

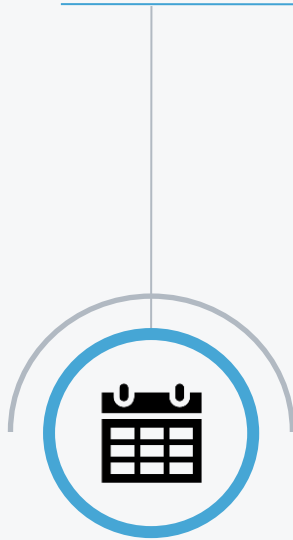
REBUILDING THE TENT OF DAVID

Aps Dr Ben Debrah
(National Head, COP Sweden)

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THE TEXT

Acts 15 : 1 - 35



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

David's Goa



- After capturing the Jebusite city Jerusalem, David's next target was to bring back home to Jerusalem the ark of the covenant of the Lord

(2 Sam 6; 1 Chron 13; 14; 15)

- He then placed the ark in a tent which he had intentionally prepared and located close to his palace on mount Zion

(1Chron 15:1; 16:1; 2Chron 1:4)



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Why Jerusalem?

Jerusalem has a central location and elevation in the Promised Land

Jerusalem has prophetic, messianic and eschatological significance

It is the only city named on earth and 'in heaven'

One of its ancient kings was Melchizedek, likened to the son of God

*(Gen 14:18-20;
Heb 7:1-3)*

Jerusalem has seen so much in history - foreign invading armies; foreign governors like Pontius Pilate; the building and demolishing and rebuilding of its temple and city walls

The ministry, trial, crucifixion, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost among others

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The location of the Tent

The location of the tent of David was mount Zion, near the king's palace, and very close to where the temple of Solomon was eventually constructed on mount Moriah

(1Kings 8:1)

The location of Solomon's new temple and indeed the entire city of Jerusalem became synonymous with Zion where the tent of David was located

Zion was the foreshadow of the heavenly Jerusalem. It was a type church

(Heb 12:22-24)

As David's kingdom expanded, this extraordinary and central location of Moriah-Zion (and ultimately mount Calvary) became a place of attraction to the nations of the world and also the seat of power. Mount Zion was beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth

(Ps 48; Isa 2:2-4; Mic 4:1-3)



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Tent

Brought Jews
and gentiles
together
under grace

Open and
Accessible to
All

The ark
was the
center of
it all

Welcomed the
new from the
old



PROPHETIC CONTEXT

Three Prophetic references to David's tabernacle

**"In mercy the throne
will be established; And
One will sit on it in
truth, in the tabernacle
of David, Judging and
seeking justice and
hastening
righteousness."**

Isa 16:5 NKJV

**"On that day I will raise
up. The tabernacle of
David, which has fallen
down, And repair its
damages; I will raise up
its ruins, And rebuild it
as in the days of old;**

**That they may possess
the remnant of Edom,
And all the Gentiles
who are called by My
name," Says the Lord
who does this thing"**

*Amos 9:11-12
NKJV*

**"After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the
tent of David that has
fallen; I will rebuild its
ruins, and I will restore
it, that the remnant of
mankind may seek the
Lord, and all the
Gentiles who are called
by my name, says the
Lord, who makes these
things known from of
old."**

*Acts 15:16-18
NKJV*

PROPHETIC CONTEXT

God's millennial project of including the gentiles in Israel's blessings, as the prophets had predicted, had already begun and no one or nothing could stop its gradual unfolding today, James seems to be saying.

Throwing gentiles out (as was alleged about Trophimus, Acts 21:27-29) or keeping them in a secluded "court of gentiles" was never God's idea.

"on that day"

"after this"

PROPHETIC CONTEXT

Hence the presence of gentiles in God's family, by James' assessment, confirmed that the "tent of David" in prophecy has been (or is being) rebuilt.

"on that day"

"after this"

MISSIOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Resistance to the missions agenda of the early church arose mainly from:

Religious establishment (Pharisee, Sadducee, Priests, Sanhedrin, etc)

Geopolitical systems (the Caesars, Herods, governors, legal systems, etc);

Resource limitations (which was often overcome by mobilisation and generosity)

Internal fractures (such as from the Judaizers, factions among Hebraic and Grecian Jews, false teachers, inadequate doctrine, unfaithful and disloyal brethren).

The Missiological Question

Was it enough to be saved by grace alone through faith in Christ Jesus or one has to be a Jewish proselyte first before being accepted as a Christian?



MISSIOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The arguments

The circular letter or “white paper” issued

The James and Sophia Mckeown experience

The Judaizers

The Peter Experience

The Barnabas and Paul experience

The Apostle James Conclusion

The Church as a body that gathers in spirit and truth

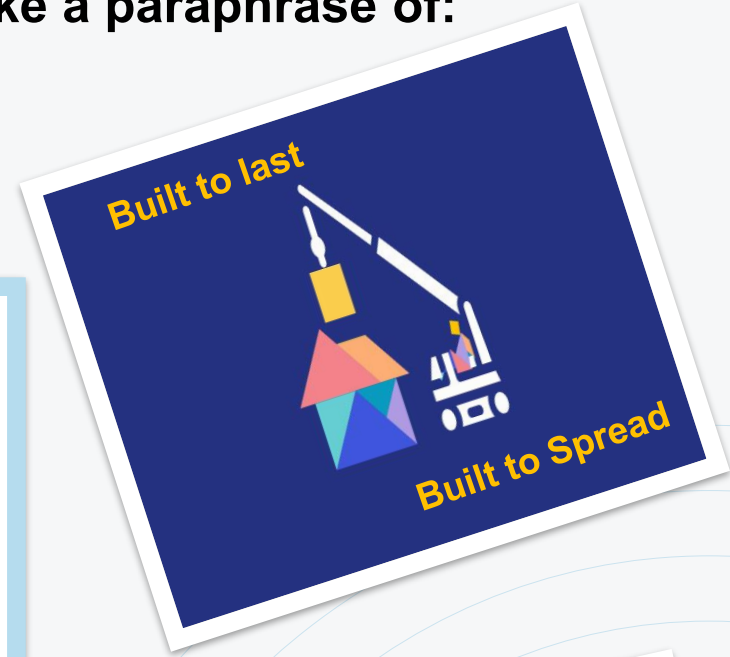
The Jesus Christ factor

CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

“Rebuilding the tent of David” in contemporary times sounds like a paraphrase of:



“building multinational, multiracial, multicultural churches”



CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

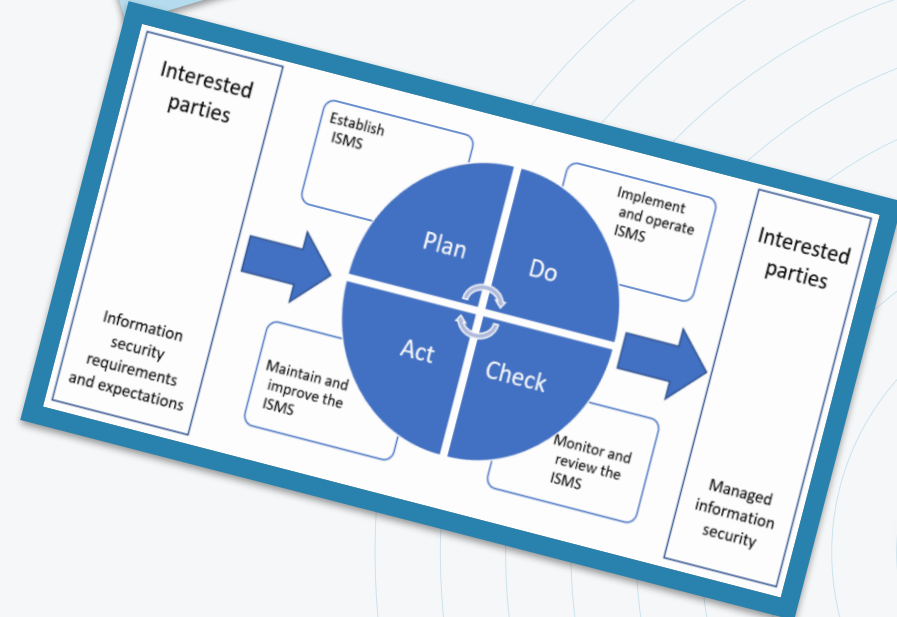
Every generation of young believers must stand on the foundations of the old and pursue God's agenda for the now.



1st Th 2:9

CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

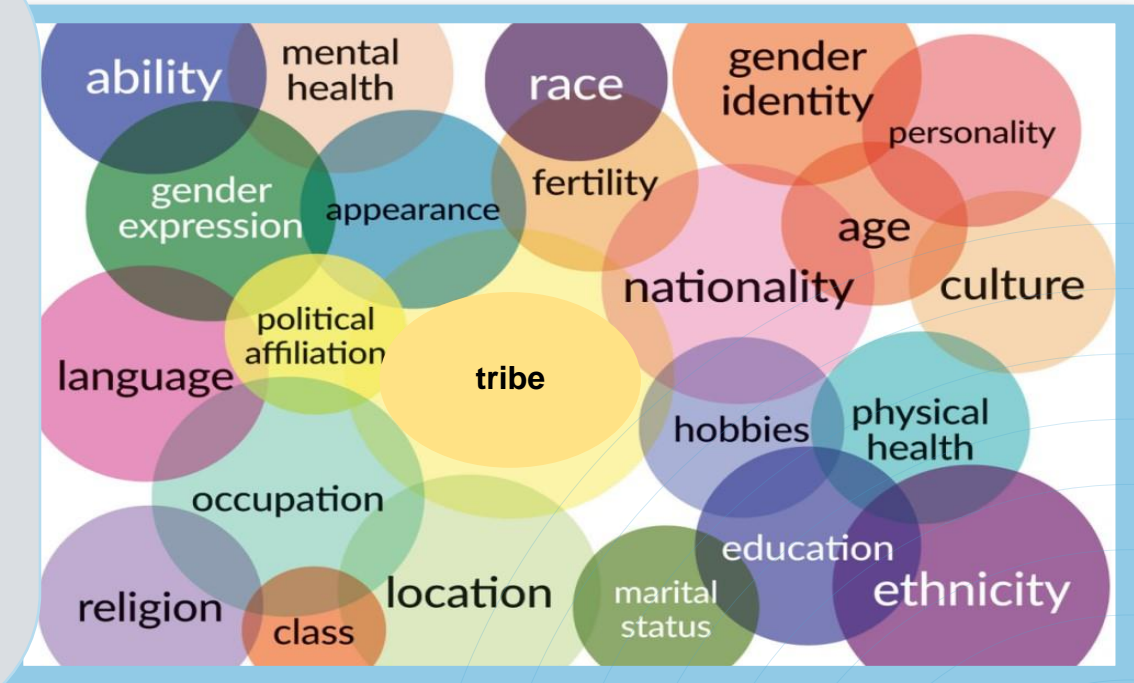
The impact every generation makes somehow also depends on the spiritual depth of their leaders and the systems they create for their people.



CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

So we must be careful in our generation not to place barriers in the path of people coming to faith in Christ Jesus.

What barriers? Age, gender, culture, tribe or ethnicity, nationality, education, economic or financial status, social classes, religion, etc



CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

How should we build?

**Become All
things to All
men**

1 Cor 9:19-23

**Make church
relevant for every
generation**

Acts 6:1-7



**Guard the Faith
handed down**

2 Tim 1:13-14

**Consciously
model
internationalism**

Acts 15:19-20



Mentor People

Judges 2:10



**Take up
leadership and
influential spaces**

Acts 20:28-30



**Consciously
evaluate
methods**

1 Chron 12:32

CONCLUSION

Rebuilding the Tent of David

God is up to something! It is programmed in eternity past and unfolding in every generation

David created a system of worship which offered access to the ark for all

Well-meaning Judaizers in church must not be allowed to derail God's agenda

What does the Lord want to do in our world today?

History must connect with prophecy and missions to deliver a contemporary divine agenda for our own generation