

WHAT EXACTLY DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES TO DO?

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He told Peter one thing, and thus also the eleven. And then He told Paul another thing.

Why?

That is what I shall be explaining in the rest of this article.

JESUS TO PETER AND THE ELEVEN

Mat. 10:5-8, NASB,

"5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them:
"Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give." (Editor's emphasize).

Before Jesus got crucified, He told them to go NOT to the Gentiles and also the Samaritans, but rather to the **lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

Compared to the so-called 'Great Commission' in Mat. 28, it is a direct contradiction. In that He told His disciples NOT to go to the Gentiles, while in Mat. 28 He said: **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"** – verse 19.

The two words '*the nations*' have at all times been taken as an order to go to the 'whole world' – hasn't it?

Thus we are told by this contradiction that this is not so. He explicitly told them to go ONLY to the lost sheep of the house of Israel! The passage of Mat. 28:19 is talking ONLY of Israel, in the sense that Israel meant Jews from all the nations to which they had been scattered.

This is fully in line with what He taught in Mat. 15:24 – when He told the Gentile woman,

« But He answered and said, "I was sent only * to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Paul, in Rom. 15:8 was also in line with that same concept, of Israel to be the group which should – by Christ's ministry - hear the Kingdom-Gospel, and NOT the Gentiles (but himself was sent to them both, Acts 9:15),

"For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,"

Jesus did not change His mind after He was crucified – He taught the apostles to go to Israel, and not to Gentiles. Reading Acts we later find that Jesus had Paul reserved for that task...he should go to Israel, Gentiles and kings (Acts 9:15).

Peter made reference to this also, in Acts 10:36-42 when speaking to the people in Cornelius' house, NASB,

"36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)-

37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed."

38 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

39 "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross."

40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,"

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."

42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead."

Editor's emphasize.

Verse 36 and 42 points to the historical fact that Peter said God had sent this Gospel-message TO ISRAEL, THE JEWISH PEOPLE inside the land.

Studying the Acts history and the whereabouts of the twelve those 34 years of ministry, 28-62 CE, we find that they never went out into 'world-wide mission'.

Check my fresh article here on the web, 'It Was No Coincident' in which I prove that this is true.

Jesus sent out His twelve apostles to offer the prophesied millennial kingdom to Israel. The nation had to repent to Christ first, and thus He would come back from heaven to establish the Kingdom of God in Israel. Peter's second speech tells of this quite clearly, **Acts 3: 18-23, NASB,**

"18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."

19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;"

20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."

22 "Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you."

23 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'"

I emphasized verses 19 and 20: Peter clearly tells his Jewish audience that they **1)** had to first repent to Jesus, **2)** so God could send Him back to Israel! If they did not do this, God would destroy (execute) the disobedient Jews from among the (Jewish) people. Peter repeated the prophesy given by Moses.

Mat. 28 and Mark 16, and likewise John 21:15-17. The Great Commission, NASB, Mat. 28:18-20,

"18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always *, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15-20,

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover *."

19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.] [And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

John 21:15-17,

15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, **"Tend My lambs."**

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, **"Shepherd My sheep."**

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, **"Tend My sheep."**

As for Luke, we find same "sum or order" given as with the other Gospel writers, **Luke 24:46-49,**

46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 "You are witnesses of these things.

48 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

As we study Acts and find out the whereabouts of the apostles, and their leaders, they never went out 'Into

all nations'. It is proven thus that they only went to Israel within its borders. This correct the misunderstanding that Jesus had told them to go 'world-wide'. Acts clearly tells of them that they were to be found mostly in Jerusalem, at just about every yearly fest days such as Passover and Pentecost. They always were to be seen operating under the shadows of the Portico of Solomon. How could they possibly be out there in some 'world-wide' mission, when Acts thoroughly tells us that they were not?

However, Paul was the one Christ elected to go to us Gentiles. Not Peter.

Gal. 2:7, 8 testifies to this,

"7 But on the contrary, seeing that I (Paul) had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised"

8 (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles)"

John 21 version of the 'Great Commission' is very direct and straight to the point: He sent them to THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

To Peter He said, **tend My lambs, shepherd My sheep, and tend My sheep.**

What sheep? The lost sheep of the house of Israel!

The expression in Luke 21:47 - *'to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem'* was spoken in the meaning of **those nations' Jewish inhabitants** (which met up for the Pentecost Feast) - just like we can read in **Acts 2:5**, *"Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven."*

This shows us that the translations of Mat. 28 is very shallow and misleading, saying, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"*

The Greek originals use a word which also can mean...*make disciples FROM all the nations.* And this is almost the same words as in Acts 2:5 - quoted above. Jews **from all nations under heaven** were present in Jerusalem on Pentecost in Acts 2.

JESUS SENDING PAUL TO US GENTILES

Acts 9:15 is already mentioned above, but again:

"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel".

Jesus in a vision, telling Ananias in Damascus what He had in mind regarding Paul.

Also, I quoted from Gal. 2:7, 8 of Paul going to the uncircumcised, but Peter going to the circumcised (Israel). In Acts 22:21 Paul referred to the Jewish mob listening to his defense at the temple site, of his mission,□□

"And He□□ said□□ to me,□□ 'Go! For I will□□ send□□ you□ far□□ away□□ to the□□ Gentiles.'"

Hearing that, the mob went totally mad□□ in a senseless rage and wanted to kill Paul.□□ Gentiles! □□ The unclean hounds. The very reason to persecute Paul, since they thought that Paul had brought with him such a 'hound' to the temple.□□

Later, shortly after the Roman captain Claudius Lysias took Paul into custody, Jesus had appeared to the apostle saying that He would send him to testify to the Sanhedrin in Rome, Acts 23:10, 11,

"10□□ And as a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force, and bring him into the barracks.□□

*11□□ But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause * at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."□□*

Such mission orders was never spoken to Peter. Peter never was told to go to Rome, Corinth, or Galatia, - Gentile nations in the Empire.

Only Paul had that mission.

Jesus was the one Who sent Peter to the nation of Israel to tell the Kingdom-Gospel. Paul was sent outside of Israel.

Paul's mission of the Kingdom-Gospel to Israel ended at Acts 28:31. Israel had fallen from their God because they did not take heed to Paul's message.

So, He sent Paul on to us Gentiles, as described in Ephesians and Colossians, written around 63-64 CE from his jail cell in Rome. And in those he reveals that Christ had abolished the Law of Moses. From that day we still has the free Grace-Gospel of Paul as our doctrine of faith. He abruptly□□ stopped□□ preaching the previous Kingdom-Gospel to Jews, and went on to preach that new revealed Grace-Gospel meant for all the world to hear.

Peter never had anything to do with our Church-dispensation. He only spoke to Israel on Christ's behalf, and that's it.

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