

The Church At Jerusalem: Prophecy Fulfilled And Characteristics

Sunday 04/03/22AM

Introduction:

Acts 13 begins a new section in the history of the Lord's church in Acts. In the first 12 chapters Peter was one main character and the activities at Jerusalem was the center of the Apostles works. Before we start studying the church at Antioch we want to look at Jerusalem and list some of the qualities we need to emulate.

I) Fulfillment of Prophecy

A) In Isaiah

Isaiah 2:2 *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

1. Jesus has instructed His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait in **Acts 1**
2. **Acts 2** events are recorded which fulfills O.T. prophecies.

Acts 2:2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.*

Acts 2:14 *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.*

B) Specifics

1. Place prophesied- Jerusalem (Zion), **Acts 2** took place in Jerusalem.

2. Time – Latter days (**Acts 2:16** "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **17** 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.)
3. The message – “the word of the Lord” - **Acts 2:22a** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—
4. The means of entrance into the Lord’s body **Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'
5. Explained in the sermon.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

II) Characteristics of the church to emulate today.

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

A) Favor with all the people

1. They had a good reputation in the community. How does that come about?
2. Have to be honest – a quality stressed in many passages.

2 Corinthians 8:21 providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

3. Kind and generous –

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of

faith.

4. Each one of us is a walking billboard for the Lord's church. People will react negatively or positively based upon their enter actions with people here.

B) Praising God (Worship)

1. Worship is to be God centered – aimed at pleasing and glorifying Him.
2. In the Old Testament we read of the glory of God entering the temple upon its completion.

2 Chronicles 7:1 *When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.*

3. Today the Lord's temple is His church.

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

C) Gladness

Acts 2:46 *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

1. They were happy in their new relationship with the Lord and each other.
2. Our emotions affects others – enthusiasm, encouraging, bitterness, negativity, etc.
3. Are you a happy Christian? May sound strange and some people may never think of it this way. Some may look at it like buying

auto insurance, they know they need it but not really happy about it.

4. We should be happy to be “children of God” to be part of His family and have this amazing spiritual family we can call our brothers and sisters.

Psalms 122:1 <<A Song of Ascents. Of David.>> I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." 2 Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

5. A Christian is never an orphan.

D) Daily

Acts 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart

1. In the temple “daily”, breaking bread from house to house “daily”
2. They were together on a regular, daily basis.
3. Christianity is not an monastery religion where Christians are isolated from the world and even worse from each other.
4. Our experience with Covid and isolation has taught us, me, a lot. As a society we are seeing the negative effects of isolation – suicides increase, drug addiction and over doses increase, communication suffered.
5. Some have apparently adopted the “couch church” approach on a permanent basis.

E) With one accord

Acts 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart

1. They were united but not perfect.

2. They came from various backgrounds – **Acts 2** list numerous nations present on the Day of Pentecost. **Acts 5** first recorded sin with Ananias and Sapphira. **Acts 6** problem with the Hellenist Jews.
3. They had different opinions but they were all bound by the same Lord.
4. They were united in serving Christ and keeping His word.

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- a. Endeavoring – working at it
 - b. Unity of the Spirit – they were guided by the same spirit, the same revelation.
 - c. Bond of peace – tied together in the proper relationship with God and each other.
5. Examples of this
 - a. James Garfield – Civil War General for the Union Army. Part of the Union Army going into Northern Alabama. While at Mooresville, AL. he was asked to speak one Sunday at the “Disciples of Christ”. Hundley the preacher at Mooresville had three sons fighting in the Confederate Army. One was killed the other two in a prison camp.
 - b. Mansel Matthews – born in Kentucky, moved to Tennessee preached in Alabama. Decided to move to Texas, with a group who hired Davey Crockett as a guide. He opposed slavery and secession. Arrested for treason, sentenced to hang to death in Texas. A lawyer who was for slavery and secession pleaded his case and he was pardoned. He continued to preach in Texas.

F) Faithful and steadfast

Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

1. They were standing firm upon the teaching of the “apostles’ doctrine”
2. Their teaching was based upon the word of God.

1 Peter 4:11 *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

3. They were committed to learning the doctrine of Christ, to teaching it, and observing it.

Conclusion:

Finally, the church at Jerusalem shared the Gospel with others. The Apostles continued to preach at Jerusalem after the death of Stephen. But others went out spreading the Gospel. **Acts 8:1** *Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere **preaching the word.*** The Gospel must be preached to those who do not know it. Day of Pentecost 3,000 obeyed the Gospel, then 5,000, then multitudes. By **Acts 13** many more had done so. Today we have the same charge to preach to a dying world.