

Sermon preached before the Southern Baptist Convention in  
Columbus, Mississippi, evening session, May 5, 1881, by Sylvanus  
Landrum, Georgia.

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached  
in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).

In the Mount the world was taught for the first time by the  
Lord Jesus Christ, that God was the Father of all men—that the world  
received the doctrine of universal salvation. Afterward he said  
to them "Peace be unto you." He then told them that they should be  
his messengers, and he unfolded to them the Scriptures. He told  
them that this was the great purpose of God. They were to begin at  
Jerusalem, and "lo I am with you." "Go into all the world and preach  
the gospel."

1. His purpose is to show that there is a growth in the develop-  
MENT OF THE TRUTH OF God, and especially are the home fields not to  
be neglected. The rudiments of the gospel for the people as they  
then were. In the Old Testament progress seemed to be very slow,  
and yet there was growth. The germs of the gospel is found in the  
promises to Eve, Abraham, Moses, Balaam. Through the whole there  
was constant movement. So beginning with John the Baptist, this growth  
is continued in the New Testament, where the progress is very rapid.  
And this is natural for there had been long preparation. In the  
short lifetime of a few men we receive the grand development of  
all the truth which we shall ever receive. The same progress is  
seen in comparing the first three gospels with the gospel of John.

When we take up Acts there is no pause. And the Acts but prepare the way for the glorious doctrines of the Epistles, the doctrines of the glorious body, and last of all is unfolded the grant future of the church of Christ.

2. The text teaches an orderly movement. Beginning at Jerusalem but ending on all nations, the disciples were to go forth and proclaim the glorious doctrine of salvation to all. This was new to the Jews. They knew nothing of the doctrine of one Father and one Lord and Saviour. Begin in the city, first Jerusalem, and then the most important cities everywhere, for these are centers in every respect. Here is the power and where this is directed for Christ, how much good can be done! Baptists are sufficiently awake on this subject. Begin at the center and work out to the circumference, neglect none, but go to all. This is the divine order. End on all nations.

This doctrine brings the Indian and the Chinese close to us. Nor are we excusable for neglecting papal countries where our missionaries may be murdered. Therefore, let this cleansing fountain go forth to cleanse all the nations.

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