

**"Peter's Second Sermon"**

**Acts 3**

**Introduction:** In our study of Acts last week we looked at the beginning of Peter's sermon in Acts 3. In Acts 3:12-18 Peter confronted his audience with their guilt.

**Notice Acts 3:13-16**

Peter made it very clear that they were guilty of condemning their Messiah. He then began to extend the grace of God to them.

**Notice Acts 3:17-18**

He explained that what they did to Jesus was done through ignorance then in verse 18 Peter explained briefly that what Jesus suffered was foretold by the prophets. Let me explain what Peter is doing here. He is doing all he can to help his audience to see that EVERYTHING that happened to Jesus was all prophesied in the Old Testament.

- **His rejection was foretold.**

**Isaiah 53:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

- **His death was foretold.**

**Isaiah 53:5-9**

*<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

<sup>8</sup> *He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

- **His resurrection was foretold.**

**Psalm 16:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

**Notice Acts 3:17-18 again.**

The contrast here is between the Jews and God. The Jews were ignorant of the suffering which the Lord would go through, but God had it all as part of His plan. Now just because they were ignorant of the plan of God does not mean they were not accountable. They were accountable for their actions as we were able to see in the previous verses. They were guilty of killing the Messiah. But there was still grace enough for them if they would only repent.

## I. The Grace

**Notice Acts 3:19-20**

Here is the offer of grace. If they would repent, then they would receive the forgiveness of sins. There is something here that we need to see and understand so as to not get confused. The "times of refreshing" which Peter speaks of here is a reference to the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This will be a time when the earth will go back to the way it was before the flood, back to the way in which God originally intended.

**Isaiah 11:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

In the Kingdom there will be perfect justice, righteousness, longevity, and great prosperity. That is what Peter is referring to as the "times of refreshing." We will see much more of this when we study the Kingdom.

Now there are some who teach that what Peter is doing here is **REOFFERING** the Kingdom to the Jews. This teaching says that if Jews would have repented here that God would have sent Jesus back to set up the Kingdom. But is this accurate? Is this a reoffer to the nation? I do not believe that it is and to teach that it is a reoffer creates many problems. Let us notice some of the offers of the Kingdom.

**Matthew 3:1-2**

*In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,*

<sup>2</sup> *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**Matthew 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**Matthew 10:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:*

<sup>6</sup> *But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

<sup>7</sup> *And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**Mark 1:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*

<sup>15</sup> *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

**Luke 10:1-3, 8-9**

*After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.*

<sup>2</sup> Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

<sup>3</sup> Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

<sup>8</sup> And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

<sup>9</sup> And heal the sick that are therein, and **say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.**

Now let us notice when the offer of the Kingdom was taken away from Israel.

#### **Matthew 12:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

<sup>23</sup> And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

<sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.**

When the religious leaders claimed that Jesus was doing His miracles by the power of Satan the offer of the Kingdom was then taken away. There are no more offers of the Kingdom after this. This then raises a question, "Why then could Peter's words not be seen as a reoffer of the Kingdom?"

Let us consider several reasons.

1. The statement. "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" is never mentioned in the book of Acts. If the Kingdom were being offered, you would think this popular statement would be in this book. In Luke's Gospel he uses the word "Kingdom" 43 times. In the book of Acts he uses the word 8 times.
2. In Matthew 24 Jesus had told of the devastating events that would happen before His return. The birth pangs/tribulation. So if this were a reoffer and the Jews accepted it Jesus Words would never come to pass concerning the tribulation.
3. To place the Kingdom offer in the book of Acts is to mix Kingdom Truth with Church Age Truth. Here in the book of Acts God is doing something completely different than what He was doing in the early part of the Gospels. Jesus even told His disciples they would be engaged in a different program.

**Acts 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

<sup>6</sup> When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

<sup>7</sup> And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Back to the point, this is not a reoffer of the Kingdom. We will see more of this when we do the Kingdom study. So, what is Peter then saying here in Acts 3?

**Notice Acts 3:19-20 again.**

Peter is stating what Israel must do in order for Jesus to come back and set up the Kingdom. Keep in mind after Peter's previous words these people were most likely convinced, they had lost all chances for the Kingdom. But Peter made it clear that the Kingdom was set aside but not eliminated. This is very similar to what Jesus said.

**Matthew 23:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

<sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

<sup>39</sup> For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Jesus made it clear that the Kingdom will not be introduced until Israel repents and accepts Him as their Messiah. This is what Peter is saying to his audience. God had not abandoned His Kingdom program for Israel, it was just temporarily set aside.

**Notice Acts 3:21**

There are those who point to this verse to attempt to teach there cannot possibly be a pre-tribulation rapture. They also use Psalm 110.

**Psalm 110:1**

*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Why did Peter not mention the rapture to these people? If Jesus must be in heaven, seated at the Father's right hand until He post-tribulation return to set up the Kingdom, then how can He come back for the church? There are 4 answers to these questions.

1. Peter did not mention the rapture because that Truth was not yet revealed. The rapture Truth would come through Paul, and he will not get saved until Acts 9. It was not yet known here in Acts 3.
2. Jesus will not necessarily leave heaven for the rapture because He will meet us in the air. Jesus does not return to the earth for the church.
3. There are exceptions to Jesus being seated at the right hand of the Father. When Stephen was martyred, the Bible tells us Jesus was **STANDING** to receive Stephen into glory. Can He not also **STAND** to receive His bride into glory?
4. If the rapture does not take place until the end of the tribulation as Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom, then that means all the saints who enter the Kingdom will have glorified bodies. There would be no saints left with natural bodies, so who then will populate the Kingdom?

**Conclusion:**

I share all of this with you because there are teachers in the world who will not rightly divide the Truth and it will then cause much confusion and division in the body of Jesus Christ.

**2 Timothy 2:15-18**

*<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*<sup>16</sup> But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

*<sup>17</sup> And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;*

*<sup>18</sup> Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*