

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 14:11-20

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TITLE:

“CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD ”

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Jesus Had Said...

Acts 1:8

*“But you shall receive **power....** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Power is to characterize our Christian

•Witness, •Life & •Existence here and now...

People are seeking **Power** today like never before
And the "Power Base" in your life is founded upon One of Two things

Mythological (Man based)

Theological (God based)

Believe it or not, even your world view comes down to these same two factors:

Is it through the filter of biblical revelation - the bible - theology
or is through the fog of hearsay, superstition - guesses- mythology

If it's Mythology

you will be forever guessing, wishing and hoping and talking yourself out of reality
(An Imagined Power in Self)

If it's Theology

you will once and for all be at rest, being assured, confident, knowing that your present and your future is filled with peace & hope (**An Actual, Experiential, Power in God**)

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Your OLOGY (Study)..... will determine the way you view things and what conclusions you come to...

What's Your OLOGY This Morning,
I'm a Capricorn, I'm a Sagittarius,
God says.... it's a bunch of Taurus

1.) They Were *Willing to Embrace the Supernatural* vv. 11-12

The People confused the servants of God with God

Acts 4:13

**Now when they saw the boldness of the apostles.... they marveled.
And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**

1.) **BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY SAW:**

A Notable Miracle Had Been Done
The Supernatural had invaded the Natural

How about "God" has come down in the likeness of men

That's what Jesus did

Romans 8:3

God, sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, mankind

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son as Savior of the world.

2.) BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY BELIEVED:

Historical Background;

According to Greek Mythology, Jupiter (Zeus) and Mercury (Hermes) had once come to this area of Lystra and were not recognized as gods except by an old couple named Phelemon and Baicus. The city's punishment for the cold reception was total destruction but Jupiter and Mercury left behind a temple for future worshippers in Lystra.

Hey,

**The Lysterines were not going to make that mistake again...
... It had left a bad taste in their mouths before!!!**

Is this your way of looking at things...

2.) They Assumed *the Existence of God(s)* vv. 13

From near Stoning in Iconium to near Worship in Lystra
Satan had just escalated his tactics - that's all

If the enemy fails at a frontal attack upon your life directly by hardship or persecution.... He'll opt to plan 'B' destruction by promotion he'll put you in the lime-light (humility - Benny Hinn's Message)

3.) They Confused *the Creature with the Creator* vv. 14-15

"When they Heard this" - when they became aware of it...

It's obvious that they were evangelizing using translators

It is difficult to read the crowd

Hey Barney, look at this response to the Gospel, These people are serious man, look at them worshipping the Lord...

"The Babushka in Russia"

lunged toward me and grabbed my cheeks (Face) and started crying

Spaseba Isous, Spaseba Isous

Thank you Jesus,

Thank you Jesus

Why all the confusion about Paul and Barney being gods...
because how could such a wonderful thing be done by mortal man

Same Nature **GRK 3663** (*hom-oy-op-ath-ace'*);
to suffer the same thing. to be of the same type or kind, to put your pants on the same
way

They were (Predetermined) by their mythology to view what had happened in a
certain way...

Rather than the gods had come... the truth was Jesus had come

Why do you think thus and so...
"Well you that say that spaceships..."
"My horoscope tells me that..."

The Purpose of all that we do is Glorify God

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your
Father in heaven.

4.) They Had a Natural Witness of God's love vv. 15-17

"Turn from vain things"

vain **GRK 3152** *mataios* (*mat'-ah-yos*) things of emptiness, profitless things, idols

**Paul used the There and Then,
to get to The Here and Now !**

Paul's Approach was Brilliant

The Galatian region of Lystra was the Wheat, Oat & Corn Belt of that part of the
World, produce was the major export

The People were agrarian (people of the land, farmers)

Note:

Paul gives an argument

#1.) for the existence of God, not by scripture, not by philosophy, but by the observable world around us.

A fair and intelligent look at the world around us clearly demonstrates that God is Creator (the creation speaks of intelligent design)

I have Yet to have a man tell me **Why** God cannot exist

Romans 1:18-21

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, Romans 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. :20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. :21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- He is The One Living God (Exclusive)
- He is the Giving God (Provider)
- He is the Forgiving God (Holy)

TIME

MAGAZINE MARCH 6, 1995

WHEN DID THE UNIVERSE BEGIN

(Genesis 1:1)

Be careful Now...

Is It Going To Be.... **Mythology, or Theology**

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (NKJ)

#2.) He argues that this God is a good God

Psalm 73:1 Truly God is good

How can I believe in the evolutionary theory when it is;

#1 Illogical

#2 Unreasonable

#3 Uneducated

#4 Unscientific

Not to mention intellectually dishonest

(it's all an accident they say - Well then why should I believe someone who says **it's all an accident**, when he considers his own thinking is part of the great accident

The Last Time I Saw An Accident

(things fell apart, nothing worked anymore, and people got hurt)

Accidents produce Chaos
Design produces purpose

So Paul points them to the Land to Consider

Where do all these things come from...

Why does all this happen.....

When have you gone without.....

What about Us...

Where, Why, When

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Psalm 107:8

Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! (N

Did Paul use the Bible to witness to these Gentiles?.... Look closer. He used the Bible of Creation. He used what is always there to use... God's fingerprints are all over the place

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Ps 19:2 Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

Ps 19:3 There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Remember when we were kids and we would lay down and look
up...

Hey Stupid!
Believe in God

I Have Some Rocks from Israel

If these rocks could talk... what would it say

5.) They Became *Easily Led by Emotionalism* vv. 19-20

"Supposing" these people knew how to stone people
they knew how to kill and I think they did kill Paul...

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know,
or whether out of the body I don't know, God knows-- such a one was caught up to the
third heaven. :3 I know such a man-- :4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard
inexpressible words, which (I sold to the Inquirer and appeared on Geraldo)
words which are not lawful for a man to utter.

A Half-Time Break...

Now get back in there... and back in to the city he went

That's what I need, I need to get the real me into His presence so that I can have the
right perspective

From that time on Paul would say...

Philippians 1:21-24

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. :22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. :23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. :24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

see 2 Corinthians 12:1-5 and Galatians 6:17

D.) The Disciples Response to the Apostle v.20

2 Timothy 3:10

the stoning is believed to have been what affected Timothy and led him to Christ later on

Paul had seen the glory of heaven, going back into the city held no fear for him

His Life, mission, End had a Purpose

He was living a life that would last forever

Philippians 3:13

but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Philippians 3:7

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (NKJ)

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, (everlasting life) and that they may have it more abundantly (Quality of Life).

The World says "It may not be quantity time, but it's quality time"

Jesus say's "I'll give Quantity and Quality of Life"

The World has had its grip on your life all along, and now it's starting to take its toll -
You need Christ and His forgiveness today

A little girl wrote God a note and asked...

"Is it true what my mommy say's, that daddy won't get to go to heaven if keeps using
his bowling words in the house?"

ARE YOU A CHILD OF A LESSER GOD?

DO YOU HAVE TO TALK YOURSELF INTO A GOOD DAY?

DO YOU WISH FOR THINGS?

Overflow Zone

Why are You doing these things?

the worrying

"Dear God, I keep waiting for Spring but it never comes... please don't forget - love
Jennifer"

the stress

the wishful thinking (helpless hope)

the blaming

Paul's Grave Danger was the type of audience he had
God was at work, Paul was Gifted, The People were needy

The Most Dangerous Temptation of All

Attention, Acknowledgment, Usefulness = PRIDE

If God is Using You - Be careful

If you're a "spiritual" person what is your foundation built upon

If you refuse to believe in the existence of God, Why?