

ANOTHER CHANCE

Acts 3:1 – 4:4

One day, as Peter and John made their way to the Temple to participate in the daily prayers, they were presented extraordinary opportunity to bear witness to Jesus (Acts 1:8).

Acts 3:1-10 A Healing Draws a Crowd

In Acts 2:43, Luke tells us many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles in those days. On one particular day, God poured out His grace on a man born lame. He was well known in the Temple precinct for sitting at the Beautiful Gate seeking alms. Miraculously, atrophied muscles and frozen joints were renewed. His unbounded joy drew a crowd giving Peter another opportunity to bear witness to Jesus (Acts 1:8).

Acts 3:11-26 Peter's Sermon

Acts 3:11-16 "You Killed the Author of Life"

Without flinching, Peter drives home their guilt. Despite overwhelming evidence, they denied Jesus was the Messiah and had Him murdered. But God raised Jesus from the dead. This healing of the lame man in Jesus' name is yet more evidence Jesus is the Messiah, very much alive and active through His followers. In the second segment of his sermon, Peter takes a more conciliatory tone appealing to his audience to believe on the Lord Jesus.

Acts 3:17-26 "Repent and Turn Back"

Here, Peter points out their murdering Jesus actually fulfilled the predictions of the prophets. Through King David (Psalm 22), Isaiah (Isaiah 53), and Zechariah (Zechariah 12:10), God revealed the suffering of Messiah. Thus, their murder of Jesus, is further evidence Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah!

Peter exhorts his listeners, and by extension, all Israel, to repent, to change their minds about Jesus of Nazareth. If they repent, the Messianic Kingdom will come. *Restoring* in verse 21 hearkens back to Acts 1:6 and the Apostles' question to Jesus, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Speaking in the tradition of the prophets, Peter exhorts Israel to repent in hopes God will relent and not carry out *the day of the Lord* upon that generation.

In verses 22 through 26, Peter demonstrates Jesus came as a prophet to bring in the Messianic Kingdom. In context, "these days" refers to the Messianic Kingdom. Peter affirms the O.T. prophets spoke often of the Messianic Kingdom.

The unconditional Abrahamic Covenant is the basis of the Messianic Kingdom. The three provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant are the Land, the Seed and the Blessing. When Jesus restores the Kingdom to Israel, all three provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled.

At His first coming, Jesus came in the line of the prophets all of whom had spoken about the Messianic Kingdom. Jesus came as the greatest prophet, THE PROPHET, in the likeness of Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-22). If Israel had accepted and listened to Jesus at His first coming, they would have turned from their wickedness and received the blessing of the Messianic Kingdom. Instead, they rejected and murdered Him and brought upon themselves *the day of the Lord*; the Holocaust of 70AD.

Peter calls upon his listeners to repent, to change their minds about Jesus of Nazareth, to be forgiven their sins. In addition, in the tradition of the prophets, Peter exhorts Israel to repent in hopes God will relent and not carry out *the day of the Lord*, but restore to them the Messianic Kingdom.

The incident caught the attention of the priests and Temple guards – always worried about a riot. It also caught the attention of members of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of Israel, particularly the Sadducees. As we find out later in Acts, the Sadducees did not believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead. They were irked Peter was preaching the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Acts 4:1-4 *Peter and John Arrested*

Again, the Holy Spirit worked through Peter's sermon and about five thousand men not to mention women and children repented and trusted in Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah and Savior.

Applications

God continues to radically transform lives like Peter.

We see God's amazing grace offering Israel yet another opportunity to believe and receive the Messianic Kingdom.

No one rejects Jesus' claim to be Messiah for lack of evidence. Even the resurrected Jesus provides evidence in the form of healings in His name. Ironically, even the actions of His enemies fulfill the prophetic word and serve as another line of evidence proving Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah.

Trusting in Christ is the only way to be reconciled to God and to gain entry in the Messianic Kingdom.

God is the covenant-making, covenant-keeping God. Peter referenced God's unconditional covenant with King David in his Pentecost Sermon. Here, in his Temple Sermon, Peter references God's unconditional covenant with Abraham. Both the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants will be fulfilled when the Messianic Kingdom comes.

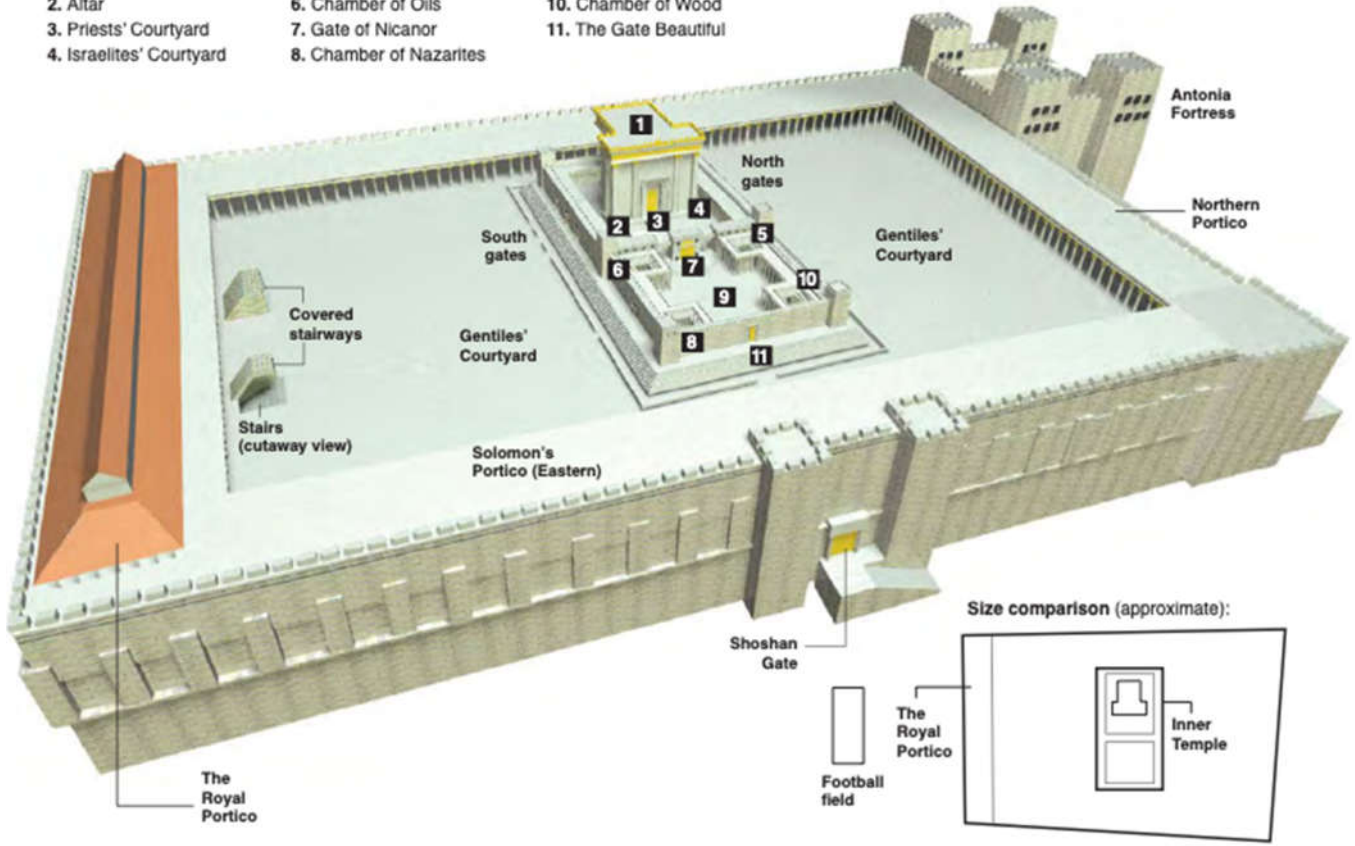
Peter clearly affirms Jesus was The Prophet predicted by Moses in Deuteronomy 18. In His first coming, Jesus served in the office of Prophet; presently, Jesus serves in the office of Great High Priest; and in the Messianic Kingdom, He will serve in the office of King.

This is the first opposition experienced by the Church. How will Peter and John handle themselves? How will the Church come through this opposition by the leaders of Israel?

Herod's Temple on the Temple Mount

King Herod the Great began renovations on the Temple in approximately 20–19 BC. The entire temple expansion, including the massive Temple Mount, was not complete until approximately AD 62–64, only to be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

- 1. Holy Place
- 2. Altar
- 3. Priests' Courtyard
- 4. Israelites' Courtyard
- 5. Chamber of Lepers
- 6. Chamber of Oils
- 7. Gate of Nicanor
- 8. Chamber of Nazarites
- 9. Womens' Courtyard
- 10. Chamber of Wood
- 11. The Gate Beautiful



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