

Lesson 15: Opening Chapters of Acts: 3 Honest Opportunities to Repent

Review

- Day of Pentecost
 - o Doctrine of Baptisms
 - 1 = JTB
 - 2 = DoP
 - 3 = fire
 - o Israel's Calendar - Golden Candlestick - Jehovah Compound Names
 - o Joel Prophecy
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3 Honest Opportunities to Repent to Leadership

1. Acts 3:1ff - Notable Miracle
2. Acts 5:17ff
3. Acts 6:9ff

1. Miracle (Acts 3:1ff)
 - i. Done in their midst (:1 = temple)
:2-26 - The people (:17)

4:1-22 - Rulers (:16 - notable miracle)

:23-30 - Psalm 2
 - ii. Denied (4:17 - spread no further)
2. Sign Gifts Increasing (Acts 5:17ff)
 - i. Notable Miracle that thwarted their own efforts (:17-28)

:29-32 - Apostles Response

:33-40 - Gamaliel Wisdom (:39 - cannot fight against God - Acts 6:10)
 - i. Refused (5:40 - didn't repent)
1. Marvelous Phenomena (Acts 6:9ff = synagogue (1yr) time period is up)

Libertines -

Many Jews were taken as slaves by Gentiles in the First Century. These Jews lived in many nations outside of Palestine. Whenever it was possible, the families of these slaves would collect enough money to buy the slave's freedom. Once free, many of the ex-slaves would return to Palestine.

There was a synagogue in Jerusalem where these ex-slaves worshipped and studied. It was called the synagogue of the Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and them of Cilicia and of Asia (Acts 6:9). The Libertines are the freed slaves. These people should have realized better than anyone what it meant to be freed from a slavery situation.

In Acts 6:9 where the account begins to describe God's use of Stephen, the verse makes

special mention of those who disputed with Stephen being ones who belonged to "the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia." This synagogue is significant because it is composed primarily of ones who are not native to the land of Israel or to Jerusalem, (and therefore did not live in Jerusalem or the land of Israel all the time), but who came to Jerusalem every year when required by the law, as for the day of Pentecost.

- i. Stephen angel (:15 - Every ruler had the undeniable proof there was a messenger of God in their midst)
- ii. Testimony (7:13 -Joseph and 7:25, 27, 35 - Moses)
- iii. Remained stiffnecked (7:51-60)

Prophets Regarding "Standing"

- Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension to Father's Right Hand (Sit)
- Sit until enemies made His footstool
 - o Psalm 110:1
 - o Matt. 22:44
 - o Acts 2:35
 - o Heb. 1:13; 10:13
- Arise/Standing
 - o Psalm 2
 - o Psalm 68:1-4
 - o Isa. 2:11ff (:19 = ariseth)
 - o Isa. 3:11ff (:13 = standeth up to plead and judge)
 - Rev. 19:10-12, "doth judge and make war
- War
 - o Isa. 31:4-5
 - o Isa. 42:13-15
 - o Isa. 66:15-16
 - o Zech. 14:1-3