

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 6: CHAPTER 3:18-4:21

3 July 2015

Vs. 18 All the Old Testament prophets spoke of the suffering of Christ.

Vs. 19 After preaching the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter instructs the Jews to repent and be converted so their sins may be blotted out. Their sins would be completely removed, exactly like our sins are removed when we believe and repent (Col. 2:14).

Peter mentions “**the times of refreshing**” as a future event to look forward to once they get their sins forgiven. This is a common practice today: “If you’ll receive Jesus Christ and get your sins forgiven, you can go to heaven.” Of course, that means someday. Peter uses a term used in Isaiah 43:25 where God offers to blot out the Jews sins if they’ll simply call on His name. That’s what Peter told them to do in Acts 2:21.

Cross-references to “blotting out.” Isaiah 43:25, Isaiah 44:21-22, Psalm 51:6-8, Numbers 5:23, Deut. 9:14, 25:19, 29:20, 2 Kings 14:27, Colossians 2:14.

Peter points out that those future blessings are only possible because of “**the presence of the Lord.**”

Vs. 20 In the “times of refreshing,” the Lord shall “send Jesus Christ.” This is the same Jesus Christ that was preached to these people before. Jesus sent seventy disciples out in pairs to tell people about Him (Luke 10:1). Jesus and His disciples spent 3 ½ years going from town to town

Vs. 21 Heaven must receive Jesus (ascension) until the restitution of all things (everything will be restored).

Vs. 22 Moses prophesied of a prophet that would come (Deut. 18:15). This prophet would be like Moses. Moses demonstrated power over water (parting the Red Sea, water from the Rock). Jesus walked on water; He is the Rock (1 Cor. 10:4). Moses: manna from heaven. Jesus: fed 5,000, but He is “that bread which came down from heaven” (John 6:58). Moses turned water into blood. Jesus turned water into wine (a type of blood). The Jews were expecting this prophet (John 1:21). Jesus of Nazareth is that Prophet.

Vss. 23-24 The result of not hearing “**that prophet**” (Jesus): judgment, destruction. All the prophets foretold of “these days” (the days when the Lord is present).

Vs. 25 Notice: they are the “children of the covenant,” but they can be destroyed (vs. 23) if they don’t trust Jesus. There’s no access to the covenant promises if they don’t receive the King of the kingdom that they’re hoping for.

Vs. 26 “**Unto you FIRST**” implies that after them, someone else will get the same offer. “**To the Jew first, and also to the Greek**” (Romans 1:16). Proclaiming of the Gospel begins with the Jews and then to the “**utmost part of the earth**” (Acts 1:8).

Verse 26 defines the word “**repent**” (vs. 19). It is “**turning away...from iniquities.**” It’s not the same as saying “I’m sorry.” It is a desire and willingness to stop sinning.

FIVE VIEWS OF THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. God’s view: It was the propitiation for sin where God’s holiness and justice were fully satisfied (Romans 3:25-26, 1 John 2:2, 4:10).
2. Jesus’ view: It was a sacrifice (Eph. 5:2), an offering (Heb. 9:14), and an act of obedience (Phil. 2:8).
3. The believer’s view: It was a substitution, the just dying for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18).
4. Satan’s view: It was a triumph—he bruised His heel (Gen. 2:15). It was also his own defeat (Heb. 2:14-15).
5. The world’s view: It was the unwarranted killing of an innocent man (Jn. 19:6, Lk. 23:47).

ACTS CHAPTER 4

- Vss. 1-3** The religious leaders were grieved because Peter and John **“taught the people.”** This is what the Lord Jesus told them to do (Matt. 28:19). The Sadducees led the opposition because they don’t believe in the resurrection from the dead. Peter, John, and the healed man were arrested and had to spend the night “in hold.” Jesus had warned His disciples that this would happen (John 15:20, Matthew 10:16-17, Mark 13:9).
- Vs. 4** Five thousand men believed what Peter and John preached. There was no altar call or “sinner’s prayer. They heard the gospel and believed it.
- Vss. 5-7** All the religious leaders ask Peter and John by what authority they have healed the lame man. They asked Jesus the same question (Luke 20:1-2)
- Vs. 8-10** Peter is filled (again) with the Holy Ghost (see Luke 12:11-12). The Holy Ghost will enable Peter to answer these men. He politely addresses them, but informs them that they were arrested for doing a **“good deed”** (vs. 9). The authority by which they healed the man—was the authority of **“Jesus of Nazareth—whom ye crucified—whom God raised from the dead.** In fact, Jesus is the one who healed the man (vs. 10).
- Vs. 11** Jesus is the **“stone which was set at nought of you builders;”** the Jews didn’t see any use for Jesus. But now He is **“become the head of the corner.”** Jesus didn’t “fit” in their religious system. That’s because he only fits in one place; at the top; just like the corner stone of the temple. (See Psa. 118:22, Isa. 28:16, Matt. 21:42, Mk. 12:10, Lk. 20:17, Eph. 2:20, 1 Pet. 2:6-7).
- Vs. 12** Salvation is by Jesus Christ alone. There is no other Savior. Religion, sacraments, and ceremonies can’t save anyone.
- Vs. 13** The religious rulers observed that Peter and John could not have had any formal religious training. They were commercial fishermen. They weren’t trained in the Scriptures like Paul was (Acts 22:3). These rulers are men who think a man has to have a certification from men to be qualified to speak of spiritual things. But **“they marveled”** that Peter and John were able to speak with the same authority they once saw in Jesus. They can’t deny that these men have a supernatural gift of some sort—because they had been with Jesus.
- Vss. 14-17** They couldn’t dispute the miracle. The healed man was standing there. So they sent the “criminals” out of the room so they could privately discuss what to do. They don’t want them to preach in Jesus’ name anymore. They don’t want Jesus to get the credit for the healing.
- Vss. 18-20** When Peter and John receive the order not to “speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus” (vs. 18), they choose to disobey that order (civil disobedience). They ask the religious men, “Should we listen to God, or listen to you? Notice that Peter says God is the one who told them to teach. He has indirectly identified Jesus as God since Jesus gave that command (Matt. 28:19).
- We can’t stop teaching what we’ve “seen and heard” (vs. 20). God told us to do it. We must do it even if you say “stop doing it.” Christians often abuse this and disobey their government for the wrong reasons (money). –Peter and John are defying government because they are ordering them to do something contrary to the stated or written commands of God. They know they may have to pay the consequences (jail or beatings, etc), but they can’t stop doing what the Lord commanded.
- Examples of proper civil disobedience in the Old Testament:** The three Hebrew children refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s image (Dan. 3). Daniel refused to stop praying to the true God (Dan. 6). The Hebrew midwives refused to kill the newborn babies (Exod. 1).
- Vs. 21** They had no choice but to release Peter and John. They had no grounds to punish them, but mostly they were afraid of what the people would do. **“For all men glorified God for that which was done”** (the healing). Notice how the crowd changes sides so easily? (Mt. 21:9, Mark 15:13). Aim to please God, not the crowd.