

Did Paul preach to the Body during Acts?

QUESTIONS

When Paul was preaching to the Jew first and then the gentile was he teaching repent and be baptized or the message pertaining to the body of Christ?

ANSWER

There was no church which is His Body during the Acts period because the truth of the present dispensation had not been revealed while Israel remained as God's people.

Let us go to the one passage the mid acts people love namely 1Cor.15 but we will look at both the opening and close of this great resurrection chapter.

Before we do, remember the Passover and unleavened Bread Feast given to Israel is mentioned in chapter 5, the supernatural gifts of Pentecost, another Jewish Feasts are found in chapter 12 and here in chapter 15 we have the Feasts of Unleavened Bread (Christ the first fruit) and the Feast of Trumpets.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; 1Co 15:3-4

Notice all this is according to the Scriptures never hidden in God. Also notice in verse 11 that Paul makes no distinction between the gospel he is preaching and that Peter is preaching because it didn't matter who preached, they believed in the death burial and resurrection of Christ, that is the issue, not whether they were water baptized or not.

Now, does the fact that Paul is preaching Christ crucified and calling on all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30) mean the dispensation of the grace of God has been revealed or begun to be revealed and the answer to that is NO. Lets us look at the resurrection of the believers in 1Cor.15:51-55 which resurrection is at the last Trumpet, the Feast given to Israel;

Behold, I speak a mystery to you; we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet. For a trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and when this mortal shall put on immortality, then will take place the word that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. (Is.25:8) O death, where *is* your sting? O grave, where *is* your victory?" (Hos.13:14) 1Co 15:51-55

This is very clearly the hope of the believers during Acts, the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets and a resurrection to where?

Paul quotes Is.25 and Hosea13 and the answer is also very clearly the earth, not heavenly places. Here are the two passages and some snippets from their contexts;

You shall bring down the noise of foreigners, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of cloud. The shouting of the terrifying ones shall be brought low. And in this mountain Jehovah of Hosts shall make a feast of fat things for all the people, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of refined wine on the lees. And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering which covers all people, and the veil that is woven over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord Jehovah will wipe away tears from all faces. And He shall take away from all the earth the rebuke of His people. For Jehovah has spoken. And one shall say in that day, Lo, this *is* our God. We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This *is* Jehovah; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation. For the hand of Jehovah shall rest in this mountain, and Moab shall be trampled under Him, even as straw *is* trampled in the water of a dung pit. And He shall spread out His hands in their midst, as he who swims strokes to swim. And He shall bring down their pride with the skill of His hands. And the fortress of the high fort of your walls *He will* lay low, bring to the ground, to the dust. [Isa 25:5-12](#)

And Hosea;

O Israel, you have destroyed yourself; but in Me *is* your help. Where *is* your king now, that he may save you in all your cities; and your judges of whom you said, Give me a king and rulers? I gave you a king in My anger, and took *him* away in My wrath. The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin hidden. The pains of a woman in travail shall come to him. He *is* an unwise son; for he cannot stand still in the time of the breaking forth of sons. I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. **O Death, where *are* your plagues; O Grave, where *is* your ruin!** Repentance shall be hidden from My eyes. [Hos 13:9-14](#)

I will be as the dew to Israel; he shall grow as the lily and cast out his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. They who dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive like the grain, and grow like the vine. Their scent *shall be* as the wine of Lebanon. [Hos 14:5-7](#)

Then the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel shall be gathered together, and shall set over themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land. For great *shall be* the day of Jezreel. [Hos 1:11](#)

This is the setting of the Acts period as per 1Cor.15. but why not also examine the hope of Romans as found in Roms.15:4-13. Please look up every OT reference Paul uses in that hope section we will see it is also

consistently the earth and the gentiles blessed with Israel, that is not our hope today. Also carefully read Gals.3 to 4:27 where the inheritance for the justified Jew and Gentile was the inheritance given to Abraham by promise.

So did Paul preach repentance during Acts, yes he did, but that doesn't mean our calling had begun. Did Paul baptize Jews during Acts, yes he did but it was Jew first (which is not today) and the hope was the promised made to Israel's fathers. Not in any recorded address, or in any letter written during Acts did Paul address a company called the church which is His Body with Christ as Head and blessings in the heavenly places. That company was only revealed to Paul as the company belonging to the present dispensation of the grace of God after Israel was put to one side at Acts 28.