

“TIMES OF REFRESHING”

Acts 3:17-26

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INTRODUCTION

Peter Had told the amazed crowd of Jewish worshipers at the temple that all credit for the healing of the lame man must be given to Jesus Christ—yes the same man whom these very people had condemned and killed just a few weeks prior. Moreover, if they wish to have health and life spiritually, the only answer for them is also faith in the name of Jesus.

After Peter’s earlier sermon on the day of Pentecost the crowd had asked Peter what they should do; he had told them plainly that they needed to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (2:37-38). Although no one here asks what to do, Peter again tells them to repent and return. They must admit that their ideas, attitudes, and behavior toward Jesus Christ were wrong and must turn to the Lord. If they do, “times of refreshing” will come upon them from the presence of the Lord (19). **Yes indeed, Jesus Christ Himself will return to His people and will bring upon them “restoration of all things.”**

However, in the meantime the Lord will bring preliminary “times of refreshing” through the outpouring and presence of the Holy Spirit. God has thus sent Jesus Christ to them now to bless them and turn them from their wicked ways—eventually Christ would spread this blessing upon “all the families of the earth”. But for now, Christ will bless them “first”

God also has you in view here—the Gospel blessings have spread to all the ends of the earth. Therefore, your response should be the same: “REPENT AND BE CONVERTED”.

I. EXPLANATION OF THE PAST

A. Man’s Action (17) (Their ignorant behavior in rejecting Jesus)

B. God’s purpose (18)

1. Announced by the Prophets

a. The source of their statements

(1) God speaks (18a, 21b)

(2) God raises up (22)

b. The time of their predictions

(1) Beforehand (18)

(2) From ancient time (21)

c. The character of the Prophets (21)—Holy

- d. The succession of Prophets
 - (1) Moses (22)
 - (2) Prophets like Moses (22)
 - (3) Samuel and successors (24)

2. Fulfilled by Christ

- a. His authority (“Raised up”, “sent”—26; here the resurrection primarily in view.)
- b. His suffering (18, 26—“suffer”, “Servant”)
- c. His Session in Heaven (21, 26)
- d. His prophetic ministry (22)
 - (1) Prophetic nature
 - (2) Similarity to Moses
 - (3) Need to obey His words
 - (4) Disastrous consequences of disobedience (23)

II. PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESENT

A. Privileges (25-26)

- 1. Sons of the Prophets
 - a. Knowledge of their predictions
 - b. Time of their fulfillment (cf. “these days” v. 24)
- 2. Sons of the Covenant (25)
 - a. First made with Abraham and the fathers
 - b. The present seed
 - (1) The Seed=Jesus
 - (2) Seed=spiritual descendants
- 3. Priority of Opportunity
 - a. “Jew first” principle (Rom. 1:16—salvation; Mt. 15:24—Jesus sent to Israel; Acts 13:46)
 - b. Others also (25—“all the families of the earth”)
- 4. Rich Blessings (26)
 - a. Wiping out of sins (19)
 - b. Conversion (26—“turning **every one of you** from your wicked way”)—God’s job
 - c. Refreshing rest (19) The Greek word means “breathe after”; compare walking across a desert and sitting down in the shade of oasis and feeling a cool breeze. Compare Mt. 11:28.
 - d. Appointment of Messiah (20)

B. Responsibility

- 1. Repentance (19)
- 2. Conversion—Is there a real turning in our lives? Cf. *a child who defies a parent and says “sorry” but the expression of the face and the attitude belie the “repentance.”*
- 3. Obedience (22)

III. PROSPECTS OF THE FUTURE

A. Return of the Messiah (20, 21)

B. Seasons of Refreshing (19)

1. Nature of (spiritual and physical in millennium)

2. Source of—presence of the Lord

C. Times of Restitution (21)

1. Time of the restoration

a. Present—John the Baptist (Mal. 4:6; Mt. 17:11-12)

b. Future (Acts 1:6)

2. Scope of the Restoration: Israel and “all things”

IV. FINAL WARNING (23)

CONCLUSION

God sometimes “winks at” times of ignorance.

He offers phenomenal mercy—even for those who have rejected and killed His Son!

Therefore:

- “Repent; be converted
- “This is My Son; hear Him”
- Failure to hear brings a catastrophe.

Oh, how we need times of refreshing! Are you willing to pay the price?