

A Biblical Survey of Tongues - part 2

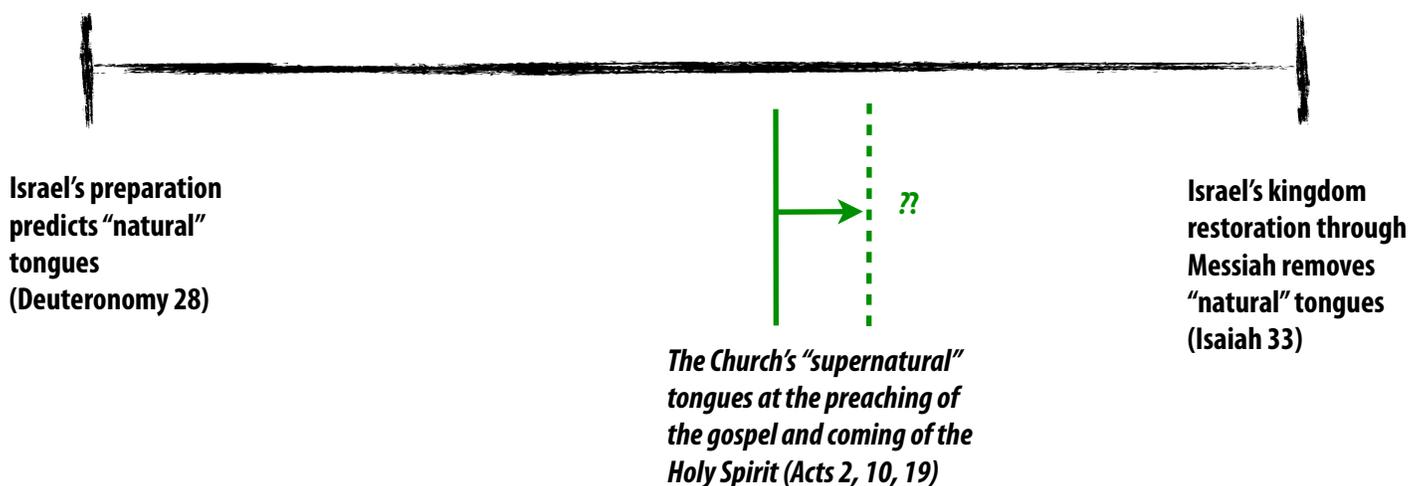
1 Corinthians 12-14

Sunday, January 4, 2015

REVIEW:

- I. The Old Testament foundation under tongues.
- II. The New Testament phenomenon of tongues.

The Duration of "Natural" Tongues as Discipline over Israel (Deuteronomy 28; Jeremiah 5; Isaiah 28, 33)



- ➔ **7 observations from Deuteronomy 28, Jeremiah 5, Isaiah 28 and 33: 1.)** Israel is the point of reference - the languages will be foreign to them. **2.)** Israel will be in rejection of the Lord. **3.)** It will therefore be a judgment context. **4.)** Earthly languages will be in view. **5.)** Unbelieving nations acting as enemies speak their foreign language over Israel. **6.)** The foreign language will not be understood by the Jews. **7.)** There will be nothing supernatural in the speaking of the foreign languages.
- ➔ **7 observations from Acts 2, 10, 19: 1.)** Israel is still the point of reference - the languages are foreign to them. **2.)** The overall context of Acts makes it clear the Jews are still rejecting Messiah (Jesus). **3.)** A judgment or discipline context is therefore still present for the Jews. **4.)** Earthly languages are still in view in Acts. **5.)** But here is where some significant divergences from the OT's teaching about tongues occur - In Acts the only ones speaking foreign languages are believers in Messiah Jesus who have received the Holy Spirit. **6.)** The foreign languages appear to be understood by others who know the languages. **7.)** In Acts, those speaking the foreign language were supernaturally given the ability to speak the language they did not know or study.

Three sets of questions as we closed part 1 last week:

1. What place, if any, will tongues have if the preaching context becomes less and less Jewish-centered? When the gospel advances into the world where there are no Jews, does tongues have any function (see the green dotted line)? Was tongues a tool for the church to help evangelize everywhere or a sign for unbelieving Jews?
2. When was 1 Corinthians written? Where does 1 Corinthians fit into Acts? What influence should our study in Acts have on what Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12-14 concerning tongues? How will what 1 Corinthians 12-14 teaches about tongues relate to what Acts reveals about tongues?
3. Is it possible we've allowed our charismatic or pentecostal brothers to define tongues for us from their experiences? Isn't it time, instead, to allow God's word to define tongues for us and submit our experiences to God's truth?

III. The harmony between Acts and 1 Corinthians 12-14.

1 Corinthians 12:

1 Corinthians 13:

- ➔ Angels speaking in Scripture: Gn 16:7-11; 19:2-22; 21:17-19; 22:11-12; 22:15-18; 31:11-13; Ex 3:2ff; Nm 22:31-35; Jdg 2:1-5; 5:23; 6:12-24; 13:3-20; 1 Kg 19:5-8; 2 Kg 1:3ff; 1 Ch 21:18; Zech 1:9-21; 2:3-13; 3:6-10; 4:1-14; 5:1-11; 6:4-8; Mt 1:20-21; 2:13; 2:19; 28:5-7; Lk 1:11-20; 1:26-38; 2:9-14; Ac 5:19-21; 8:26; 10:3-6; 12:7-8; 21:23-24; Gal 1:8; Rv 1:1; 5:2; 5:11; 7:2-3; 7:11-12; 10:9; 14:6-7; 14:8; 17:1-2; 17:7; 18:1-3; 18:21; 19:17; 21:9; 22:9; 22:16.

1 Corinthians 14:

- ➔ **7 observations from 1 Corinthians 12-14:** **1.)** The Jews are still the point of reference - the languages are foreign to them. However, Paul is also concerned with the foreign languages remaining unintelligible to the church. **2.)** The setting in Corinth indicates the Jews are still rejecting Messiah (Jesus). **3.)** A judgment or discipline context is therefore still present for the Jews. **4.)** Earthly languages are still in view in 1 Corinthians. **5.)** In 1 Corinthians the only ones speaking foreign languages are believers in Messiah Jesus who have received the Holy Spirit. **6.)** The foreign languages could be understood by the church through those with the supernatural gift of interpretation of tongues. **7.)** In 1 Corinthians, those speaking the foreign language were supernaturally given the ability to speak the language they did not know or study.

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