

project 4:4

one year one bible one church one lord

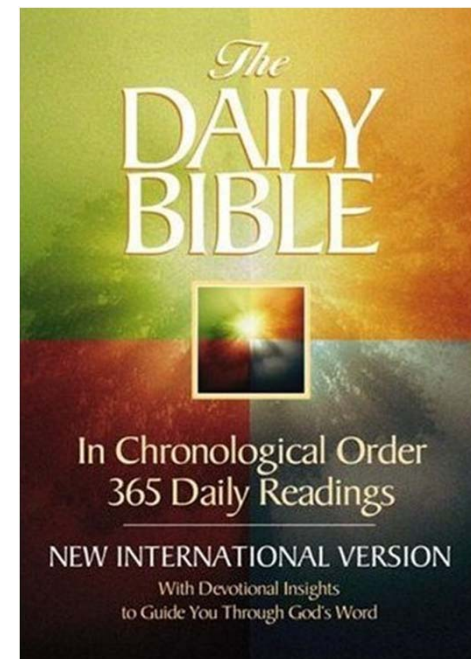
The Gospel Spreads, Even to Non-Jews! Lesson 48

November 28, 2010

PV Pleasant Valley Church of Christ

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for November 21-27
- ▶ Acts 3-18, Galatians
 - ▶ Martyrdom of Stephen
 - ▶ Persecution and Preaching and the Conversion of Saul
 - ▶ First Gentile Converts and Persecution by Herod Agrippa I
 - ▶ First Missionary Journey
 - ▶ Jerusalem Conference and Letter to Galatians
 - ▶ Second Missionary Journey



The Gospel Comes to the Gentiles

- ▶ To this point, the story of history has focused on the Nation of Israel as God's Chosen People
- ▶ The Gospel has been reserved solely for the "lost sheep of Israel"
- ▶ However, events are now occurring that will change that forever – to our benefit
- ▶ Let's review the past 11 months of study for some clues of God's Plan for Mankind



God's Promise to Abram

▶ Genesis 12:1-3

- ▶ ¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. ²“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**”

- ▶ Do you think Abraham had any idea of the magnitude of the Promise?



God Repeats the Promise

▶ Genesis 18:16

- ▶ ¹⁶When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. ¹⁷Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? ¹⁸Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and **all nations on earth will be blessed through him.** ¹⁹For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”



God Repeats the Promise (again)

▶ Genesis 22:15-18

- ▶ ¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**, because you have obeyed me.”



God's Promise to Isaac

▶ Genesis 26:2-5

- ▶ ²The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**, ⁵because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.”



Jacob's Blessing of Judah

▶ Genesis 49:8-10

- ▶ ⁸“Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. ⁹You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? ¹⁰The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and **the obedience of the nations is his.**



Isaiah's Prophecy

▶ Isaiah 9:1-2

- ▶ ¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan — ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

▶ Jesus' ministry focused here



Isaiah's Prophecy

▶ Isaiah 11:10-12

- ▶ ¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; **the nations will rally to him**, and his place of rest will be glorious. ¹¹In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. ¹²**He will raise a banner for the nations** and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.



Isaiah's Prophecy

▶ Isaiah 42:1-5

- ▶ ¹“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and **he will bring justice to the nations.** ²He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” ⁵This is what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:



Isaiah's Prophecy

▶ Isaiah 42:6-7

- ▶ ⁶“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and **a light for the Gentiles**, ⁷to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.



Isaiah's Prophecy

▶ Isaiah 49:6

- ▶ ⁶he says: “It is *too small* a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. **I will also make you a light for the Gentiles**, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

▶ Isaiah 49:22

- ▶ ²²This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “See, **I will beckon to the Gentiles**, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.



Zechariah's Prophecy

▶ Zechariah 2:10-13

- ▶ ¹⁰“Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the LORD.
¹¹**“Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people.** I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. ¹²The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. ¹³Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”



Simeon's Prophecy

▶ Luke 2:25-32

- ▶ ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³²**a light for revelation to the Gentiles** and for glory to your people Israel.”



Jesus' Prophecy

▶ John 12:30

- ▶ ³⁰Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³²But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.



The Great Commission

- ▶ Matthew 28:18-20

- ▶ ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- ▶ Jesus’ final charge to His disciples was to teach all nations



Peter's Sermon

▶ Acts 2:16-21

- ▶ ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹**And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**



Peter's Vision

▶ Acts:10:9-16

- ▶ ⁹About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹²It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." ¹⁴"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." ¹⁵The voice spoke to him a second time, "**Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.**" ¹⁶This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.



Clean and Unclean

- ▶ Jesus had already made a statement to this effect, though its full meaning was only understood after the fact
- ▶ Mark 7:17-19
 - ▶ ¹⁷After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸“Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him ‘unclean’? ¹⁹For it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods “clean.”)



Peter and Cornelius

▶ Acts 10:27-29

- ▶ ²⁷Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. **But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.** ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

- ▶ Why did it take so much to convince Peter that the Gentiles were to be included?



Cornelius Recounts His Vision

▶ Acts 10:30-33

- ▶ ³⁰Cornelius answered: “Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. ³²Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ ³³So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”



Peter's Gospel

▶ Acts 10:34-38

- ▶ ³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but **accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.** ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.



Peter's Gospel (cont)

▶ Acts 10:-43

- ▶ ³⁹“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**”



The Work of the Spirit

▶ Acts 10:44-48

- ▶ ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? **They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.**” ⁴⁸So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.



What This All Means

- ▶ Why is the story of Cornelius given so much coverage in Acts?
- ▶ God intended to save **ALL MEN** from the very beginning
- ▶ However, he worked through His Chosen Nation to prepare the world and then to bring His plan to fruition
- ▶ Were it not for the transition from physical kingdom to spiritual kingdom, we Gentiles would have been left on the outside
- ▶ We are blessed as a result



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for November 27-December 4
 - ▶ **COMBINED CLASS IN AUDITORIUM NEXT WEEK!!**

Questions?

