

the remotest part of the earth

#3, a gate called beautiful – Acts 3:1-26

Jerusalem was all astir! Everyone was talking about the wonders and signs that were taking place among the followers of the crucified Jesus. It had all started during Pentecost. Now one of the fishermen was speaking to large groups.

Peter's voice could be heard above every one else. As he spoke, the new missionaries translated his words so that the people of the different nations that were present, could hear them in [their] own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God. Acts 2:11. He had proved, to all, that Jesus Christ was indeed the promised son of David, the long awaited Messiah.

We find Peter and John going to the temple.

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.

hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 3:00 p.m. The Jews had 3 daily times of prayer (Ps.55:17); the other two were 9:00 a.m. (third hour) and 12:00 noon (sixth hour).
MacArthur Study Bible

2 And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

[1.] v:1, From the list below, choose the statements that best describe this verse.

- a) The disciples had learned, from Christ's example, that God would only hear prayers from the temple.
- b) There were a lot of people, at the temple, during scheduled prayer times.
- c) The Lord was directing Peter and John to a task at the temple.

[2.] v:2, lame from his mother's womb, **What was this man's daily routine?**

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3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. 4 But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" 5 And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – walk!"

7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

8 With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God; 10 and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.

12 But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

[3.] v:3-5, "Look at us!" Why did the man, all of a sudden, pay attention to Peter and John?

[4.] v:6, – walk!", When the man heard Peter, why or why wasn't he disappointed?

[5.] v:7, seizing him by the right hand, How can we see that Peter was confident in the Lord's power?

[6.] v:7 again, and immediately, What miracle immediately happened?

[7.] v:8-11, And all the people, How did the Lord use this event to draw the attention of a large number of people to Himself?

[8.] v:12, why do you gaze at us, Initially, who did the crowds think possessed the power to cause this miracle?

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13 " The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.

16 "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

17 "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. 18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

[9.] v:12 again, Had Peter and John let the people's error "go uncorrected", why or why wouldn't the Lord continue to use them?

[10.] v:12 again, As Christians, what warning does God give us regarding allowing the favor of others?

[11.] v:13-15, But you disowned, Noting the people's attention was naturally drawn to the miracle, Peter used the opportunity to speak of another recent event. What was it?

[12.] v:16, given him this perfect health, Peter revealed "in whose name" and "by what" the man was healed. Who and what was it?

[13.] v:17-18, He has thus fulfilled, What is meant by "Christ would suffer"?

[14. v:19, And now, brethren, In order to remove their sins, what did Peter tell the people they had to do?

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[15.] v:19 again, times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; From Peter's message, Who would provide this to those Jewish hearers?

Ephesians 2:11-18, describes the process, called reconciliation. God used Christ's death as a substitution for the death penalty demanded because of violation of God's ordinances (Law of commandments). Any who violated God's law (old Covenant) were at enmity (enemies) with God. Those (both Jew and Gentile) who have accepted Christ's sacrifice have been "born again" and formed into one body (in Christ) whom God, having accepted the sacrifice of His Son, also accepted. These were reconciled to God or no longer at enmity. Eph 2:16, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

[16.] v:20-21, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration, Reviewing Acts 1:10-11, What did the two angels tell the apostles?

21 the period of restoration, APOKATASTASIS,
APO: *back, again*, KATASTASIS: *to set in order*.

The Expanded Vines

Approximately 600-years before Peter's sermon, God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophet, Jeremiah concerning the "new covenant". As we take a quick look at this promise, note in v:32 that it is not like the old covenant or (Law of commandments). The writer of Hebrews also used the same passage in Heb. 8:6-13.

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Jer 31:31, " Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, " I will put My law within them **(into their minds, Heb 8:10)** and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Acts 3: 22 "Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you.

23' And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.

[17.] Jer 31:31-32, According to Eph 2:15-16, For the Christian, what did God cause to happen to the old covenant (Law of commandments)?

[18.] v:33 I will put My law, Instead of writing the law on stone tablets, where did God write it?

[19.] v:33 again, I will be, What promise did God make with those under the new covenant?

[20.] v:34, from the least of them to the greatest of them, Will people of Israel know the Lord under the old covenant or the new covenant?

[21.] Acts 3:22, GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET, Of whom was Moses speaking?

[22.] v:23-24, every soul that does not heed, What will happen to those who ignore the prophet who Moses was speaking about?

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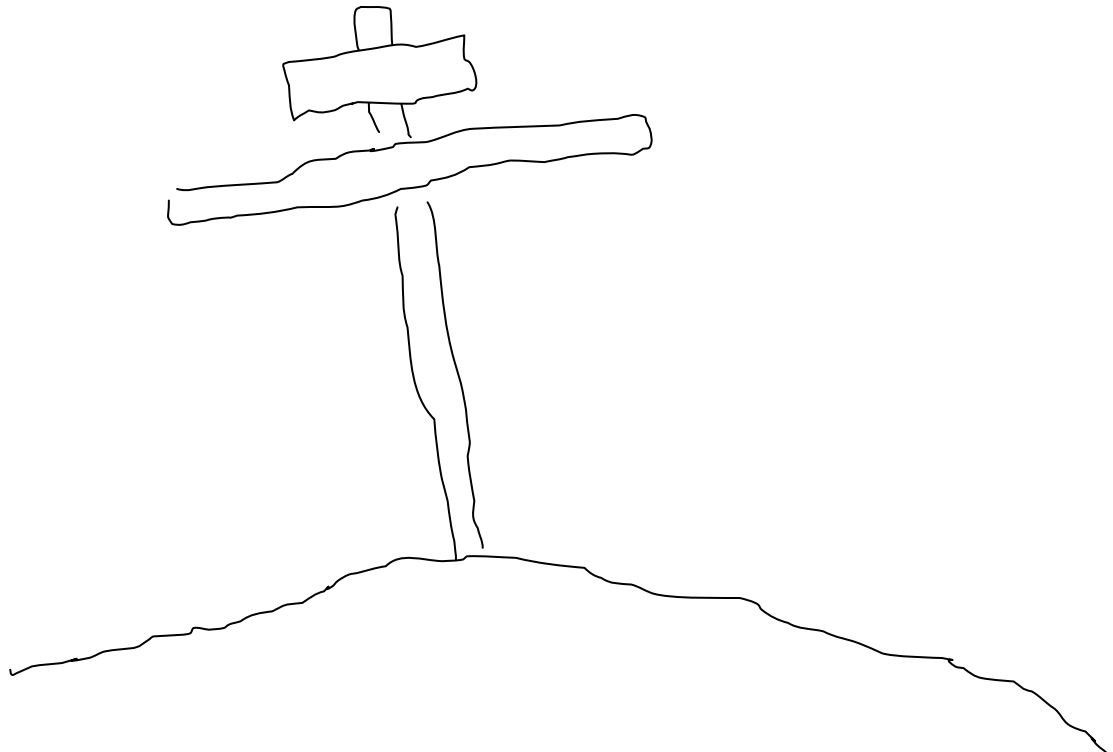
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25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES (**nations, Gal 3:8**) OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.' 26 "For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."

[23.] v:25, 'AND IN YOUR SEED, According to Galatians 3:16, who is the "seed"?'

[24.] v:25 again, ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED. Is this just Israel or are these every nation?

[25.] v:26, "For you first, According to Romans 1:16, who received the gospel first?"



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