



Lesson 2: Introduction

The LORD's Progressive Revelation about His Plan of Redemption.....

NOTES FOR LECTURE 2

Introduction – Karen

Luke 24 – Jesus speaks to two disciples on the road to Emmaus in verse 25:

How foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken!

Luke 24:44 – *Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.* - We would call this **The Old Testament**.

Jesus used the Old Testament to give his disciples the Gospel

Deuteronomy 30:11 – *...it is not too difficult or beyond your reach.*

1. Key verses:

- a. **Leviticus 23:1-2** – *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My appointed feasts. (NKJ)*
 - Feast: (*moed*) An appointment, a fixed time or season; also a signal
 - Proclaim: (*qara*) The root word is the idea of accosting a person met; to call out, to read aloud, to call and commission
 - Holy: (*qodesh*) Set apart for God
 - Convocation: (*miqra*) A public meeting, a rehearsal (dress rehearsal).
- b. **Genesis 1:14** – *And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days, and years.”*
 - Signs: (*owth*) a signal, a distinguishing mark, proof or miracle
 - Seasons: (*moed*) an appointment or fixed time
- c. **Colossians 2:16-17** – *Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival (a feast day), a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*
 - Shadow: (dress rehearsal), feasts, type, picture, copy – a practice

2. The Appointments (feasts):
 - a. **are found** in Leviticus 23, Numbers 28, Deuteronomy and throughout Scripture
 - b. **are not** Jewish – they belong to God
 - c. **are part** of the Law, Torah or teachings, not just the 10 Commandments
 - d. **were kept** and fulfilled by Jesus. (John 2:13 and John 5:1)
 - e. **were kept** by the Apostle Paul and the disciples. (I Corinthians 5:8; Acts 2:1)
3. God's calendar:
 - a. A day: evening to evening - from sunset to sunset. (Genesis 1:5, Proverbs 7:9)
 - b. A week: Sunday to Saturday - The 1st day of the week begins at sundown on the 7th day which is the Sabbath. (Genesis 7:9)
 - c. A month: new moon to new moon – **Rosh Chodesh, (New Moon) in Scripture, Chart #2.**
 - d. A year: begins in the Spring – new life...new beginnings
4. Don't forget to check out the **Hebrew Calendar Compared to the Gregorian Calendar, Chart #3.**
5. **The Seven Appointments of the LORD, Chart #4,** shows:
 - a. Only seven months out of the Hebrew year – numbered, Babylonian and Gregorian names
 - b. The seasons of Spring, Summer and Fall (Refer to: **Harvesting and Ingathering, Chart #5**)
 - c. A picture of God's work of redemption over all time.
 - Spring - First Coming (advent)
 - Summer - Times of the Gentiles (Romans 11:25 and Luke 21:24)
 - Fall - Second Coming (advent)

d. The Seven Appointments (feasts) of the LORD:

- 1st. Weekly Sabbath (*Shabbat*)
- 2nd. Passover/Unleavened Bread (*Pesach*) – Pilgrimage*
- 3rd. Firstfruits (*Hanafat Ha'omer*)
- 4th. Pentecost (*Shavuot*) – Pilgrimage*
- 5th. Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*)
- 6th. Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*)
- 7th. Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) – Pilgrimage*

***Deuteronomy 16:16** – *Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place (Jerusalem) he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) and the Feast of Tabernacles.*

***Luke 2:41** – *Every year his (Jesus') parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.*

Homework after Lecture 2
Prepare for Lesson 3 – Early Gentile Church History

Take some time now to skim through the **Helpful Definitions, Chart #6** so that you are aware of these terms. You will refer to this often throughout your study.

The Book of Acts is a record of how the early church grew and how the gospel spread from its Hebrew roots in Jerusalem to the greater known world.

The Apostle Paul was initially one of the early church's worst enemies. He became one of its greatest teachers, "first to the Jew and then to the gentile."

As he wrote in **Romans 1:16**:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

1. Read Acts 13 (specifically 14-16 and 44-45); Acts 14:1-2; Acts 17:1-5; Acts 18:4-6.

- In these references, where did Paul teach?

- To whom did he teach?

- Who took notice and became jealous?

- What was Paul's reaction?

- How do you think Paul's reaction was part of the LORD's plan for the salvation of the world?

2. Read Romans 11:11-14, Acts 13:46-47, Isaiah 49:5-6

- What did Paul say he hoped to have happen through his ministry? (Romans 11:14)

- When Israel rejected his message, to whom did Paul then give the Gospel? (Acts 13:46-47)

- God used Israel's rejection of the Gospel message to make Paul a light for the gentiles. What was God's ultimate purpose? (Acts 13:47 and Isaiah 49:6)
3. Paul's hope was to arouse the Israelites to jealousy in order to save them. If you wanted to arouse someone's jealousy would you focus your attention on something they desired or something they didn't care about?
- Read Jeremiah 7:16-19 and Chapter 44 (specifically verses 1-6 and 15-28). These verses reference **The Queen of Heaven**, otherwise known as **Ishtar**, the Egyptian goddess of fertility. The LORD's anger was fierce towards the people who worshipped this foreign god. How do you think a faithful Jew would react to the practice of burning incense and baking cakes in her honor?
 - Would a faithful Jew be jealous of a church who celebrates Ishtar and claims to worship the Hebrew God?
4. Read **What was Jesus' Real Name, Chart #7**.
- What was Jesus' Hebrew name?
 - What two Hebrew words (a name and an action) make up this name?
 - What does His Hebrew name mean?
5. Who do you think would more likely provoke the Jews to envy - a gentile Christ named Jesus or a Hebrew messiah named Yehoshua?

