

# Acts 26 – 8 November 2020

## “God’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Promise”

### Introduction

\*Paul has been arrested in Jerusalem and sent by the Romans to Caesarea to awaited trial

\*Paul’s awaiting extradition to Rome when King Agrippa come to see Gov Festus.

\*Festus needs charges against Paul so in chap 26 Paul is allowed to speak before the Gov and King Agrippa

\*When Paul speaks to Jewish audience, he often goes straight for his testimony about how he WAS a Jew.

\*Today Paul will give the account of what happened to him from the perspective of him accepting the long awaited for 3<sup>rd</sup> promise of God

Nation (Gen 15:5), Land (Gen 15:18), What was the 3<sup>rd</sup>?

**Today, we’ll see 3 parts of God’s 3<sup>rd</sup> promise to Abraham as Paul testifies before Festus & Agrippa**

## *In vs 1-3 Paul begins his testimony before Agrippa*

Read Vs 1-3

1. Paul shows his customary deep respect, whether the person holding the high office deserves it or not
2. Paul knows that King Agrippa knows well the Jewish religion.
  - a. B/c of this, Paul gives a certain type of testimony
  - b. This testimony includes Paul's conversion from Judaism, not just from dead idols / vanity

## **#1 – God's 3<sup>rd</sup> promise is that of sending the Messiah, Christ (Anointed One) (Chap 26:4-11)**

Read Vs 4-5

1. The Jews well know Paul was a devote Jew
2. Paul sought hard after the God of Abraham

## Read Vs 6-7

1. Notice Paul's reference to the 12 tribes
  - a. There are no lost tribes of Israel that become the Mormons.
  - b. James even writes unto the 12 tribes
2. Paul's being judged b/c his hope in THE promise of God has been fulfilled!
  - a. God made 3 promises to Abraham?
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Promise – A Nation – Gen 15:5
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Promise – A Land – Gen 15:18
    - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Promise – A Messiah – Read Gen 22:18, Read Gal 3:16
  - b. This is the thing every Jew was longing for

## Read Vs 8

1. If the Jews believe God can insert the long-awaited for Messiah into life at any time, it shouldn't be a stretch to believe God would raise Him from the dead
2. They already believe in a miracle working God

Read Vs 9-11

1. They're all waiting for the Messiah and Paul too at first couldn't believe that Jesus was Him.
2. Paul didn't at 1<sup>st</sup> believe Jesus "fit the mold".
3. Vs 12 Paul describes what changed his mind...

## **#2 – God's 3<sup>rd</sup> promise is to all that accept the Messiah by faith (Chap 26:12-18)**

Read Vs 12-15

1. This part has already been revealed to us; when it happened (Act 9) & repeated to Jews (Acts 22)
2. It took this miraculous intervention to change Paul's mind.

Read Vs 16-18

1. His purpose: To turn Gentiles from power of Satan to power of God by faith in Jesus!!
2. Under power of Satan b/c we've obeyed him
3. Turn to Rom 4:13-16

### **#3 – God’s 3<sup>rd</sup> promise is that of a suffering Messiah that is to rise again (Chap 26:19-23)**

Read Vs 19-20

1. Paul obeyed the heavenly vision calling for repentance from all people as he repented

Read Vs 21-23

1. The Jews arrested me b/c I’m preaching that Messiah was resurrected & has power to forgive
2. Paul wasn’t following the vision b/c it was super-natural, he followed b/c it agreed w/ the OT
3. OT declares that Messiah would suffer
  - a. You say, “where does it say that?”
    - i. Isa 53:5 – Wounded for our transgressions
    - ii. All of Psm 22 – Picture of the cross
4. OT declares that Messiah would rise again
  - a. You say, “where does it say that?”
    - i. Dan 12:2 - Some rise to life & some to death
    - ii. Isa 53:9-10 – His grave w/ the rich, yet He will prolong His days

## *In vs 24-32 we see the reaction of the Gov & King*

Read Vs 24-27

1. The suffering & crucifixion of Jesus was a big deal just a few years & Agrippa would know of it.
  - a. Festus just got to this territory recently
2. Festus shows how the earthly mind cannot & will not accept spiritual things
  - a. It takes someone who's willing to think of live and pending death.
3. King Agrippa was being convicted & convinced that these things are true.
  - a. He's already looked into the coming of Messiah

Read Vs 28-29

1. Paul's argument is convincing to Agrippa
2. Paul is a great example: "No matter the earthly bonds we're under, use every freedom we have to share the life-changing message of the cross."

## Read Vs 30-32

1. King & Gov declare Paul's innocence
2. They see him being 'set free' as a good thing
  - a. Jews were seeking to and would kill him
  - b. Being in Roman custody right now is saving his life
  - c. Being in Roman custody right now is directing him further into God's will...that of witness of Jesus to the Gentiles.

## Conclusion

So Paul's confidence is in the fact that God's 3<sup>rd</sup> promise to Abraham HAS BEEN FULFILLED n

**1. God's 3<sup>rd</sup> promise is that of sending Messiah**

- a. We all reach that moment in life where we realize that we're helpless to live a good live
- b. We all can look to God to cleanse our guilt

**2. God's 3<sup>rd</sup> promise is to all that accept Messiah by faith**

- a. YOU are not beyond God's grace today
- b. I want you to be able to say with us –
  - i. I Pet 1:3 – living hope by resurrection of...

**3. God's 3<sup>rd</sup> promise is that of a suffering Messiah that is to rise again**

- a. There was a cross before the crown for Jesus
- b. There was a cross before the crown for Paul
- c. And it's the same for you and I
  - i. But the cross is temporary
  - ii. And the crown is eternal