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**Overview
of
Paul's Gospel
in
Acts**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Overview of Paul's Gospel in Acts.

INTRODUCTION: since some in the body of Christ believe a repentant sinner seeking God, must understand the Old and New Testament before they can be saved and water baptised. This study gives a brief overview of each of Paul's letters focusing upon the Gospel the Lord Jesus Christ gave to him on the road to Damascus, and in various visions to proclaim to the Gentiles, to discover if they contain enough information for a sinner seeking God to be saved.

NOTE: since some chapters containing Paul's letters are solely focused on rules for those in Christ to live by, and various teachings, but have nothing directly concerning Paul's Gospel, they have been skipped.

JESUS APPEARS TO PAUL ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

ACTS 9

After Jesus appeared to Saul (later Paul) on the road to Damascus the Lord appeared to Ananias, and told him to tell Saul, "Jesus has a chosen him to proclaim his name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel, after which Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit, and water baptized. (Acts: 9:3-19). After this he immediately proclaimed Jesus is the son of God, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. (Acts: 9:3-19) (Acts: 9:27). Paul does not teach the Old Testament, but uses it to prove to unbelieving Jews, Jesus is the son of God, and the Christ. (Repeated in Acts chapter twenty-two).

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ACTS 13

Paul does not teach the Old Testament, but uses it to prove to unbelieving Jews Jesus is the promised Messiah. (Acts: 13:12). After telling them that God had removed king Saul, he goes on to prove Jesus is the promised Seed of David, Israel's Messiah, and Saviour. (Acts: 13:22-23), and states, he has been given the message of salvation, and explains his message of salvation is Jesus, who the Jews instead of recognizing him as their Messiah condemned him. (Acts: 13:26-27).

- Paul continues to prove Jesus is the Messiah the Old Testament prophets proclaimed was to come, then says, "what God promised to the fathers, He has fulfilled by raising Jesus, as it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you," and says, "through Jesus' forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which the law of Moses could not free people from." This Paul refers to as 'the Good News,' he has been given to share with the Jews and the Gentiles. (Acts: 13:28-38).
- God first called Paul to proclaim the Gospel Jesus had given him on the road to Damascus to proclaim firstly to the Jews, but they refused to embrace it, so the Lord made him a light for the Gentiles so he would bring salvation to the ends of the earth. (Acts: 13:46-47).
- When the Gentiles heard Paul's message many glorified the word of the Lord, and as many that were appointed to eternal life believed, and the word of the Lord spread throughout the whole region. (Acts 13: 48-49).

The Lord made Paul a light for the Gentiles so he would bring salvation to the ends of the earth. When the Gentiles heard Paul's message many believed, and were saved to eternal life, and his message spread throughout the whole region, so far, the only message Paul has proclaimed is:

- Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Seed of David, Israel's Messiah, the Saviour and the Messiah the Old Testament prophets proclaimed was to come.
- God's promise to the fathers, has been fulfilled by raising Jesus, and that it is through Jesus' forgiveness of sins is proclaimed.

ACTS 14

- Paul preached the Gospel, and many committed themselves to the Lord in who they believed, and he encouraged them to continue in the faith to enter the Kingdom of God. (Acts 14: 21-28).
- Though preaching the Gospel that Jesus gave to Paul a door of faith was opened to the Gentiles. (Acts 14: 27).

the message Paul proclaimed is referred to as; The word of the Lord (i.e., the message Jesus gave to him), the Gospel, and the Good News. He proclaimed God is the living God, who made heaven, earth, the sea, and all that is in them. Though his preaching of the Gospel a door of faith was opened to the Gentiles, and those who committed themselves to the Lord in who they believed, he encouraged to continue in the faith to enter the Kingdom of God.

ACTS 15

So far, the word of the Lord Paul proclaims, is not the Old Testament, but all things that directly relate to Jesus, and right and wrong behaviour for brothers and sisters in Christ.

ACTS 16

- Paul proclaimed the Gospel and Lydia, and her household were all water baptized. (Acts 16: 14-15).
- Paul is recognized as a man of God proclaiming the way of salvation. (Acts 16: 17).
- A man asks Paul, "what must he do to be saved?" And he tells him if he and all in his household, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, they will be saved, he then proclaims the word of the Lord, they believed and were immediately water baptized. (Acts 16: 29-34).

Paul was recognized as a man of God proclaiming the way of salvation. He proclaimed the Gospel to Lydia and her household, and they were all water baptized. Later he proclaimed the word of the Lord to a jailer and his household, they believe in Jesus, were saved, and immediately baptized. At this time the Gentile churches were daily increasing in faith and in numbers, and so far, Paul has not taught anything concerning the Old Testament.

ACTS 17

- Paul does not teach the Old Testament Scripture but uses them to prove Jesus who he proclaims is the Christ, who the Old Testament Scriptures speak of. (Acts 17: 2-3).
- Throughout Acts the words, 'Paul proclaimed the word of God,' is often stated, even though there is no teaching of the Old Testament so far, except for Paul using it to prove to unbelieving Jews, Jesus is their Messiah the Christ. (Acts 17: 13).
- Paul's prime focus is Jesus and the resurrection. (Acts 17: 18).

Paul Gospel embraces the following: God made the world and everything in it; He is the Lord of heaven and earth; from one man He made every nation for mankind to live on the earth; He does not live in temples made by man; He does not need anything; He gives to all mankind life and breath and everything; He is not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being, for we are His offspring; He determined allotted periods, and boundaries for mankind's dwelling place; He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man (the Lord Jesus Christ) who He has appointed; He has given assurance of the resurrection to all mankind, by raising Jesus from the dead, and He is not an image of gold or silver or stone, formed by art and the imagination of man. God commands all people everywhere to repent, and Paul encourages all mankind to seek God, and move toward Him until they find him.

It is interesting to notice, throughout the book of acts many are saved by the word of God Paul proclaimed, and the words, 'Paul proclaimed the word of God,' is often stated, even though there is no teaching of the Old Testament, except for Paul using it to prove to unbelieving Jews, Jesus is their Messiah the Christ.

ACTS 18

Paul sole focus, is upon proving to the Jews that the Christ is Jesus who he proclaims, but rather than embrace this truth, they stood against him, so he turned to the Gentiles. (Acts 18:4-6). In a vision, Jesus appeared to Paul, saying, "I am with you," and encouraged him to continue speaking. Many hearing the word of the Lord Paul proclaimed believed and were water baptized, which means the word of the Lord Paul proclaimed, contains the power to save a person to eternal life.

ACTS 19

John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling those being baptized to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. Now that Jesus had come, some disciples who had been baptized by John, were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying, evidencing that salvation comes through faith in Jesus.

It is stated, Paul spoke boldly, persuading those he was speaking to, about the Kingdom of God, at this time Paul is in a synagogue, so he is speaking to Jews, which means the Kingdom of God in focus here does not refer to the future literal Kingdom of God to come. He had no need to persuade the Jews of the future coming Kingdom, they already believed this, and are still waiting for their Messiah to come. The Kingdom Paul has in focus is the present spiritual Kingdom of faith (made up of Jews and Gentiles) that God is building at this present moment in Christ. This present Kingdom is sometimes referred to as, One nation in Christ, and, a new

creation in Christ. Paul's teaching concerning the present Kingdom, embraces all things concerning Jesus, the Gospel he proclaims, and all things concerning ministry in the church, our behaviour, and how we should treat our brothers and sisters and those outside of the church etc. If Paul was speaking about the future Kingdom of God to come, there would be no need to say, "he spoke boldly," for this would not offend the Jews, the reason it is stated, "he spoke boldly," is because he spoke of Jesus and the Kingdom of faith made up of Jews and Gentiles that God is building in Christ now at this present time. (Acts 19:4-6) (Acts 19:7-8).

ACTS 20

So far Paul has taught repentance toward God and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and everything profitable (i.e., for salvation), to Jews and Gentiles, yet he has not taught anything contained in the Old Testament, though on certain occasions he has used it to prove to the unbelieving Jews, Jesus is the Messiah the prophets proclaimed was to come. Jesus himself, gave Paul the Gospel he proclaims, which is why Paul had no other interest, but to teach the Gospel of God's grace, and proclaiming the Kingdom. The Kingdom Paul has in focus is not the literal Kingdom of God to come, but the present spiritual Kingdom God is building in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles, which is outwardly manifested by the faithful church, which he obtained with his own blood, and the testimonies and good works of its members.

- ❖ Paul states, for three years he proclaimed the word of God's grace, which can give those who are sanctified the promised inheritance, (Acts 20:20) (Acts 20:31-32) which means the Gospel Paul proclaims contains all that is needed for a sinner to be saved. Throughout Paul's letters, he consistently gives instruction on how those who belong to the present Kingdom God is building in Christ should act, behave, and how they should treat their brothers and sisters in Christ and their neighbor.

ACTS 21

The central focus of the Christian faith for Paul was Jesus' love for him, and his love for Jesus, Paul's love for Christ was so great, he was prepared to be imprisoned and to die for him. (Acts 21:13)

ACTS 22

Gamaliel educated Paul in all Israel's strict laws concerning the Old Testament sacrifices, ceremonial rites, religious laws etc., (Acts 22:3), so he had an amazing knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures and was zealous to uphold them. Yet from the time Jesus appeared to him, he never teaches the Old Testament Scriptures, though at certain times he uses them to prove Jesus is the promised Messiah the prophets proclaimed was to come. When Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, he told him to go to Damacus and visit Ananias.

Ananias, said to Paul, "The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. Ananias then tells Paul to call upon the name of the Lord and through the waters of baptism wash away his sins, which Paul did. (Acts 22:6-16). The Jews reject Paul's Gospel about the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Lord tells him to go to the Gentiles (Acts 22:21-22). The fact the Jews were well educated in the Old Testament Scriptures, evidences Paul's entire Gospel was not focused on the Old Testament, but upon salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ and all things concerning him.

ACTS 23

The Lord appeared again to Paul, saying, "he had testified to the facts about him to the Jews in Jerusalem, and now he must testify of him in Rome." The Gospel Jesus gave to Paul embraced all things needed for a sinner to be saved, which included the hope of the resurrection of the dead, and all things concerning Jesus and his teachings, and nothing of the Old Testament. (Acts 23:6) (Acts 23:11).

ACTS 24

Paul tells Felix the governor that; he worships the God of Israel's fathers, and believes everything laid down by the Law and written in the prophets and had the same hope as the Old Testament fathers had, that there will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust, and always made great efforts to have a clear conscience toward God and man. (Acts 24:14-16). When he spoke to Felix and his wife Drusilla (both Jewish), he did not speak to them about the Old Testament, but about faith in Christ Jesus, about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment. (Acts 24:24-25).

ACTS 26

When Paul, was making his defence before King Agrippa he begins by saying, "he is standing on trial before the Jews, because of his hope in the promise made by God to Israel's fathers, to which the twelve tribes hope to attain." (Acts 26: 5-10). This promise refers to the resurrection of the dead. Paul is not being accused of this belief, for even the Jews believed in the resurrection of the dead. He is standing on trial because he was proclaiming God had raised Jesus from the dead.

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This is what so greatly offended the Jews. When Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, he told Paul, he appeared to him, to appoint him to witness of the things that he had seen of the Lord, and to testify of the things he will show him in future visions. The Lord tells him, he is sending him to the Jews and Gentiles for the following purposes:

- To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.
- To bring them to repentance that they would turn to God, and receive forgiveness of sins.
- To unite them with those who are sanctified by faith in Christ and belong to his Kingdom.
- To turn them from wicked ways, to perform deeds in keeping with their repentance. (Acts 26: 12-20).

Paul finishes his defence before King Agrippa, saying, "he teaches nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the Jews and to the Gentiles."

In response, King Agrippa, said to Paul, "would you persuade me to become a Christian?" Paul replied saying, "I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might be as I am, except for his chains." (Acts 26: 21-23). (Acts 26: 28-29). This chapter (and all the previous ones) clearly show the following two truths:

1. The Gospel Jesus gave to Paul contains everything in it, that is needed for a sinner to be saved to eternal life.
2. No one need to understand the Old Testament to be saved to eternal life, for Paul never teaches it.

ACTS 28

Paul tells the Jewish leaders:

- It is because of the hope of Israel that he is in chains, the hope of Israel in this context, is the resurrection of the dead. The Jews have him in chains, because he proclaimed, God raised Jesus from the dead. (Acts 28: 20).
- He testified of the kingdom of God, trying to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. (Acts 28: 23). The Kingdom of God in this context, refers to the Kingdom God is building at this present time in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles, and outwardly manifested through the faith church and the good works of its members.
- The salvation of God he proclaims has been sent to the Gentiles, because they receive it, whereas the Jews rejected it. (Acts 28: 28-31).

For two years at his own expense, Paul proclaimed the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ to all who came to him. It is interesting to notice, though we are told, Paul proclaimed the kingdom of God there are no Scriptures that record Paul teaching anything of the Old Testament, this is because the Kingdom of God in focus is the present spiritual Kingdom God is establishing now in Christ.

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THE PRESENT KINGDOM OF GOD: in the book of Matthew Jesus speaks of this present Kingdom saying, "a sower went out sowing good seed, of which some fell along the path, some fell on rocky ground, some fell among thorns, and others fell on good soil." (Matt.13:3-8) (Matt.13:18-23). The sower is the Lord Jesus Christ, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. (Matt.13:37-38). From the beginning of this spiritual Kingdom of faith that God is establishing in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles, it becomes filled with a mixture of good seed and bad seed over the following generations. This continues until harvest at the end of this Kingdom age, and Christ and his angels return to gather out of his already existing Kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throws them into the fiery furnace, after this the righteous shine like the sun in the literal future millennial Kingdom of their heavenly Father. (Matt. 13:37-43) (Matt. 13:47-50).

For further details of Paul teaches concerning the Kingdom, see the title:

- Paul's Teachings Concerning the Kingdom. (ON THIS INDEX).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
