

23. The Book of Acts—3:19-26

(10/14/26)

In our study in the Book of Acts, we are currently in chapter 3.

The chapter is divided into 2 main parts:

1. God using Peter to heal a man who had been lame from his mother's womb and was now over 40 years of age;
2. Peter's sermon that God used to save five-thousand men plus women and young people.

Peter's first sermon was recorded in Acts 2:14-26, and now in Acts 3:11-26 he gives his second Spirit-filled sermon of the Church Age.

Peter's second sermon contains 3 parts:

- I. The Introduction**
- II. The Theme**
- III. The Conclusion**

The theme has two parts—the first part of it deals with Israel's rejection of her Messiah.

In verses 12-18 Peter convicts the nation of Israel by telling them that their Messiah presented Himself to the nation on Palm Sunday as their King—but they rejected Him.

And then four days later they pressured Pilate to crucify Him—so they were guilty!

However, Peter offers them a pardon by telling them what they needed to do to make things right—which brings us to his conclusion.

III. The Conclusion—v.19-26

Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

So, first Peter tells them they must **repent**, and that it would then lead to their *conversion* (*salvation*)—"Repent therefore and be converted" (v.19)

The word '**repentance**' is the Greek word *metanoia* and literally means "*to have a change of mind*"—a change of mind that leads to a change of direction.

And it's not just turning away *slightly* from something but turning all the way around to the opposite direction—a 180 degree turn.

The NT talks about repentance in many places—but a classic illustration of what repentance entails is found in Matthew 21—

Matthew 21:28–32 (NKJV)

²⁸ "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' ²⁹ He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went [i.e., he repented]. ³⁰ Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go [lip service]. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

It's the change and not the words that indicate true repentance.

One Pastor adds his commentary on this—

“That is the meaning of repentance. Now when you apply that to Jesus Christ, what he is saying to Israel is, “You have had one attitude about Jesus. Reverse that attitude.” Right? That’s repentance. Reverse your decision. Reverse your judgment. Reverse your conclusion regarding Jesus Christ, because you’re wrong. And he’s piled up the evidence to prove it and he says, “On the basis of what you’ve done, on the basis of what God has provided for you, reverse your decision. You have come to the wrong conclusion about Jesus Christ.” And they of course had decided he was a blasphemer. They had decided that he mocked God, that he was a threat to true religion, that he needed to be executed like a criminal. And Peter says, “You blew it on every count. He is the very opposite of what you concluded him to be. Therefore, turn around and reverse your decision.” That’s exactly what he’s saying.”

Pastor Andy Woods,

“In the beginning part of verse 19 he explains what Israel must do (check out Acts 3:12) in the distant future to be made right with God. So currently the nation is under divine discipline nationally, having rejected her king. But then, beginning in verse 19, Peter outlines what Israel must do in the future to come out of that divine discipline and so God’s kingdom can be restored to the earth in and through Israel. So, he’s outlining here Israel’s future responsibilities. And the first thing Israel must do in the future is she’s got to repent...She’s got to change her mind about Jesus. So, you have the necessity of repentance, verse 19. And then what follows that is the results of repentance.

Once Israel repents of her national sin of attributing Christ’s miracles to the devil (Matthew 12:24)—something wonderful is going to happen...”

What will happen is that—all Israel will be saved, the Messiah will return, the Kingdom will be established, and the world will know justice and peace.

Acts 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [salvation], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

This **“times of refreshing...from the presence of the Lord”** is a reference to the coming earthly Kingdom that Jesus will bring when He comes again.

It’s not a political kingdom brought about by man’s endeavors to put Christian people into public office and bring the Kingdom to the earth by enacting righteous legislation (Kingdom Now or Dominion Theology).

Only the King will bring the Kingdom—but He won't until the Jewish people repent and call on Him to come:

Matthew 23:37–39 (NKJV)

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹ for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*’ ”

Jesus said, “*You'll not see me again until you say blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.*”

That is an important statement—it's a Messianic designation.

He says “*You (the nation of Israel) won't see me again until you acknowledge me as your Messiah*”—He cannot return until then.

So, these verses here (end of Matthew 23), introduce what's coming in Matthew 24 (Tribulation Period followed by the return of Christ to set up His Kingdom).

It seems fairly obvious that the *repentance* that Peter is speaking about in Acts 3:19 is a national repentance of a future Jewish generation that will find itself in the Tribulation Period.

This tribulation was prophesied in Jeremiah 30:7 as ‘*the time of Jacob's trouble*’ and called ‘*the 70th week of Daniel*’ in Daniel 9:26-27.

And so again, we're speaking here of a national repentance that is not going to happen until Israel goes into the Tribulation Period.

And as the Antichrist and his armies seek to wipe out the Jewish people altogether—the Jews living at this time will repent (change their minds about Jesus—Matt. 12:24), call on Him to save them—at which time Jesus will return, save His people (Zech. 12:10-14), and then and only then will the thousand-year Millennial Kingdom come to the earth.

Acts 3:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Again, the phrase in verse 21, “**The times of restoration of all things**” has to do with the Kingdom—it has to do with the coming Kingdom of Christ when all things are restored back to their original owner (before the Fall in the Garden), the time when all things are going to be given back to the God who rightfully owns them. That’s the Kingdom!

One Pastor said,

*“**The restoration of all things**” refers not to the condition of the soul, but to the people of Israel. Israel shall be restored (see Romans 9–11)—she will one day acknowledge Jesus as Lord because the promises and covenants of the Old Testament toward the Jewish people are unconditional—they will be fulfilled!”*

Acts 3:21 (NKJV)

²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Dr. Andy Woods gives the real reason for the world’s hatred of the Jewish people—it’s satanic in origin:

“And when you understand that, you understand the satanic hatred for the Jewish nation. Satan does not want the kingdom to come to the earth because once the kingdom comes to the earth, the Book of Revelation says he’s bound for a thousand years. He loses authority. And at the end of the thousand years, the Book of Revelation says he’s thrown into the Lake of fire forever... I mean...you’re dealing with somebody that’s defeated, that’s going down. So, if you think in your corrupted mind (and we know that Satan has a corrupted intellect, Ezekiel 28 talks about that) his understanding has been darkened. If you think you can stop God’s program from happening, which he apparently thinks he can do, then the best way to do it is to take out Israel. I mean, just destroy the Jewish nation. If you destroy the Jewish nation, then there’s nobody left to fulfill this condition. And if this condition is never fulfilled, then Satan remains forever the prince and power of the air. That helps you understand the bizarre hatred for the nation of Israel.”

One last point concerning the statement—“**the times of restoration of all things**” (v.21)

There are those who say “**the restoration of all things**” spoken of here means that every person will one day be saved—including demons and even Satan.

The problem with that interpretation is that—Jesus didn’t teach it!

In Matthew 25:41, He spoke clearly of sending some into everlasting fire.

The word “*everlasting*” is the Greek word ‘*aionios*’, which is the same word used in John 3:16—and in Matthew 25:46:

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Matthew 25:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Therefore, whoever says that the fire in Matthew 25 is not really everlasting (hell is not real they say), that people will only burn for ‘*a while*’ until they’re purged (i.e., purgatory), or until the restoration of all things—must also say that the everlasting life God promised in John 3:16 is equally transitory.

Acts 3:18–23 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘*The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*’ ²³ And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’

Peter quoted from Moses in Deut. 18:15, 18–19—Moses of course being the first leader of the nation and spokesman for God (prophet) and reminded his listeners that Moses had predicted the arrival of a Prophet, and that this Prophet was the Messiah (see Luke 24:19; John 1:19–28; 6:14).

Not to hear and obey this Prophet meant condemnation (hell).

But Moses was not the only one who foretold the coming of Jesus Christ—for all the prophets bore witness to Him—even as Jesus affirmed:

Luke 24:25–27 (NKJV)

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself...

Here Peter is quoting Moses who said, **“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me.”**

When he said that he didn’t mean *likeness* as to character or ability, but likeness in the sense that both were *raised up by God to be deliverers*.

➔ Comment on why the rabbis in Israel reject Jesus as their God and Messiah—because Moses said ‘he would be like me (a man)...

Acts 3:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

One pastor commented—

“Notice verse 24, that the first prophet, according to Peter here, was a guy named Samuel. Because he says here, “And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel...” In other words, Samuel was the first one. Why is Samuel the first prophet? Because what was a prophet's job? A prophet's job was to call wayward kings back to the Mosaic Law. That was their primary job. And in the process, the Lord used them in such a way that they made predictive prophecies about the future. But their primary job was to go to a king and say to a king, you're outside of the will of God. You're violating God's law. The national curses are going to get worse if you don't straighten up. If you want these curses to stop, then go back to the Mosaic law. If you want these curses to get worse, then keep doing what you're doing. And it's going to get so bad that you're going to be invaded by a foreign power. And what do you think the kings did?—'Yay! Thank you for your warm, fuzzy message.' No, the prophets were all killed, primarily.”

And so, this prophetic warning looks forward to the first coming of Jesus where He was the Father's Prophet (Spokesman for God) calling the nation of Israel to repentance—in preparation for them receiving Him as their Messiah and King.

The nation officially rejected Jesus on Palm Sunday when He made His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey to officially present Himself to the nation as their long-awaited Messiah and King—but of course He was rejected by their leaders:

Matthew 21:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! *'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'*" Hosanna in the highest!"

John 12:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! *'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'*" The King of Israel!"

Jesus disciples are quoting from Psalm 118—which is a Messianic psalm announcing the Messiah's coming.

“Hosanna” in Hebrew literally means “*save now*”.

So, this psalm they were crying out (Psalm 118)—is a prophetic psalm of the Messiah's coming and presenting Himself to the nation.

And yet, how did Jesus respond to all this emotion and excitement directed towards Him?

As He reached the top of the Mount of Olives and He saw Jerusalem laid out before Him—He began to weep—

Luke 19:41-42 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Why did He weep? —wasn't this the day He had waited for?

The people were crying out 'Hosanna' which means 'save now', they were hailing Him as the Messiah—what was the problem?

The problem was that Jesus knew they were only concerned with their physical needs and desires—the people were looking purely for a political Messiah and not a spiritual Savior).

Jesus knew these people weren't accepting Him as the Messiah He truly was or the Savior He came to be.

No, much of their acknowledgement of Him as their Messiah was nothing more than *emotion* fueled by carnal desires and not by true repentance and acceptance of Him as their spiritual Savior Who had come to save them from their sins.

Their cries to Jesus to, "*save now, save now*" (Hosanna)—were cries to save them from Roman *oppression* and *occupation*, from *poverty* and *sickness*—but not "*save me from my sins*".

This crowd, for all intents and purposes, had rejected Him also—how do we know that?

Because, in just 4 days this same crowd—this same fickle crowd would be crying, "*Crucify Him! Crucify Him!*"

And that's why we read in Luke's gospel chapter 19—

Luke 19:42-44 (NKJV)

⁴² ..."If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

As Jesus looked *ahead*, He wept as He saw the terrible judgment that was coming upon the nation, the city, and the Temple (Matthew 23:37-39; 24:2).

Acts 3:23 (NKJV)

²³ *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'*

The 'short-term' partial fulfillment of that prophecy was in 70 AD when the Romans came, surround the city of Jerusalem, and after a siege of 143 days, killed 600,000 Jews, and took thousands more captive—and then they destroyed the Temple and the city.

The long-term ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy will be at Jesus' Second Coming as recorded in Revelation 19:

Revelation 19:11–21 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹

And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Acts 3:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

When Peter spoke about **“these days,”** to what **“days”** was he referring?

The days of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ—the days when God’s Prophet would speak to His people and offer them salvation.

Acts 3:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘*And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*’

The emphasis in Acts 3:22–25 is on *the Jewish prophets* who had announced the coming of the Messiah.

The nation’s rejection of Him made them especially guilty because the Jews were the privileged **“sons of the prophets and of the covenant”**—they had sinned against a flood of light!

When God called Abraham, He made an unconditional covenant with him and his descendants that through them the nations of the world would be blessed (Gen. 12:1–3).

This promise was fulfilled when Jesus Christ came into the world through the Jewish nation (Gal. 3:6–14).

The Gospel message came *“to the Jew first”* because the Jews were God’s chosen instrument through whom the Gentiles would be blessed (Acts 3:26; 13:46; Rom. 1:16).

The first Christians were Jews, and the first missionaries were Jews.

Acts 3:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities."

In verse 25 Peter is quoting Genesis 22:17-18 where God promised Abraham that—

Genesis 22:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore... ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."

In Galatians 3:16 Paul points out that when God gave the promise to Abraham—He used the singular ‘**seed**’ and not the plural ‘**seeds**.’

Paul is telling us this meant that God wasn’t referring the Jewish people in general (i.e., the ‘seeds’ of Abraham)—He was referring to one specific ‘Seed’ or Descendant of Abraham—the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

In other words, God not only made this covenant with Abraham—but also with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul is telling us in Galatians 3 that through Jesus, Abraham’s descendants would go *beyond* the Jewish people.

That all who believe in Jesus, the Savior of all mankind (Genesis 12:3), would be the spiritual children of Abraham by faith and members of the family of God made up of people from all the families of the earth (Revelation 5:9).