

THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE

Session 13: 'The Great Reversal'

22 January 2023

Objectives

Explain: How God is bringing back the Gentiles.

Identify: Ruling spirits mentioned in Paul's epistles.

Affirm: The original, apostolic good news.

Practice: 21 actions that grow new churches.

Theme

"What happened at Pentecost was a battle plan for infiltrating all the nations, disinherited by God at Babel, with the gospel of Jesus—an ancient strategy for spiritual war." Heiser, *Supernatural*, 127

Pentecost, 33 CE, Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Winds and flames of fire = Presence of Yahweh

- Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11
- The LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. Job 38:1
- His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. Daniel 7:9
- The angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire Exodus 3:2
- He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants. Psalms 104:4
- He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire. Hebrews 1:7

The Great Reversal

Genesis 11:7 "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth.

Acts 2: 5 There were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation... 6 Each one heard their own language being spoken.

37 They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Jews from every nation Acts 2:5-6

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Ezekiel 36:24 I will ... gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land...
27 And I will put my Spirit within you... 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD.

The original, apostolic, good news

1. God has fulfilled that which his prophets foretold.
2. Jesus is the promised Messiah and Lord.
3. Jesus went about doing good and healing.
4. Lawless men conspired to have Jesus crucified.
5. God has raised his servant Jesus back to life.
6. God has exalted Jesus into heaven as Saviour.
7. Jesus' apostles are eye and ear-witnesses.
8. God gives his Holy Spirit to those who believe.
9. Jesus will return from heaven to earth.
10. Jesus will raise to life those who trust in him.
11. God forgives the sins of all who repent.
12. God has appointed Jesus as everyone's judge.
13. This message is for Jews and for Gentiles.
14. Jesus ordered to tell this message everywhere

Download "The Original Apostolic Good News" from <http://galencurrah.online>

Gentiles under authority of other gods

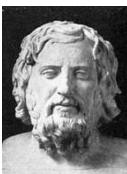
When you look up to the sky and see ... all the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshipping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. Deut. 4:19

When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of [God]. 32:8

Ancient pagans on the ruling gods



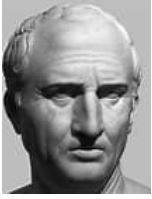
Plato (428–348 BCE), in his work *The Republic*, wrote "Each city has its own guardian spirit, and the god who presides over each people is the one who is most interested in them."



Xenophon (430–354 BCE) in his *Cyropaedia* wrote "The god who presides over the city is the one who has the greatest concern for it."



Aristotle (384–343 BCE) in his *Politics* wrote "As for the gods, the belief in their existence has been implanted in mankind for many reasons, the chief of which is the fact that all things are governed by them."



Cicero (106–43 BCE) in his *De Natura Deorum* wrote “All nations have believed that there are gods and they have had some understanding of their nature and powers, although it is not the same in every nation.”

Spiritual beings in Paul’s epistles

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. ἀρχή arché ruler (position) | ● Many |
| 2. ἄρχων archōn ruler (action) | ● Unseen |
| 3. δύναμις dynamis power (ability) | ● Pernicious |
| 4. ἐξουσία eksousia authority (privilege) | ● Of this age |
| 5. θεός theos god (national deity) | ● Of this darkness |
| 6. κοσμοκράτωρ kosmokratōr (world sovereign) | ● In heaven |
| 7. κύριος kyrios lord (owner) | ● In the heavens |
| 8. κυριότης kyriotés lordship (legal rights) | ● In the high heavens |
| 9. πνευματικός pneumatikos spiritual (being) | |

Table of 70 or of 72 nations listed in Genesis 10 “spread out over the earth after the flood” (32).



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Places named in the Book of Acts "Every nation under heaven" Acts 2:5



To bring the nations back under Yahweh's authority.

2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you... 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12

18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28

21 Actions that move God to grow a church

Acts 2:37-41. **Evangelism**, Jesus' commandments

1. Hear! Mt 11:15
2. Repent! Mk 1:15
3. Baptize! Mt 28:19
4. Forgive! Jn 20:23
5. Receive the Spirit! Jn 20:22
6. Bear witness! Ac 1:8
7. Remember my word! Jn 15:20

Acts 2:37-41. **Discipleship**, Jesus' commandments

8. Abide in my word! Jn 8:31
9. Teach! Mt 28:19
10. Love on another! Jn 13:34
11. Remember my death. Lk 22:19
12. Ask in my name. Jn 16:24
13. Fear God. Mt 10:28
14. Heal the sick. Mt 10:8

Acts 2:37-41. **Body life**, Jesus' commandments

15. Believe in me! Jn 14:1
16. Gather in my name! Mt 18:20
17. Sell and give! Mt 19:21
18. Give freely! Lk 6:38
19. Enter houses! Lk 9:4
20. Rejoice and be glad! Mt 5:12
21. Show love for God and for others. Mk 12:30

Paul's personal life goal, Romans 15:28-30

28 I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. 29 I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

30 I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.



Tarshish (תַּרְשִׁישׁ) = Spain (Σπανία), the western-most country of the Roman Empire, 'the uttermost end of the world'.