

no commission embracing the world or incorporating his name for remission until the grave gave up its dead and Jesus had removed its darkness, illuminating its dark caverns with the torch of immortality.

If we have a church before Pentecost, it not only existed without the Spirit, and was therefore lifeless, but, likened to a temple, its foundation was not complete until the resurrection of Jesus; for the divine proposition, the Messiahship and Divinity of Jesus, is the rock upon which this most glorious temple was to rest. Pentecost was the first effort to build upon this newly completed foundation, the Holy Spirit being the architect, the apostles the master-builders, and christians both male and female co-laborers. Math. 16: 18, 19, 'And I say, *Thou art Peter* (Petros) and upon this rock (Petra) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.' From this important extract we learn that Peter is to open the kingdom to the world, including Jew and Gentile. Did he invite the world to enter previous to the death and resurrection of Jesus, events so vital in establishing the kingdom of Christ upon earth, concerning which facts Peter was so profoundly ignorant? For when the women, the first commissioned proclaimers of the resurrection, announced the fact, Peter believed them not but considered the whole matter as visionary and incredible. But after his resurrection Jesus appeared to the apostles by many 'infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to 'the kingdom of God.' Here, then, we see a College of Apostles for the first time receiving instructions specially relative to the nature of the reign of Christ upon earth. He tells his ambassadors to tarry in Jerusalem—he then in majestic glory leaves these scenes of suffering—his mission being finished—ascending to his Father where being seated on the throne of eternal Truth and Justice and Love, he sways the sceptre of spiritual dominion over heaven and earth, having all authority over beings terrestrial and celestial. If we have therefore a kingdom before Pentecost it is locked up and therefore not available to our race, Peter never before having announced to the world remission through the name of Jesus.

The book of Acts contains a history of primitive and apostolic conversions, and most assuredly all will harmonize, as the commission of Jesus applied to "all the world" and "every creature." It is therefore