

ACTS 3:1-16

A. Acts 3:1 - Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth hour.

1. Question? Why were the disciples in the temple if they were saved?

- a. It is a fact that the Little Flock were careful **not** to start another sect separate from Judaism. At the close of Chapter 2, we read that they continued [daily with one accord in the temple].
- b. *Here in Acts 3:1, Peter and John are going [into the temple at the hour of prayer] or **3:00** P.M.

But notice:

Matthew 21:13 - And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Matthew 23:38 - Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Matthew 24:2 - And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

- c. Why did Peter and John attend the temple when it was in such **dis**array and **un**belief? It does not look like the Father's house was a house of prayer!
2. Another problem is for those who say Israel was set aside at the **cross** (here are believers in the temple), and for those who say the Body of Christ began at Pentecost (here are believers in the **temple**)!
3. What has happened that **changed** God's denunciation of Israel and the temple?

Answer:

- a. The first thing was God's **for**giveness granted at Christ's **cross**.

Luke 23:34 - Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

*Peter even remarks about this in Acts 3:17 - [And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as *did* also your rulers.]

- b. In other words, Israel (being forgiven) was being offered **another** opportunity to accept Christ the Messiah. Then they could be the channel of blessing to the Gentile world.
- c. Also, it shows this truth in Luke 13:6-9 - [He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Luke 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? Luke 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: Luke 13:9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.]

4. The fact that Peter and John went into the temple was because Israel had **not** been set aside yet and the temple-people had been given another chance.

*The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, were being faithful to their commission, and it had to **start** with Israel's **con**version.

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

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 3:25-26 - Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

5. Also understand, the fact is they **em**braced Judaism and its ceremonies. Remember, at this moment, there had been no **new** revelation given to them to do otherwise. They did not know yet that, because of the cross, the Mosaic Law could be set aside as a means of **accept**ance.

Note: The dispensation of grace had not begun, nor the Mystery, nor the unknown - unprophesied **Body** of Christ. That knowledge would not take place **until** the raising up of Paul the Apostle.

B.

Acts 3:2-10 - And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. Acts 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. Acts 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. Acts 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

1. As Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray, they got to the Beautiful Gate of the temple and they pass a beggar who had been lame from birth. The beggar asks for a handout. Peter told the man they did not have any **money**, but what they did have (power) they would give him. Peter commands the man, in the **name** of Jesus Christ, to rise up and walk...and the man did. The man leaps up and clings to the Apostles going into the temple. The crowds **grew** for they were amazed at this miracle. No doubt they had seen the beggar often, but now he is leaping, jumping, and praising God!
2. This miracle was important in being a type of **Israel**. The man who was lame from birth **represent**-
ed Israel. Throughout the 15 centuries of Israel (up to this time), Israel was **un**able to measure up to God's standards. Just as this lame man needed a miraculous restoring, so the nation needed to be whole.
- a. *The problem was that Israel sought deliverance from her bondage of Roman occupation and wanted prosperity - but not **red**emption from her **sin**. At this moment in time, Israel lay at the

threshold of her promised Kingdom (believe in Messiah→7 year Tribulation→then 1000 years of blessings). However, without salvation and the Spirit, she could not do it. So she remained a helpless beggar. Israel would not repent.

- b. The beggar was at the temple's gate...but he was still outside. Israel was so close - had their Messiah in their presence, then they crucified Him. He arose, and through Peter's preaching they had another opportunity. Israel even saw the Spirit's power but, because of unbelief, remained outside of faith (so close, yet so far - the rich young ruler).

Note: Though the nation Israel has rejected Messiah, God is not done with her! Paul says this of his people:

Romans 11:25-27 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. Rom. 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: Rom. 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Romans 11:15 - For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

C.

Acts 3:11-12 - And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

1. It is no wonder a crowd gathers. They have seen this beggar lame, but now he walks. They cannot deny this miracle, which gives the Apostles credibility (Mark 16:20).
2. Peter sees the opportunity from the crowd's amazement and shock at this miracle. So, Peter takes advantage of their wanting to know what is going on; how has this happened? Peter delivers his Kingdom-offer sermon.
3. Once again, by using [ye men of Israel] (2:14, 22, 26), it shows Peter is addressing only the Nation of Israel-Jewish people.

Question again?

- a. If Israel had rejected Jesus Christ and had turned Christ over to the Romans to crucify, why does God go to the Jews first here?
- b. Or, if Pentecost had marked the beginning of His new Body Church with Jew and Gentile as joint-heirs (as most of Christendom says), why then does God in Acts 3 restrict the message to Jews only?

Answer: It is obvious that God has not set Israel aside yet! God is offering them the promised Kingdom. Body truth had not been revealed to Paul at this point in time.

Note & Remember:

Matthew 21:43 - Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- c. The context will show that Peter is going to **explain** the meaning of the miracle. He is going to show them the doctrine and what this healing represented to them as a nation.

Peter's Message To Israel

D.

Acts 3:13 - The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go.

1. Peter reminds Israel of her covenants. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were their Hebrew fathers with whom God made His great covenants of Israel's **future** blessings. Israel's covenant promises were given at the **start** of their nation, confirmed by these fathers, and continued on until Israel was set aside (Acts 7-28).

****One day these Genesis covenants will restart after the Rapture. Peter is claiming here the same covenant promise of their fathers for these [men of Israel]. It is the Kingdom offer!**

2. Peter tells them that their fathers in promise **honored** Christ, (now he gets real with them), but you (Jews) rejected Him even though Pilate found no fault in Him. He was **innocent**!

E.

Acts 3:14 - But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

***Peter presses their guilt home.** When Christ was tried, the Jewish **leaders** would rather have a murderer than this just man (Christ).

****They wanted Christ gone so badly that they chose Barabbas, a convicted murderer, to be released. Israel's law demanded death of the murderer, but do you think they cared?**

F.

Acts 3:15 - And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

1. Peter shows more of Israel's guilt. They had cried out to **crucify** Him! They had released a killer and, by their actions, had become killers.

***What a tragedy of having killed the One Who alone could give life.**

2. However, surprise-surprise-surprise! The One you had murdered - He's alive **again**! The Father raised Him and we have been with Him. He told me to tell you "**Hey**"!

***What an indictment. No doubt this created deep conviction in many of their hearts.**

- G. Acts 3:16 - And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

1. Peter reveals where the power came from to heal this beggar. It was in Christ's name, a name they hated. They don't want Him and hearing His name again reminded them how much they des-
pised

Him. Just His name implies Jesus indeed was their Messiah according to their covenant. While on the earth, Jesus tried to tell them He was the One for three years.

2. The power that healed the cripple could only come from One Who was not dead. The fact of this man's healing was proof that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Acts 4:8-10, 12 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

3. Peter and the other believers are hoping Israel will wake up to realize that Christ is alive and giving them another chance to embrace Him in faith as their Messiah.

*Before one believes, he first must see his guilt - to then see his need of forgiveness.