

Acts # 56 “Let the Missions Begin” *Genesis 3:15; Acts 13:1-5*

The angels immediately saw that mankind did have one characteristic in common with them; free-will which is expressed in the power to choose for or against God.

The entire angelic creation had previously made their choice, revealed by two opposing categories of these super creatures: Elect and Fallen.

From the fact that Satan’s sentencing to the Lake of Fire along with his angels is not to be carried out until the end of time, we can reach two conclusions:

- 1. Satan must have appealed his sentence.*
- 2. Man was created by God to resolve this dispute which occurred at the sentencing phase of the trial.*

As soon as man was created, God displayed His matchless grace by providing everything man would ever need in perfect environment and surprisingly, by setting up a test to make it possible for man to exercise his free-will just like the angels before him.

Since God does not desire to force love or obedience from His creatures, man’s free-will, which is similar to the angels, must come into play.

Genesis 3 tells us man chose against God in spite of everything that God had given him in the Garden.

At that very moment, Satan became the victor in the first battle of the dispute here on earth, as he immediately seized control of this world and of its inhabitants.

Genesis 3:15 predicts the ultimate defeat of Satan, which will take place at Jesus Christ’s Second Advent.

Even before salvation was declared, the final victory over Satan was announced.

The bruising of our Lord’s heel is referring to the Cross where Jesus Christ bore the judgment for every sin in the human race;

suffering a spiritual and then physical death.

Man forfeited his intimate relationship with God and was in no position to reverse his decision unless God would graciously intervene.

When God committed Himself to this promise, the entire destiny of the human race, the ultimate result of the battle between fallen and elect angels and the perfect character of God, were placed on the line.

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How, then, can this dispute ever be resolved and how can man ever be brought back to God?

The answer is that God must reduce Himself to true human flesh and blood and God the Son agreed to fulfill the Father’s plan by taking on a human body and nature.

There are 4 reasons why Jesus Christ must become true

humanity: 1st, To be our Savior and go to the Cross;

2nd, To be our Mediator and represent us to God and God to us;

3rd, To become our High Priest to intercede for us and

4th, In order to reign as the son of David to rule restored Israel.

It was vitally important that Jesus Christ become a human being but that would be impossible unless an unbroken lineage of true humanity existed on earth!

The Holy Spirit is responsible for appointing spiritual gifts and for the placement of personnel on the mission field.

No matter how sensational, personable or how much ability people may have, if they’re not appointed by the Holy Spirit to the mission field and go anyway, they’re in the wrong function; missionaries are chosen by God the Holy Spirit not the church.

Primary missionaries must be taken from the leadership gifts of evangelism and pastor-teacher and they must qualify on the basis of maximum amount of biblical truth known.

Therefore, there must be a stable local church for effective missionary work and missionaries must have prayer support as well as financial support from the local church to function properly in the mission field.

Missionaries must know biblical truth, be oriented to grace and have leadership gifts, not just leadership skills.

Only two of the five church leaders were actually chosen because someone who's qualified has to stay behind and keep the home church stabilized; there must be stability at the home base for the missionaries in the field to be supported.

So just as the Holy Spirit is responsible for appointing spiritual gifts, the Holy Spirit is responsible for the placement of personnel on the mission field.

This is the beginning of mass missionary activity.

Acts 13:3 is the ordination service in which the church simply recognizes the sovereign decision of God the Holy Spirit.

The local church acknowledged that these men had been appointed by the Holy Spirit and it was their responsibility to confirm that and to send them off to service.

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God's power is found in His Word and when people are positive toward God and His Word, incredible things happen!

The first place they went to preach was the synagogues; Antioch is a large city and it probably had more than one synagogue but they went to the Jews first and they kept at it; this was their job.

When anyone; angel or man sees you in a relationship with God, moving right on through hard times without panic or falling apart; without crying, "Why me, Lord; this isn't fair?" then God is glorified and you are blessed beyond measure!

God is able to shower His grace upon you in a fantastic way

and your whole life will be a victorious testimony to angels as well as men!