

## **Bible Study, March 10, 2021 – HANDOUT no. 1**

### **Lesson Nr: 2. From the Church in Jerusalem to the more UNIVERSAL (CATHOLIC) Mission – Saint Peter’s speech at Pentecost**

**EVEN BEFORE we try to answer some questions about the Acts we need to keep in mind that the OBJECTIVE (if not the main goal of Saint Luke) was to answer the burning question: How the NON – JEWS – the GENTILES – could claim the heritage of Israel? Or in other words: How Jesus inherits King David’s throne (Peter recites Psalm 16) and how come it moves from Jerusalem (from Jewish Converts) to the WHOLE WORLD?**

#### **AUTHORSHIP, DATE, HISTORICITY**

- The Acts of The Apostles are attributed to the Author of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gospel, Saint Luke.
- Most agree its completion was between 80-90 A.D.
- St. Ireneaus of Lyons (130 – 202 A.D.) is the first recorded RESOURCE to use the title: PRAXEIS – the ACTS.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY – OUTLINE OF THE ACTS Part 1 (Acts 1:1-2 :13)**

- From the Opening Statement – PROLOGUE - to the promise of the HOLY SPIRIT
- 40 DAYS after the Resurrection – ASCENSION of the CHRIST
- Prayer and Action – RESTORATION of the 12 (Apostles) as a RESTORATION of ISRAEL (Matthias)
- DESCENT of the HOLY SPIRIT – what is the Feast of PENTECOST?

#### **Saint Peter’s SPEECH – the BLUEPRINT for TYPE/TYPOLOGY methodology employed by BIBLICAL SCHOLARS**

- Is Peter still Cefas (remember, how His original name, Simon;-) is changed by Jesus to the NEW NAME – highly symbolic, Kefa(s) or Cefas– meaning the ROCK in the SYRO-ARAMAIC, translated later to PETRA – Greek equivalent of Aramaic Kefa - latinized to Pertus –

- Peter – so I guess my question is: what do His brothers call Him: Simon? Cefas? Peter? Or Simeon perhaps? What do you think?
- Peter explains how the Spirit of God is restoring END – TIME ISRAEL and how the Crucified Jesus is a NEW ERA – NEW ISRAEL – NEW ECCLESIA (Kahal) Messiah (Christos – the Anointed One – or the Holy ONE of God) and Lord (post – Resurrection Title).
  - The RESPONSE to Peter’s SPEECH – in a direct way, is the FORMATION of a so called KOIONIA (Greek for communal life) – but it might be as well in a more practical/less idealistic way – a TRULY and NEWLY RESTORED ISRAEL – the NEW ISRAEL with 12 PILLARS (like the TRIBES of OLD Testament) but now – 12 APOSTLES.
  - How is all that Saint Peter says VALIDATED? In other words, what SIGN does He give the listeners that He is Right (remember the numerous times that was asked of Jesus each time he said something profound? What sign you could give us to show us that you are right...)
  - In the NAME of JESUS a Crippled Beggar is CURED – that’s how Saint Peter explains the MIRACLE
  - All that COMMOTION leads to a so called FIRST CONFRONTATION with the Jewish Authorities – in other words Peter and the 12 end up before SANHEDRIN
  - Saint Peter’s ANSWER – filled with the Holy Spirit – He says – and uses the most common reference to Jesus, Christ, Messiah of the TIME – which was most likely: THE NAZOREAN.
  - Shock and AMAZEMENT of the LEADERSHIP in JERUSALEM
  - To what extent: well – CANCEL CULTURE – SPEECH BAN – is not really Twitter, Facebook or a CNN phenomenon – lets read: Acts 4:18-23.