

## **ACTS: TRANSITION FROM LAW TO GRACE**

### **Galatians 1:1-7**

The book of Acts covers a time period of about 30 years. It takes us historically from the ascension of Christ to the imprisonment of Paul the Apostle. It starts with a pure Jewish church in Jerusalem and ends with the church scattered throughout the empire made up of mostly Gentile believers led by Paul.

#### **Transition From The Kingdom Message**

**Acts 1:3** It is quite clear that the disciples believed because Christ was victorious over death, along with His ongoing teaching of the Kingdom they thought He would set up the Kingdom right away.

**Acts 1:6-8** Although Jesus told them that the timing was not for them to know He did not rebuke them or tell them that they had the wrong view of the Kingdom instead He only spoke of the timing.

**Acts 2:14-41; 3:19-21, 25-26** It is clear once again that the Apostles believed that only the Jews should be preached to and the message was still the same, repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. However, they added to the message in the name of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Ghost. The message was clear to the Jews that if the requirement for the establishment of the Kingdom was met (*vs. 21 the times of restitution*) Jesus would come back and set up the Kingdom.

**Acts 2:4 to Acts 11:19 ( 33 A. D. thru 41 A. D.)** Until Acts 10:44-46, during this period the only people to hear the message of Jesus death, burial, and resurrection were the Jewish people.

#### **Transition To The Gentiles**

**Acts 10:9-15; 44-46; Acts 9:15-16, 26-27 ( 41 A. D. thru 51 A. D.)** The bible is clear that God determined that salvation would be granted to as many people as would believe (**John 3:16**). Once Israel refused to accept Christ, God made known His desire to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

**Acts 15:1-2; 6-9** Although clearly saved, the Gentiles were not observing any Mosaic laws as were the Jews. The process of integrating multinational peoples into the church was having birth pains.

**Acts 18:6; Galatians 2:7-9** The time of Paul's transition to the ministry toward the Gentiles had come. When Paul was saved Jesus had said that Paul would preach to the Gentiles, kings, and the Jews.

**Acts 15:9-11, 19; Acts 21:18-20 (51 A. D. thru 63 A. D.)** The transitional growing pains were well rooted and grounded deep into the book of Acts as we see the Gentile believers being saved by grace through faith and the Jewish believers still steeped in the Law, circumcising, shaving their head, keeping vows, observing feasts and days, and worshiping in the Jewish temple.

#### **Transition From Miracles To Faith**

**Matthew 10:5-8; John 10:37-38; Hebrews 2:1-4** During Jesus earthly ministry and during the Apostles later ministry they all had Spiritual gifts to do miracles and signs. Each time a miracle was done it was for the purpose of confirming Christ message of who He was and the affirmation of the message of the Gospel. Once they all died the bible was completed and we now “walk by faith.”

#### **Transition To Church Doctrine**

**Acts 13 thru Acts 28** During this time Paul established churches and wrote 13 or 14 books of the bible. These books to the churches established how Jesus wanted His church to operate.

**Acts 9:15, II Cor. 12: 1-5; Gal. 1:11-12, 17-18; Eph. 3:2-9; Gal. 2:8-9; Rom. 1:5** These verses and others establish the fact of Paul's unique ministry from God to the Gentiles.

**Acts 9:15; 13:2, 4; II Peter 3:15-16** Paul's ministry confirmed by other bible writers.