

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE BIRTH OF CHRISTIANITY

RLJ-1298

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### PART 2: BREAKING AWAY FROM JUDAISM

#### CLARIFICATION ON SALVATION

In my previous message we learned that rabbis only taught salvation was only for the Jews. This was not a personal salvation for the individual Jew but a national salvation for them as a whole. This teaching by the rabbis has no foundation in the Old Testament.

Abraham is considered the father of the nation of Israel but he was a Chaldean and a descendent of Noah. All people on the earth are descendants of Noah, who in turn was a descendant to Adam and Eve. Jews are therefore not a race but a nationality.

In the New Testament we learn that Abraham was saved by believing in the coming Messiah. **Romans 4:1-5**

King David was also saved by faith in God. **verses 6-8**

The teaching of personal salvation can be clearly seen with the last plague to hit Egypt before the exodus. There was no blanket covering for all the Israelites as they had to individually put the blood on the door posts. **Exodus 12:1-13**

Job, who was a contemporary with Abraham, had a clear understanding of what salvation was and he had faith in the Messiah to come. **Job 13:15-16; 19:25-27**

#### WHAT DID JESUS TELL HIS DISCIPLES?

None of the four Gospels had been written when the incident described in Acts chapter ten took place. Up to this time the apostles orally spoke of what Jesus had said and done. The commission to preach the Gospel to all people as commanded by Jesus was later written down in the Gospel's of Matthew and Mark. **Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20**

This important shift in policy is not found in the Gospels of Luke and John but it is interesting that the record of this shift taking place was recorded by Luke in the Book of Acts, chapter 10:

1. First we have the description of a Roman Centurion, a Gentile. Even though he could not convert to Judaism, he had come to believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and was labeled by the Jews as a "devout man" that worshipped God. **Acts 10:1-2**
2. Cornelius had a vision from God. **verses 3-4**
3. He was told to contact the apostle Peter and was given an address. **verses 5-6**



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4. He obeyed the instructions from the angel. **verses 7-8**
5. God had to prepare Peter. **verses 9-16**
6. The Holy Spirit instructed Peter what to do next. **verses 17-20**
7. Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit and went with the men. **verses 21-24**
8. Peter acknowledged that it was unlawful for him to enter into the home of a Gentile, but he now understood that a Gentile was not unclean and was not an animal. **verses 25-29**
9. As soon as Cornelius stated why he had called for Peter, the same acknowledged that God was not a respecter of persons, but that Gentiles had souls and could be saved. **verses 33- 43**
10. Cornelius and his family and friends believed what Peter preached, responded to the Gospel and salvation was instantly granted them and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. **verse 44**
11. Peter and his born again Jewish friends had a hard time believing that Gentiles could be saved and he felt that they should also be baptized in water since the Holy Ghost had fallen on them. **verses 45-48**

## **THE CHRISTIAN JEWISH LEADERSHIP WAS NOT HAPPY**

The Christian Jewish leadership in Jerusalem became angry and confronted Peter when this news reached them. **Acts 11:1-3**

Peter defended his actions and related the entire event, but it was the baptism of the Holy Spirit that convinced Peter that salvation was also for the Gentiles. **verses 15-17**

The Christian Jewish leadership had no choice but to accept the fact that the teaching in Judaism was wrong and line up with God. **verse 18**

But the majority of the Christian Jews still refused to preach to the Gentiles. **verse 19**

However, some began to preach to the Greeks and many were saved. As a result, the Christian Jewish leadership sent Barnabas to organize the new converts in Antioch. **verses 20-24**

***The barrier between Jews and Gentiles had been broken and Christian Jews reluctantly began to preach to the Gentiles, but they were still not sure where the Gentiles stood when it came to the commandments in the Old Testament.***

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**