- God's message for the people.

Deuteronomy 28:1

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

- The people refuse to listen.

Deuteronomy 28:15

¹⁵ *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

- The sign of tongues.

Deuteronomy 28:49-50

⁴⁹ *The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;*

⁵⁰ *A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:*

- The people scattered.

Deuteronomy 28:63-65

⁶³ And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

Jeremiah 5

In the book of Jeremiah God's people had turned away from Him. He then sent them a message through Jeremiah.

- God's message for the people.

Jeremiah 4:1

If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove.

- The people refuse to listen.

Jeremiah 5:3

³ O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

- The sign of tongues.

Jeremiah 5:15

¹⁵ Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say.

- The people scattered.

Jeremiah 5:19

¹⁹ And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not your's.

Isaiah 28 presents the very same pattern. To the nation of Israel foreign tongues were a sign of the judgment of God. The first century Jews should have known this. They had rejected the message of Jesus Christ concerning the offer of the King and the Kingdom; therefore, they would be scattered. They were scattered by the Romans who spoke a different language and are still scattered to this day. There is coming a day when Israel will be free from all foreign tongues.

Isaiah 33:17-19

¹⁷ Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

¹⁸ Thine heart shall meditate terror. Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?

¹⁹ Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand.

Conclusion:

Notice Acts 10:46-48

The Gentiles were baptized the very day they were saved. This was not a requirement for salvation but it was the first step of obedience as they identified with Jesus Christ.

Notice the words of Whitcomb:

"In Acts chapters 8-10 there were three amazing conversion experiences which represent all of the human race. In chapter 8 the Ethiopian eunuch was a son of Ham. In chapter 9, Saul of Tarsus was a son of Shem. In chapter 10, Cornelius was a son of Japheth. All of humanity has descended from these three sons of Noah, and the gospel message embraces them all."