

ACTS 3:12-26: PETER URGES ISRAELITES TO REPENT, Part II

Peter has directly confronted thousands of Israelites with the fact that in demanding the crucifixion of Jesus, they had heinously killed God's Messiah (the Christ), but that they did it ignorantly (3:12-17). Moreover, God has now glorified His servant Jesus in that He raised him from the dead. Peter's logic runs something like this: 1) Jesus is the Messiah; 2) Israelites in very large majority crucified him despite his innocence; 3) Messiah is now resurrected, alive, and ascended to God; 4) Israelites as individuals and as a majority must repent, i.e., change their minds about Jesus as their Messiah (v. 19).

Peter Applies His Message: 3:12-19, Part II

The majority of Peter's message as recorded by Luke concerns itself with application; that is, what would happen if and when Israelites (Jews) as a majority would change their minds about Jesus as the Messiah and accept the fact of their sinfulness in crucifying Him.

Note the flow of Peter's logic (vrs. 19-26): a potential chain reaction should the majority of Israel repent:

1. v. 19a,b Change your minds, turn from your viewpoint of Jesus to God's THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT.

Forgiveness of their sins rested on their change of mind about Jesus Christ (Just as ours).

What sins would be blotted out? ALL of them.

2. v. 19c "So that (not "when" as K.J.V.) the times of refreshing shall come from the presence (lit. "face") of the Lord."

- 1) "times of refreshing" = seasons (kairos) of Kingdom blessing spoken of by Old Testament prophets: see Isaiah 65:17-25; Joel 3:17-21 for illustrations.

- 2) source of this refreshing = the presence of the Lord (Jehovah)

3. v. 20 The return of Jesus the Messiah will come after national repentance.

4. V. 21 But the return of Jesus the Messiah cannot come until "times of restitution" are at hand.

Involved are:

- 1) "times of restitution" = times (chronos), sequence of restoring (apokastaseos) all things to their former state of dominion and health. Cmp. Acts 1:6 "Will you restore..."

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- 2) the regeneration of the cosmos at Christ's 2nd Coming: see Mt. 19:28 for the same idea.
- 3) the restoration of Israel's theocracy, the Millennial Kingdom.
- 4) Operation Footstool: subjection of the enemies of Jesus, the Messiah, cmp. Psa. 110:1-7 & Heb. 1:13.
5. vs. 21b-24 Moses and the O.T. Prophets support these truths.
6. vs. 25-26 Peter reaffirms the direct application of his message to his Jewish listeners.

Israelites by descent were/are the primary objects of prophetic utterances and the Abrahamic Covenant.

Summary

1. The sermon of Peter in Acts 3 is directed to unsaved Jews; 3:12 "Ye men of Israel"; 3:17 "Brethern"; 3:25 "sons of the prophets and the covenant."
2. Jesus is presented in titles that would link him in the Jewish mind with God's Kingly, Messianic Servant of Isaiah 40-53:
 - v. 13 God's Servant, Isa. 42:1; 52:12,13
 - v. 14 The Holy One, Isa. 49:7
 - v. 14 The Righteous (+R) One, Isa. 53:11
 - v. 15 The Prince of Life, Isa. 9:6
 - v. 22 The Prophet like Moses, Deut. 18:15
3. The blessings of the coming Messianic Millennial Kingdom must be preceded by Israel's change of mind about Jesus as the suffering Messiah; i.e., the Messiah who died for the sins of mankind.
4. Peter concludes by reminding these Jews that they are the primary objects of O.T. prophetic utterances.
5. TO THIS POINT IN ACTS, THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO THE "CHURCH" by The APOSTLES: WHY? ("church" in Acts 2:47 is found only in the Byzantium family of texts)