

Paul, the Jews and the Synagogue.

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Paul or maybe better to say, Christ did not tell us anything, about terms such as acts period, early and prison letters or transition period. Those are theological terms that people use in order to try to explain certain issues in Paul letters, mainly in the letter to the Corinthians. Issues like the Lord supper, Head covering and the Gifts in 1 cor. Chapters 11-14. but there of course more like Romans chapters 9-11 and not to forget certain truth in the letter to the Galatians.

The question is why someone, will come to the conclusion that there is different in Paul letters. Or when ever he speaks about Jews and mention scripture from the old testament it must be because he was preaching the kingdom gospel, or had a special Jewish ministry.

It can sometime go so fare that while Paul say in one place one thing. Believers will use the word of the same apostle in other place to show the opposite. Paul say for example: **that we are ministers of the new testament; 2 cor 3:6 or he say: Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Galatian 4:26.** and many other scriptures.

I am sure that if you will ask some Bible teachers if Paul was right when he said that we are ministers of the New Testament. Some will say NO and use there theological theories to explain why.

Jews and the Synagogue

Jews and the Synagogue is one of the subjects that made some Bible teacher to change Paul gospel. You see "if Paul speaks to the Jews in the Body or to the unbelieving Jews or go to the Synagogue, it must be because he had then another gospel or it was transition period.". This is at least what some may teach?

Christ revealed Paul the gospel of the uncircumcision or what we know as the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery. This gospel has different names, yet it is the same one that Paul was teaching through his entire ministry.

Christ called Paul by His grace (at least this what I understand) for special purpose.

But when it pleased God, who **separated** me from my mother's womb, and called [me] by his grace, Galatian 1:15 **1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, **separated** unto the gospel of God, Romans 1:1 **2** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate** me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. Acts. 13

So from the womb of his mother till the moment that he and barnabas were separated. The purpose is one. To tell the world something new which was never known before. It called Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

Just to remind the reader, Paul was a Jew by nature. **15 We who are Jews by nature. Galatian 2:15** Paul was an **Hebrew of the Hebrews; Philipians 3:4-6** Paul was Saul the one to whom the Lord said: **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Acts 9:4**

Paul is the first one in the dispensation of Grace **16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. 17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:16**

I born in Israel as a Jew (not religion) and never knew much about Paul and so there is a multitude of so called Christians who never heard**that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1**

So now after we know that Saul who became Paul received his Gospel by revelation. We can start study about the Jews and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

It is most surprising to see how able bible teachers changing Paul gospel when it comes to the Jews. While Paul is going first to the Jew, The Bible teach us that he always preach the same gospel that he received by revelation from the Lord, Christ according to the mystery.

Jews' religion,

But before we continue with this subject we must first understand some thing about Jews or Jews religion.

God gave only one religion. **the service of God** (Romans 9:4) and it was to the nation of Israel. They had to serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob according to what he told them through Moses. According to this service of God, the tabernacle and later the temple was the meeting place between the nation and God. **EXODUS 25:22 *And there I will meet with thee***

The temple was the only place that Israel sacrifices to God.

Paul writes about: 13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the **Jews' religion**, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: Galatians 1

The **Jews religion** and the **the service of God** (Romans 9:4) are not the same. The changing start when **1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. Dan. 1**

From that period the **Synagogue** became the meeting place, the house where Jews came together. This was the period that the Jews develop their own tradition together with the Law of Moses. This is the reason why we read:

MATTHEW 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress **the tradition of the elders**? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

MARK 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash [their] hands oft, eat not, **holding the tradition of the elders.**

MARK 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect **through your tradition**, which ye have delivered

But let not forget that while they follow till certain level their own tradition they still were the chosen nation. MATTHEW 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees **sit in Moses' seat.**

Jews was the name to those which came from the tribe of Jude. When they went to Babylon we read the word Jews in few places. (see also in the books **EZRA, NEHEMIAH and others.**)

DANIEL 3:12 There are **certain jews** whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee

for salvation is of the Jews JOHN Chapter 4:22 means the whole nation of Israel at that time. The house of Jude and Israel.

JOHN 5:18 **Therefore the jews sought the more to kill him**, - Jews means also the religion authority at that time.

So Paul was growing in to this religion that because of the tradition they could not see Jesus as the Christ.

5:45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is [one] that accuseth you, [even] Moses, in whom ye trust. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words? John 5:45

The Synagogue

Please note: The synagogue is not the appointed place according to the Law of Moses to worship God.

The law of Moses speaks about the tabernacle as the meeting place. The Synagogue became the meeting place for Jews after **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon** took them to **Babylon**. Those synagogues were not only in Babylon but during the years were spread through all the region. This why we read later : **21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day. Acts 15**

So while the Jews together with the law of Moses develop their own tradition, Moses was still preached in every city and the Law of Moses means also wisdom **21** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 1 kor 1.

According to the Law of Moses there were certain rules how to sacrifice and where.

tabernacle of the congregation - LEVITICUS Chapter 1 and 17 17:5 To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them [for] peace offerings unto the LORD.

17:6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD [at] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

17:7 And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

The Lord Jesus and the The Synagogue

When Christ was on earth he found an unspiritual temple. The priests did not do the Job.

MATTHEW 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

But let's not forget that this was the temple that Herod the king builds and not the house of God as the Haggai speaks. This temple was empty without the tabernacle.

HAGGAI 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts

Now we can understand why there were still Synagogues. So let see what the Lord teach at the meeting place of the Jews.

MATTHEW 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their Synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. MARK 1:39 And he preached in their Synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

MARK 14:49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not JOHN 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

The Synagogue of the Libertines

And the churches of Judaea

ACTS 6:9 Then there arose certain of the **Synagogue**, which is called [the Synagogue] of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

9:31 Then had the **churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria**, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Just note that there is different between the Synagogue of the Jews who did not accept that Christ is the messiah and the Churches that were established during the time that the apostles preach the kingdom gospel.

ACTS 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the Synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Synagogues existed well before the destruction of the 2nd Temple in 70 CE, communal worship in the time while the Temple still stood centered around the sacrificial offerings, brought by the priests in the Holy Temple.

During the Babylonian captivity (586–537 BCE) the **Men of the Great Assembly** began the process of formalizing and standardizing Jewish services and prayers that did **not depend on the functioning of the Temple in Jerusalem**. This mean religion which is not depends on what God first told to Moses.

Some say that synagogues were existing even in the days of Moses as a teaching place

20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Exodus chapter 18

the Synagogues called also:

8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the **houses of the people**, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem. Jeremiah chapter 39

In Judaism people speak about **the Synagogues** as the **little sanctuary** which mean that every synagogue building was holy.

16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, **yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary** in the countries where they shall come. Ezekiel chapter 11

But we know that God had only one **sanctuary**.

EXODUS 25:8 And let them make me a **sanctuary**; that I may dwell among them.

HEBREWS 9:1 Then verily the first [covenant] had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary

Paul preaching at the Synagogues

So now when we come to Paul, we understand little bit more about the synagogue. We know now that at the synagogues, in Paul day, people learn about the "Jews religion" and not necessarily only about Moses.

Why Paul went first to the **Synagogues**

Why Paul went first to the synagogue? Why People think that if he went to the Synagogues, he perched the kingdom on earth? Well the scripture say it in very simple way why he went there. After all if there were group of people who understood the **oracles of God, those were the Jews first and not the Romans or Greek of Paul days.**

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. Acts 13:46

because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. Romans 3:2

21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day. Acts 15

that the word of God - We read in acts 13:46 about the word of God. The question is which one? . The same word of God that Christ was preaching while on earth? No! We might not know al the details but what we should know what is written:

Galatian 1: 12 -18

12 by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many

15 separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

16 To reveal his Son in me,

that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

The Account of Paul him self telling us that from the moment that God **called me by his grace,** he did not learn any thing from the others . It sounds strange! How did he know things? **By the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Did he went first to get some kingdom education from Peter and the others?" No!

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus

If we really take God in His Word and believe what Paul is saying to the Galatians. Then we can understand that Paul talk at the synagogues about the SON OF GOD and about CHRIST. According the way that God revealed in him.

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, **proving that this is very Christ.** ACTS 9:20