

Lecture 24 – Revelation in the Book of Acts

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Key Terms

Golden Cable, kingdom

Objective

To trace the three concepts of the Golden Cable through the book of Acts

Revelation in the Book of Acts

I. Introduction

- A. The role of the Golden Cable
- B. The mission effort: Is it central?
- C. Church planting: Is it dominant? (cf. Ladd, p. 311)
- D. The critical question: Theology from sermons?
- E. Is Luke an historian or theologian (or both?) (cf. Ladd, pp. 311-314)
- F. Third New Testament covenant epoch: The New Covenant realized

II. The Resurrection (Ladd, ch. 24)

A. Aspects

1. Disciples transformed (Ladd, pp. 316, 320)
2. At the heart of the message (Ladd, p. 317)
3. Disciples' function: Witness to the resurrection
4. Possibility of resurrection (Ladd, p. 318)
5. Eschatological character (Ladd, p. 324)
6. Gave rise to the church (Ladd, p. 327)

B. Critique of Ladd

1. Emphasis on the historical event is laudable
2. Role in the spread of the church is correct
3. Does not place it in biblical context
 - a. As prophesied (Psalm 16)
 - b. In relation to the kingdom and the covenant

III. The Jerusalem Setting

A. Questions regarding the kingdom

1. To resurrected Jesus (Acts 1:3)
2. Disciples' ignorance (Acts 1:6)
3. Role of the ascension – enthronement (Psalm 68; Ephesians 4)
4. Power of the kingdom – rule of Christ; by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8-2:47)
5. The nations represented (Joel 2)
6. Day of the Lord: It is to be fully present (Acts 2:20)
7. Appeal to David (Acts 2:29-36)
8. Miracle at the temple gate, a kingdom act [cf. appeal to the prophets, Moses and Abraham (Acts 3:22-25)]

B. Entrance into the kingdom

1. Role of preaching and witnessing (Acts 4:8-11; Acts 7)
2. Salvation: By faith in Christ (Acts 4:10-12)
3. Acknowledgment and submission to Christ
4. Not by deception (Acts 5)

- IV. The Samaritan Setting
 - A. Philip's preaching (Acts 8:12-13)
 - 1. Kingdom of God
 - 2. Name of Jesus Christ
 - B. Disciples came
 - 1. Called for repentance
 - 2. Holy Spirit received (Acts 8:19-25)
- V. The Setting of All Nations
 - A. The Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)
 - B. By Saul/Paul
 - 1. Conversion and baptism (Acts 9:1-19)
 - 2. Ministry in Jerusalem
 - 3. Sent off (Acts 9:31)
 - C. Peter's call to serve all nations (Acts 10-12)
 - D. Missionary activity
 - 1. Paul's journeys (Acts 13-28)
 - 2. Regarding entrance into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22)
 - 3. Preached and did miracles (Acts 14)
 - a. Creation (Acts 14:15; 17:24)
 - b. Providence (Acts 14:17)
 - c. Gospel
 - i. Of Jesus Christ (Acts 28:23)
 - ii. Of the kingdom of God (Acts 19:8, 20:25; 28:23; 28:31)
 - 4. Setting for epistles
- VI. The Golden Cable
 - A. The Kingdom: All-inclusive message
 - B. The Mediator: Jesus Christ (Messiah), heart and core of kingdom
 - C. The Covenant
 - 1. All people heirs of the covenant with Abraham (Acts 3:2-25)
 - 2. Covenant with Abraham (Acts 7:8)
 - 3. Gathering people and building the church among all peoples; a realization of covenant promises and mandate
 - 4. Covenant with Patriarchs, Moses, and David remains the central unifying factor in the kingdom and provides the setting for the work of Christ and His apostles