

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1150

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PART 39: MIRACLES & EVIL SPIRITS

After Luke records the issue about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he tells us that once again a number of Jewish people in the city rejected the Gospel message, and as a result, Paul left the synagogue and started holding church in a school building. Paul was the pastor for the church in Ephesus for two years.
Acts 19:8-10

SPECIAL MIRACLES

Jesus was known for being able to do special miracles:

- Walking on water and calming a storm. **Matthew 14:23-33**
- Creating food. **Matthew 15:32-39**
- Cursing a fig tree. **Mark 11:12-14, 20-24**
- Cleansing a leper. **Matthew 8:1-4**
- Healing the blind. **Matthew 20:29-34**

Luke tells us that people were healed and demons driven out when a cloth from Paul was laid on sick people. **Acts 19:11-12**

THE PROMISE JESUS GAVE

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are told that whatever Jesus said or did is going to be perpetuated from generation to generation until His second coming!
Matthew 28:18-20

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us that we may ask anything according to the will of God and it will be granted. **John 14:10-18**

WHO CAN CLAIM THEM?

The sons of Sceva found out the hard way that they could not practice Judaism which rejects Jesus as the Messiah and use His name to drive out demons. These promises are only for born again believers in Jesus. **Acts 19:13-16**

The result was that the fear of God fell on the people in Ephesus. **verses 17-20**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

1. Jesus equated sickness, blindness, being dumb, being crippled, mental illness, etc. with evil spirits. Thus, when Jesus healed a person, demons were also cast out. **Mark 9:14-29**
2. Evil spirits or demons can enter a person early in child hood and stay with them for the rest of their life unless the demons are cast out.



3. A fatal assumption on the part of most people is that there are no demons today, and if there are demons today, they only operate in countries in Africa and Asia but not in Western nations. Nothing could be further from the truth. People living in Europe and North America are just as infested with demons as people living any other place on this planet.
4. Just because a person accepts Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour doesn't mean that demons are automatically cast out at the moment of salvation. At the moment of salvation, the dead spirit is born again (**John 3:3-8; Ephesians 2:1-5**), the soul is redeemed (**1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:8-9**), but there is no change to the physical body; it remains a battlefield. It is up to each believer in Christ to present a clean body to God! **Romans 12:1-2**
5. 99.99% of all people living on this earth today have demons living in their bodies. Unless a person has been saved (born again) and had the demons cast out, they will stay there until the person dies. Most believers in Christ are infested with demons but live in self-denial. This is fortified by the faulty doctrine of Christian churches.
6. It is up to each believer in Christ to seek deliverance! ***God is not going to remove demons from a Christian unless the Christian asks for it!***
7. Most Christians don't want their demons taken out because it will force them to change their lifestyle and live a holy life. Most Christians don't want to live a holy life! **2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1**

It's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?

New boundary opens doors for Arden Arcade Jews

By Jennifer Garza - jgarza@sacbee.com

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Marijke Melman stepped out of her Arden Arcade home Saturday to begin the three-block trek to the synagogue with her two small children.

In the past, the walk could take up to an hour because her kids – Erez, 3, and Yosha, 1 1/2 – would get tired and need to rest. On this Jewish Sabbath day, they arrived at the synagogue within 10 minutes.

The difference?

For the first time, Melman and other Orthodox Jews in the Sacramento area were allowed to push strollers outside on the Sabbath.

"This is a really big deal for our community," said Melman. "People will be able to do more and still be observant."

This week, they are celebrating the creation of what is believed to be the first eruv in the region. An eruv – which means joining together – is a symbolic boundary that extends private space into public areas.

Observant Jews are prohibited from working on the Sabbath. They do not turn on electricity, cook meals, walk their dogs or drive a car.

Since carrying a child or pushing a stroller in public is work, parents of toddlers and infants – usually the mother – have had to stay home with the kids during services.

That changes with the new eruv. They can now carry prayer shawls or push a stroller or a wheelchair on the Sabbath as long as they stay within the boundaries of the eruv.

"This is definitely a quality of life issue," said Rabbi Adir Posy, former interim rabbi of Keneset Israel Torah Center, who spearheaded the project. Posy said the eruv symbolically encloses the area where the community lives.

"What's great about Sacramento is that it is an inclusive community," Posy said. "And a lot of people felt passionate about it."

The Sacramento eruv is a little more than six square miles bounded by Howe, El Camino and Eastern avenues and Fair Oaks Boulevard. It is designated by

easy-to-see but unobtrusive markers, often on utility polls.

Within the Sacramento eruv are Keneset Israel Torah Center (Orthodox); Mosaic Law Congregation (Conservative); and Chabad of Sacramento (Orthodox).

"People are smiling from ear to ear," Rabbi Mendy Cohen of Chabad said Sunday. "Now, mothers and the elderly don't have to stay home and be isolated."

"People have wanted this for 20 years, and (Rabbi Posy) did it," Cohen said.

Eruvs have not been welcomed in all U.S. communities. An effort to have one in the Hamptons in New York has led to complaints and allegations of anti-Semitism.

That has not happened in the Sacramento.

Keneset Israel was one of three Sacramento synagogues firebombed by white supremacists in 1999. Jewish officials have worked with community leaders for years, this time with SMUD officials and local property owners. The owner of one local business said he was happy to help.

"They explained to me what they needed, and I thought it was a good thing," said Lawrence Olson, owner of Pavilion Car Wash where the synagogue erected a small utility shed as a marker.

The \$10,000 cost, which included paying for a New Jersey rabbi to inspect the eruv and make sure it met religious requirements, was paid for by the Jewish community.

"This has been a dream for a lot of people for many years," said Simone Monnier Clay, president of Keneset Israel.

For the first time Saturday, she carried papers to shul. "This is wonderful for the community, because we'll be seeing a lot more children at services."



Marijke Melmann, left, pushes sons Erez and Yosha in a stroller while her mother-in-law, Lisa Bates, walks her dog, Cubby, on Saturday as the family heads to services at Keneset Israel Torah Center in the Arden Arcade area of Sacramento. (Florence Low / flow@sacbee.com)

