

ACTS 3:12-26

December 9, 1975

The Way International

Acts 3:12

“when Peter saw *it*” - Saw what? That the people greatly wondered. When he saw that the people were really shook about this thing, he answered unto the people.

“Ye men of Israel” - In original text it reads, “Men, Israelites,” that’s the emphasis.

“why marvel ye at this?” - Why are you amazed at this? Why are you wondering? Why are you astonished?

“earnestly” - is not the real in-depth greatness of it; piercingly, even the very essence of piercingly has to have angrily in it. ‘Intently’ is not strong enough. I think a synonym for earnestly would be intently, but it’s not deep enough. I think piercingly is the greatest connotation of the word that would express it exactly. Their eyes were just glued on them and they were looking at them like they were looking straight through them, piercingly.

“holiness” - godliness

“power” – *dunamis* not by our own inherent spiritual power or by our own godliness or how righteous we are. It is never by our inherent power. It is never by our godliness, but because of God’s worthiness, His purity, and His power.

Acts 3:13

“Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob” – the Patriarchs

“son” - I think it has to be servant here. That’s exactly what the whole thing is all about; this bonded slave of God, Jesus.

“The God of Abraham” – in other words, the God of the patriarchs

“the God of our fathers” - the same God of all of our forefathers who believed

“Jesus” - the humiliated one. Same word as Joshua in the Old Testament, meaning savior

“ye delivered up” - men of Israel, referred to as Jews by many people today. They delivered him up. They denied him in the presence of Pilate when he wanted to release him. What a tremendous statement! We’re talking about homiletics and teaching the Word. Very few homileticians have ever looked at the Word when it comes to the art of preaching. They look at other people and other men rather than at the Word. Look at the direct statement when he said, “whom ye delivered up and denied.” He didn’t say, “we.” Any time you are honest on the presentation of the greatness of God’s Word, somebody is going to get mad at you because they are going to say, “We didn’t do it.” It doesn’t matter what they say. Peter was just honest and open and just laid it down accurately. Pilate wanted to let him go but they said, “If you let him go, you’re not Caesar’s friend.

Acts 3:14

“But” – and

In **verse 13** it was the servant Jesus who here is called “Holy One” and he’s called “the Just” here. It’s a figure of speech here where you use a proper noun for a lesser name. “Jesus” would be considered a lesser name. “The Holy” or “the Just” would be considered greater names. Antonomasia is the figure of speech here. (The Companion Bible appendix 6)

“murderer” - Barabbas

Look at the straightforwardness of that teaching. He didn’t pull any punches. He didn’t go easy on people because these were the top religious leaders of the world gathered together. He just told the truth in love. You had the opportunity of the “Holy One,” the “Just one, servant Jesus, the one the God of our fathers has glorified, but you desired Barabbas instead of the “Holy One.”

Acts 3:15

“Prince” - author You killed the author of life. I was thinking today, if our salvation today was dependent upon light, we’d be very miserable. It’s not dependent upon light; it’s dependent upon life. And we got eternal life, not eternal light on God’s Word. You can be stupid as all get out and still have eternal life. Here you have it and that’s why some of these things jell in my heart.

“whom God hath raised” - Look how he gets to that resurrection. That’s always the greatness of Christianity, not the cross, it’s the resurrection. God raised him.

Acts 3:16

“his name” - is given earlier in the chapter as “Jesus Christ of Nazareth.” That’s the name. Again I must impress upon you to remember that Nazareth was considered to be a very non-worthy city. No good thing can come out of Nazareth. Seems like those are usually the places God has to work to bring something out of it, because everybody else thinks they are so good . God can’t afford to get anything done there. God has to bring them up out of places where there’s nothing worth looking at.

“yea” - even

“the faith” - the believing

“by him” – on account of him (Jesus Christ of Nazareth)

You know I use this section in the Advanced Class when teaching soundness, wholeness. But I believe (this is what I don’t teach in the Advanced Class) that the word “perfect soundness”; the perfection of the soundness. See, if you are sound you are perfect. The word “soundness” itself would indicate perfection, but I don’t think that is what is said here. I think it’s sound soundness.

And putting it ‘perfect soundness’ teaches me and establishes in my heart that he was not only delivered physically but that he was born again spiritually. I think that’s what is in that verse. See the greatness of that verse? Even the believing that we can have in Jesus of Nazareth which is on account of what Jesus of Nazareth did, which is by him, on account of. He who knew no sin became sin. Remember that? By his stripes we were healed. All of that is in my mind when I see this – the believing, which is on account of what Jesus Christ did. That is what hath given this man salvation and healing. And he did it in the presence of all. Boy, that’s a tremendous verse.

Perhaps **verse 17 and 18** should be **verse 16 and 17** and **verse 16** should be **verse 18**. I’ll just tell

you that and you can look at it yourself. From **verse 15** you could read on to **verse 17, 18, 19**. The context is real significant if you work it this way. But I don't know. I've never seen a manuscript and as far as I know there aren't any to substantiate text wise what I've just said, but it's interesting to just think about it and the logic with which it fits. Still got the same Word of God left.

Acts 3:17

“wot” - know

“through ignorance” - Why are people ignorant? Foundational Class – they're either ignorant because they weren't taught or they were taught wrongly. Ignorance - not because they were not taught rightly, but because they refused to believe what they were taught. The reason I know this is because they were taught who Jesus Christ was. They had the opportunity. They saw the man born blind. They saw all of that, and yet, they were the very ones who had him crucified. They were ignorant because they refused to be smartened up; they refused to believe.

“brethren” - is used in the sense of he associating himself with Israel; being an Israelite in background.

Acts 3:18

“Christ” – Messiah. Isn't it interesting when you work this, the different words that Peter used in his message for Jesus Christ of Nazareth? Here it's the word “Messiah.” A while ago it was “author of life,” “holy one,” “the just,” “servant Jesus.” If you were teaching homiletics here then you would teach your people to watch vocabularies, because if you are not careful you start getting hung up on just the usage of certain words consistently all the time without any change. Like in prayer - “Father I thank you, Father I thank you, Father I love you.” Homiletically, look at the refreshing ness of this and in build up, homiletically, he starts with the lesser, “servant Jesus,” and goes to “Messiah.” I'll bet he just sat there and planned that sermon all out – Ha Ha. Well it certainly is a tremendous learning for those of us who don't have the immediate revelation to speak it as he spoke it by inspiration. The accuracy of it is absolutely fantastic.

In one of the classes the Corps is taught to start their speech with an Incident. This one started with a good incident, a big one. He didn't have to tell them the story, for he had his incident in concretion, walking right there, leaping and jumping, etc. When Jesus used the illustration of building your house, there are two sections to it (**Matthew 7:24-27**). The first part it's built upon a rock and the second part it's built upon the sand; that's good homiletics. If you have to tell them something negative, then tell them positive things first.

God has all through the centuries, by the mouth of all His prophets shown this Messiah, this Jesus. He talked about the resurrection, and now he talks about' the suffering, that Christ should suffer. He put the resurrection previous to the suffering, the positive preceding the negative again. And as I taught you once, whenever the suffering of Christ is mentioned in the Word, the glory is always mentioned but the glory is mentioned at times without the suffering. That's why the resurrection is mentioned at times without the suffering in the Word too.

“by the mouth” - It doesn't say “by the writing,” could be, but it's like the word “spake”; holy men of God spake (**II Peter 1:21**). It doesn't say they wrote it all. Some of the things they spoke are written. Not only verbally out loud but in written form is its usage. God has never left Himself without a witness, all through the centuries, never. This verse again says that. And that witness came by way of the men of God, holy prophets.

Acts 3:19

“Repent” - And now he comes to his point of decision. Repent. This is the second time. He gave it to us in **Acts 2:38** & here in **Acts 3:19**. Here is sort of an enlargement, like I teach in the foundational Class, it’s scripture build up, a further in-depth explanation of **Acts 2:38**.

“be converted” - To be converted is to repent and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and *lambano*-ing the gift. It is to be converted to the end that your sins, up until the repentance are blotted out.

“blotted out” - One of the texts reads, “washed away, totally clean.” That your sins may be washed away, totally clean, blotted out. I like the blotting out better than the washing because it gives me too many problems with the Baptists yet. And since I don’t have to be confronted with them on that, I’ll take blotting out. And, of course, when I think, of that blotting out, do you have any idea where my mind goes? **Colossians**; that’s right.

Colossians 2:8

“spoil” - to carry you off as booty. You got to remember what you just read in Acts (You denied the holy one, all of that)

“philosophy” - world wisdom

“tradition” - is in the light of **Matthew 15**

“rudiments” = outward ordinances, the legalism

Colossians 2:9

“Godhead” - head God

Colossians 2:10

“complete in Him” - You see, if we are complete in him then it’s no action on the part of man, no washing with water that does it.

“principality and power” - Those principalities and powers; “ye by wicked hands have taken and slain.” Who is the author behind men’s wicked hands? The Devil, spirit, the Adversary, motivating people to carry out his job. The Adversary influenced Israel to vote against Jesus Christ when Pilate would turn him free. He said that those men did it, but why do men do it? We wrestle not against flesh and blood; it’s spirit. Gosh, nobody ever sees that because they can’t see spirit. They can only see people. What is the motivating factor behind it? Spirit. He is the head over all of those devil spirits and powers.

Colossians 2:11

“circumcised with the circumcision made without hands” - The circumcision made with hands is works. This is a spiritual circumcision that Christ wrought for us.

“the circumcision of Christ” – ‘he who knew no sin became sin for us’ – ‘tempted in all things like as we are’; went through everything. Refers to S.T.S. # 786 where he taught that Jesus couldn’t have been born filled with the spirit. It is in his baptism, when he was baptized that we were baptized. It is in his circumcision that we were circumcised. In his temptation we were tempted. The whole thing is in Christ.

Colossians 2:12

“Buried with Him in baptism” – **Ephesians** keeps rolling like a river through my mind; Risen with him, seated with him, all of that in **Ephesians**.

Colossians 2:13

“in” - to

“quicken” – made alive

“trespasses” – sins

Here the word forgiveness is used in the overall term of what you ultimately receive all the way through, because remission takes care of the originals only. Forgiveness takes you all the way through.

Colossians 2:14

“Blotting out” – ‘Repent that your sins may be blotted out’ – from Acts, here – ‘blotting out’

Isaiah 40:1-2

“comfortably” – to the heart of

“warfare” - appointed time

“iniquity” = sins, trespasses “she” .Jerusalem

“received of the Lord’s hand double” - It cannot mean that God doubled the portion on them because of sin because if God’s portion for sin was doubled on people, it’d be heavier than heavy. And it certainly wouldn’t be any comfort.

That’s the blotting out of **Acts 3** and **Colossians 2:14**. See, I’ve taught you this before, but it doesn’t hurt you to rethink it. When a person would go bankrupt you had to appear before the elders of the gate and tell them all the names of all the creditors. Then they would put the man’s name at the top and then they’d itemize all the creditors and what he owed. They’d nail this to the gate of the city where people had to enter in. Everybody coming by can see. One day a friend comes along. He’s called in the Bible a benefactor. He sees that up on the gate. He owes me nothing, but he goes in because of his love and he talks to the elders of the gate. He pays full price for everything that I have committed. Then the elders of the gate blot it out. Repent and your sins be blotted out (**Acts 3**). Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances which is contrary to us (**Colossians 2**). There it is. You cannot see them. Blotted out. And on the outside they simply write my name and put it back up and everybody knows that it has been paid in full. A man could and would and did do this for other men. Jesus Christ did it for men, but men refused to believe what Jesus Christ did. They believed that a man could come along and pay off all of these debts, but man cannot believe that Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten son, can pay all the debts. Well, I can and I do and I praise the Lord tonight. Took out the handwriting contrary to us and nailed it to his cross and gave us a new name – son of God. That’s what repentance is all about. That’s what remission of sins is all about. That which is contrary to us he took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. That’s why **Acts 3** sits there and glistens like a diamond.

Acts 3:19

He starts everyone out with the same thing being a son of God, not one sin left. The same faith of Jesus Christ, the family, righteousness, redemption, sanctification, etc.; He starts everyone out with

the same thing when we repent and are converted, with the same amount, fully paid. Now, what happens, we begin on the fully paid and we start making our debts again so that we can go bankrupt all over again. And we would if it were not that it was eternal life that got it for us. But he so made it that when he nailed it to the cross, not only did he give us remission, but he made it possible for us to receive forgiveness, after we start doing bankrupt #1 point.

“when” - in order that

Here and back in **Acts 2:38-39**, is one of the great points where Dr. Bullinger and I are just miles and miles apart. Dr. Bullinger maintains that this is for Israel and Jews only, as he does **Acts 2:38**, and does not believe that the church started on the day of Pentecost. I believe that the church started on the day of Pentecost, I believe that this section in here, “in order that the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” - is in the repentance and conversion of every believer. When you repent and are converted, that’s when you open the floodgates in order that the times of refreshing come in to you from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 3:20

“Jesus Christ” – Christ Jesus

What I see in here is the salvation from the moment until the gathering together. Repent and be converted is salvation.

Acts 3:21

“until the times of restitution of all things” - This is the return plus the final administration when we are back to the original of which **Genesis 1** was just a foretaste.

I told you that I believe that the reason it was to Jews only on the day of Pentecost is two-fold:

1. God again is doing His best for His people, Israel. One would think that He’d done enough for them when He sent His only begotten son. But somehow or other God just never gets enough. He just keeps on giving.
2. Even though everything came in fulfillment on the day of Pentecost He knew that none of those were ready to carry the gospel to the gentiles. That’s why Israel, Jews only, on the day of Pentecost.

It took him 15-20 years to get Peter over to the household of Cornelius. That’s not so hard for me to understand. How long has it taken you to even start believing God’s Word and the commitment that’s in God’s Word? Some of you haven’t even arrived yet, and you’ve sat under the possibility of this ministry for at least three or four years. I can understand this. God always does His best in every situation, but He can’t go beyond man’s believing to carry it out, and He knew on the day of Pentecost that they couldn’t handle it to the gentiles. But somehow He squeezed it out of Peter when Peter spoke; “to all that are afar off” (**Acts 2:39**). Here it is again - repent, be converted, that your sins may be blotted out in order times of refreshing shall come. And class, there are no greater times of refreshing than when you know that your sins are remitted or forgiven, and for once in your life you feel clean inside. You just feel filthy and dirty until you are born again. You get so filthy and dirty that you get used to living with it. That’s right. You get acclimatized to filth, and pretty soon your conscience doesn’t bother you anymore, so you just live in the same old filth. Boy, that word, ‘refreshing,’ speaks to my “earballs” like a cannon shot. I hear it loud and long. When there is repentance and conversion there is refreshing, because with the coming of Christ within, casting your

sins as far as the east if from the west and remembering them no more, lifting the heavy burden of your heart, is there any greater word to describe it than “refreshing.” It’s a fresh day, a new day.

Acts 3:20

“before was preached unto you” - Had they accepted the Messiah, the day that I’m reading to you out of Acts would have never come. But they didn’t accept the Messiah.

“preached” - *kerusso* - the *kerusso* is the trumpeter. They herald and then the announcement is made of what’s happening. That’s the word “preached.” He blew it loud and long.

Acts 3:21

Not the mystery but the restitution of all things and that Jesus Christ was to be born the Messiah to Israel. That’s in the Old Testament, the mystery, no.

Acts 3:22

“Moses” - Moses is used nineteen times in the book of Acts. Most of the scholars today are not even convinced that there was one. God is, and He makes him the author, the writer of Deuteronomy. This quotation is from Deuteronomy. God believed in Moses and He knew he wrote Deuteronomy.

Acts 3:23

“destroyed” - cut off, have no ancestry

Acts 3:24

“spoken” – about Christ

Acts 3:25

“children of the prophets” - Sons of the prophets

“made” – covenanted Sons of the prophets and sons of the covenant; you are sons of the prophets; therefore, you are sons of the covenant which God covenanted. God did it.

“unto Abraham, ‘And in thy seed...’” - He opened his message in **verse 13** with the God of Abraham, and now he’s back in the conclusion, to Abraham - First you tell them what you are going to tell, then you tell them, then you tell them what you told them; .homiletics. Abraham’s seed; not just physical; it’s talking believing. Abraham believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. It isn’t in the progeny, the off-spring, but rather it’s in the seed, the believers. This you put with **Galatians 3:16** about Christ, the seed.

“kindreds” – families. Everyone today is blessed and will be blessed because of that seed, Christ Jesus, whether they like it or not. In that seed, all the families are blessed.

Acts 3:26

“Unto you first” - Unto Israel first.

“son” - servant .He started out with this and closed with it. He started out with the one who hath been glorified whom you delivered and he closed up first God having ‘raised His son, Jesus. All the families of the earth shall be blessed.

“sent him to bless you” - Get saved; that’s the blessing. Isn’t that a powerful sermon?!

In **Acts 4:8** you start the next sermon. In that next sermon, he gets, in **verse 10**, back to Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Look at **verse 11**, cornerstone. **Verse 12** there is no salvation in any other name. Can you imagine what he's going to tell them then? Boy, isn't that something?

Acts 3:21-26

Verse 21 "the heaven" - no article 'the'

Verse 22 "unto the fathers" - not in the Greek text, may be in the Aramaic. Either way would be ok.

"A Prophet" - In the great sense of the accuracy of the Word, Jesus Christ is not our prophet. He is not our priest. He is not our king. He is not our shepherd. He was the shepherd and the door to Israel. He was the prophet of Israel. He was the priest, the high priest, of Israel. And he was the king of Israel. In the transfiguration, who appeared in a vision to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration, which was also known by Peter, James and John? The great law-giver, Moses and the great prophet, Elijah.

"of your brethren" - out of Israel

"that Prophet" - Remember that I taught you that of 1 men born of women the greatest was John. He was the prophet. Yet here it says that which contradicts it. And if it's an apparent contradiction, it either has to be in our understanding of the Word or in translation. And it's in the understanding of the Word that we've never understood that Jesus Christ couldn't have been born filled with the spirit and have redeemed man. He had to come a natural man of body and soul. That's why it can say here what the Word says without any contradiction, because Jesus Christ is the greatest prophet of all time.

Verse 24 "Samuel" - That Samuel record is interesting.

Moses was the prophet that took that stiff-necked group out of Egypt. Samuel was the prophet that took that stiff-necked bunch at the time when they had turned religion unto a fiasco of sexual frustrations, and old Samuel stood up and said, "Thus saith the Lord." He could speak to Saul. That's why I think Moses and Samuel are given here in this great record, because if you'll study the life of Samuel and his ministry, study Moses, then you will see that only Moses could stand those birds for 40 years. I forget now how many years Samuel had to stand those birds, and those that follow after, all of those who have spoken of Christ; his coming as the Messiah and then the final administration. All of that is in the Old Testament, but what wasn't there was the valley, the mystery.

Verse 25 "Ye are the children of the prophets" - I wonder who was there that day.

To be a son of the prophets there had to be some genealogical bloodline present on that day that was top brass. Copped out but genealogically "arrived with the Mayflower" Biblically. Boy, they were there. Sons of the prophets and sons of the covenant, which God covenanted, and He did that with Abraham, with Isaac, with Jacob. It always takes two people to make a covenant. In the Old Testament it only took one; God said, "I will," and every other covenant takes two people. When I look at this in all of its greatness and all of its beauty, I always see two, God and His wonderful son Jesus Christ, every time. Yet God said that I by myself do it because His son in the Old Testament had not yet come so He did that 'bullock trip'; cut it up. All of the cutting up in the Old Testament was just a foreshadowing of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ whom they cut to pieces when they nailed him to the cross. I think all of that's in this chapter.

"Abraham" - Abraham was not an Israelite, but the Israelites of the believer's line were Abrahamic in believing. Israel came out of Jacob. That's why all families of the earth are blessed in Abraham.

Verse 26 "Unto you first" - Israel, to the believers of the Abrahamic type of believing first.

That's the end of the chapter, and now the trouble starts, and that we'll save until later.