



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Acts 3

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



### Learn the Bible Online

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Acts 3.

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### Topics.

- Peter heals a man born lame.
- Israel acted in ignorance when they killed Christ.
- Peter accuses Israel of denying and killing the Holy and Righteous One.
- Repent that your sins may be blotted out.
- Israel killed the Author of life.
- God will raise up a prophet like Moses and the Seed of Abraham.

**The previous chapter:** began with divided tongues resting on one hundred and twenty people in the upper room and them coming out of the house speaking in a language they had not learned. Peter stood up and gave a message and 3000 were baptised. They continued in the apostles teaching and fellowshiping together in their homes.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### ACTS 3:1-10

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#### Peter Heals a Man Born Lame.

- **Acts 3:1-10:** Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup>And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and recognised him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**Alms:** carries the idea of compassion, tender, mercy, charity or generosity (human or divine) and especially active in deeds as exercised towards the poor, most think of alms as money because it is money that enables charity to be given to the poor, but it can apply to any act of charity.

**Wonders:** refers to anything that made people wonder.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> hour 3pm the traditional time of afternoon prayer Peter and John go to the temple and see a lame man who was carried to the gate every day asked them for alms as no-doubt he did to all who entered the gates, but he was in for a stunning life changing surprise.

**NOTICE:** he was not asking Peter to heal him this healing was a result of Peters and John's compassion not the lame man's faith. Peter heals the lame man in the same way that Jesus healed, he spoke the words and the man was healed, this is a perfect example of the Spirit God had given to His Son now flowing through Peter because Christ had imparted to the apostles this same Spirit

**Ponder for a moment:** The enormous excitement and overwhelming joy when this man stood up, is it any wonder he entered the temple leaping and praising God, what a testimony to all those who had seen this lame man begging at the gate of the Temple every day.

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## ACTS 3:11-16

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### **Peter Proclaims a Message.**

- **Acts 3:11-16:** While he (the lame man) clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

**Solomon's porch:** was a magnificent colonnade built by Solomon on the east-side of the temple area Christ and the apostles walked in it (John 10:23) (Acts 5:12)

**Power:** (dunamis) means a force, (literal or figurative) and especially applies to miraculous power (usually a miracle itself), but can refer to a mighty deed or a worker of miracles (wonderful work)

**Piety:** (Holiness in KJV) carries the idea of godliness and holiness.

The lame man while inside the portico remains very close to Peter and John. All the people ran to where they were standing no-doubt because they wanted see the healed man with their own eyes so Peter takes the opportunity to proclaim Christ to the Jewish crowd (v12). He clearly tells them that it was not because of any power, goodness or holiness that Peter or John processed within themselves that enabled them to heal the lame man, but rather it was their faith in the name of Jesus that enabled the man to stand and walk.

In the same way that God's Spirit flowed without limitation through His Son, it is now flowing through Peter and John because of their faith in the name of Jesus, but of course with certain limitations (i.e. they could not walk on water, create bread and fish out of nothing or calm the ocean and storms by speaking to them).

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## ACTS 3:17-21

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### **Israel acted in ignorance when they killed Christ.**

- **Acts 3:17-21:** And now, brothers (men of Israel) (v12) I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

**Repent:** means to think differently, to reconsider afterwards and morally feel remorse guilt or shame

**Blotted:** means to obliterate erase and wipe away and in this context, it carries the idea of forgiving and pardoning sin.

**Refreshing:** means a recovery of breath, figuratively a revival of life. The time of refreshing in this context can apply to two events, firstly to that moment when godly repentance brings that reality of God and the knowledge that all sins are forgiven and the ongoing experience of continual life in Christ knowing righteousness that leads to eternal life is imputed as a free gift because of ones faith in Christ contrasted to striving to attain to righteousness by works and self-effort.

Secondly the time of refreshing can apply to the Lords return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

**Restore:** (Restitution in KJV) means, to build up and restore and can apply to restoring any of the following, physical nature, character, memory, health, home, an organisation, vitality, damages and laws.

**Peter accuses Israel of denying and killing the Holy and righteous one:** Peter is addressing a Jewish crowd so he begins his speech with, "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (v13) and then accuses them of not only denying the Holy and Righteous One that their God glorified, but also of killing him because they asked Pilate to release a murder even though he wanted to release Jesus who God raised from the dead (v13-15). Then Peter makes the following two astounding statements:

1. They killed Christ in ignorance meaning they did not realise he was the promised Seed of Abraham and of David the Messiah and the Christ to come.
2. The evil they did in having Christ killed had already been told by the prophets, so in their act of ignorance they were in fact fulfilling Scripture (v17-18) thus as wicked and horrific as Jesus suffering was God in His foreknowledge had already spoken through the prophets that it would happen.

**NOTICE:** Peter says even the Jewish religious ruler who plotted the entire murder of Jesus acted in ignorance (v17), this shows the wisdom, wonder and majesty of God, the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes killed Jesus for their own selfish gain, but in actual reality they were fulfilling Scripture and bringing about their own destruction. This is because the moment Jesus rose from the grave to the right hand side of his Father they are not needed, since no-one needs a human priest or a religious system to go to God as Jesus is now the perfect and eternal High Priest for every sinner who is seeking God and for those who belong to his family.

**Repent that your sins may be blotted out:** the following comforting words of Peter, "Repent and turn again that your sins may be blotted out (v19-20) show how abounding God's grace is, this is a nation that agreed to the murder of God's only beloved Son and yet Peter tells them if they will repent and turn again to God the LORD will not only favour them, but also send to them their Messiah and King whom the prophets spoke off (v20). Sadly, Israel as a nation did not repent and accept God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ their Messiah and Saviour of the world and even today as a nation they remain in spiritual blindness, but even this is in the foreordained plan of God.

**The Jewish people and Jesus today:** in 2011 I attended a public meeting in which an Israeli lecturer who travelled the world speaking for the Jews today about Israel's land and their history as recorded in the Bible. At the end of her lecture the meeting was opened up to the audience for questions. One lady asked:

- "How do the Jews view Jesus today?"

The Jewish speakers' answerer was:

- "Our Messiah has not yet come."

There was a sudden silence over the meeting at this moment, then the same lady obviously a Christian quoted a few Scriptures to show that Israel's Messiah did come, the lecturer was kindly patient, but after a short while turned and picked up a Jewish Bible, held it in the air and said:

- "This is our Bible and there is no New Testament in it."

A man stood up and asked:

- "How do the Jewish people view a Jew who converts to Christianity?"

The speakers replied:

- "We would consider that they have left the faith."

As she spoke it was clear that the Jewish people love God and love their Messiah the promised Seed of Abraham and David, they just haven't recognised him yet (and even this is in God's eternal plan) but it reminded me of the following fabulous and prophetic words of Zechariah:

- The LORD will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves (Zech. 12:9-14).

When this momentous and beautiful moment takes place, the entire world will change as we know it today and a glorious New Age will begin, one of righteousness, justice, joy and peace because the King of peace will be the Head and Shepherd of all nations.

**Israel killed the author of life:** Peters refers to Jesus as being, "The Author of life" (v15) some in Christian circles use this statement to support the theory that Jesus is God, but this is reading into the verse far more than Peter intended. Jesus from the foundation of the world has always been in the mind of God and the central focus of God's entire plan for mankind's salvation i.e., those before the Cross looked by faith to the coming Messiah, Christ and Saviour of the world while those after the cross look back to it. Jesus is the author of life in the sense that he is the central focus of eternal salvation without him there is no eternal life. God who is the creator and source of all things planned from the foundation the world that salvation would be through His Son, without Christ's obedience God's plan would have failed, thus in this sense Jesus is the author of eternal life since it is through faith in his name that sinners are saved to everlasting life and eternal glory. Added to this the verse goes onto to state that it was, "God who raised Jesus up from the dead" clearly showing that God is the source of life, but for mankind to receive this life they have to go through His Son so in that sense both the Father and the Son can be spoken of as being the author of life. For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Peter said, "Heaven must receive Christ until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago" (Acts 3:21). This is stunningly amazing when one considers, that David being a king and prophet said, "The LORD said to my Lord (the Christ); "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool" (Psalm 110:1) and the author of Hebrews tells us, "From the time Christ sat down at the right hand of his Father he is waiting until God makes his enemies a footstool for his feet" (Heb. 10:13). This means that we are living in the age in which God is at work making the enemies of Christ his footstool, meaning making them ready to submit to him.

**NOTE:** this does not necessarily mean that they are saved to eternal life, but it does mean they will declare him to be Lord and King. Paul writes to the Philippians stating that, "God has highly exalted His Son and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). The Lord will return as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is All in All and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## **ACTS 3:22-26**

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### **God will Raise Up a Prophet like Moses and the Seed of Abraham.**

- **Acts 3:22-26:** Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup>And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people. <sup>24</sup>And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup>You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' <sup>26</sup>God, having raised up his servant sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

The promised seed of Abraham is the Lord Jesus Christ he is the servant seed of Abraham in who all the families of the earth will be blessed and the servant prophet that Moses said in the following verse was to come like him.

- The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them 'ALL' that I command him and whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him (Deut. 18:15-19).

Jesus Christ is the prophet and servant God raised up like Moses. The prophet Moses delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt (called the house of slavery), Jesus Christ is delivering Jews and Gentiles from the bondage of the universal law of sin and death which states:

- The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

Travelling through the Old Testament we see that God through the prophets promised He would raise up His Servant and as our journey through the Old Testament ends and we begin travelling through the New Testament we are presented with an Angel of the LORD telling a woman who found favour with God named Mary that:

- The Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the power of the Most High will overshadow her and she will conceive in her womb and the child to be born shall be named Jesus and called the holy Son of God, and God the Most High will give to him the throne of his father David and his Kingdom will be eternal" (Luke 1:30-35)

And now Peter is telling the men of Israel that Jesus (the one they killed) (v15) is the seed of Abraham, the servant like Moses and the seed of David that God promised through Moses and the prophets that He would raise up (v22).

**Israel's wickedness during Jesus generation:** here we see the great love and patience God has toward His people, Peter says, "God sent Jesus to turn Israel from their wickedness so that He could bless them" (v26). The wickedness of Israel at this time was great as the following list shows:

- Their religious rulers held the most honoured place of religious authority (Moses seat), but were blind guides and hypocrites not practicing what they told others to do. They were self-righteous and though appeared holy on the outside were full of greed and wickedness on the inside. They oppressed others and perverted justice for their own gain.
- They ignored the poor and those in need and thereby neglected the love of God. They were prideful, loved the best seats in the synagogues and hearing their followers exalting and esteeming them as men of importance. The Scribes and religious lawyers were loading people with burdens hard to bear that they themselves would not touch even with one of their fingers.
- They robbed people from the keys to God's knowledge and because they never entered into the LORD'S word themselves were hindering those who were seeking God. God's priests and religious authorities were not in the ministry to serve God, but for their own selfish ambition they were full of self-indulgence and lawlessness and put legalistic rules and laws above grace, compassion and mercy shutting the door to the Kingdom of God to those who desired to enter in.
- The religious rulers of Israel were leading the entire nation of Israel away from the LORD their God and His ways and when they did convert someone they made them worse than they were before and thereby

were turning the people of Israel to a path of spiritual blindness, legalistic rules and a wrong way of living before God to such an extent that Jesus called them Serpents and Vipers (Scorpions) (Matthew 23) (Luke 11:39-54).

This is how corrupt and wicked the LORD'S chosen people Israel who God treasured as His own child had become, yet not only did God not give up on them, He sent His most beloved Son to them that they might forsake their wickedness and turn again to the Lord their God and be blessed in all the eternal promises God had given them through the prophets.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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