



ACTS CHAPTERS 3 AND 4

CONVERT / EPISTREFO

Hello and welcome to the continuation of our study in the book of Acts. We are currently moving into the last half of our study in Acts chapter 3 and will then be continuing on in Chapter 4 here this evening, but before we get started, I want to just recap a little bit of what we've already spoken about in the first part of Acts chapter Three.

One of the most crucial things to remember about Acts chapter 3 is the word "Convert". And we spoke about this word during our last study, and If you remember correctly we showed very clearly that the word "Convert" was not in the original manuscripts... but was put their by the King James Translators themselves.

The original Greek word used was *epistrefo*, and we know that Kefa, or Peter was a Hebrew, even though the book of Acts was written in Greek (*as far as we know*).. the Greek writers were essentially translating the Hebrew word "*Shav*", which means to "*turn back*".

We also need to understand that when the King James Version of the bible was being translated.. there was an effectual war going on with-in Christianity called "*The Reformation*". The Roman Catholic Church for over a thousand years had claimed itself to be a "*Gentile's Only*" institution.

If you were to be a Christian in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, this meant you had to convert from Judaism, to Christianity which meant that you were no longer to have anything to do with those nasty Jews that hung Jesus on the cross. And the Roman Catholic Church went through great through great strides to make sure that their congregations understood, that Christianity was separate and apart from Judaism of any kind.

The Roman Catholic Church robbed our Messiah of the anniversary of his death, burial, and resurrection, they changed all of the Jewish feast days, they moved Yahovah's 7th day Sabbath to the first day of the week instead of God's ordained 7th day of the week, they changed the 10 commandments, and they brought in their own flavor of Christianity and sold it along with their demonic "Indulgences" that said that if you put enough money in the coffer... you could buy not only yourself out of hell, but your family as well, and not only were your past sins forgiven by the Roman Catholic Church... but your future sins too!

Sound familiar “*Once Saved Always Saved*”?

And you see this is why we are commanded to study to show ourselves approved my friends. We are not told to “study the King James Version” of scripture.. we are told to study the word that was given to us, not what some men have translated for us.

2Ti 2:15 Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

What is the “word of Truth”? It is in the scripture that was originally given to men, not a charter of mens translation of it. So we need to check, check, and re-check what we're reading and know and understand that we do not “Convert” but rather we “turn back” to the things of Yahovah's our Elohim. And just to make this perfectly clear to anyone who may be watching this video with out having the opportunity to see any of our past teachings.. let me remind you of what the “New Covenant” is and who it was made with, and what the “New Covenant” is all about.

Jer 31:30 "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah.

Jer 31:31 It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them," says Adonai.

Jer 31:32 "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days," says Adonai: "I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Once again the “New Covenant” was made with “THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL” and no one else! And it clearly states that Yahovah would write his Torah, his “Law” in their hearts... not nail them to some tree some where.

Heb 10:16 " 'This is the covenant which I will make with them after those days,' says Adonai: 'I will put my Torah on their hearts, and write it on their minds . . . ,' "

So lets just be clear here.. there is no “Converting”.. there is only turning back to the things of Yahovah. A Jew does not stop being Jewish when he or she accepts the Messiah. A Jew continues to follow Torah, and continues to keep God's Sabbaths, and to obey his laws, commandments, precepts and his appointments.

The only difference is that the penalty for sin has been paid for by the Messiah... he is our Passover lamb who said with his own breath and his own words and with his own tong:

ESV

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Mat 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Even the Apostle Paul says very clearly and with out stutter:

Rom 8:5 People who are ruled by their desires think only of themselves. Everyone who is ruled by the Holy Spirit thinks about spiritual things.

Rom 8:6 If our minds are ruled by our desires, we will die. But if our minds are ruled by the Spirit, we will have life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Our desires fight against God, because they do not and cannot obey God's laws.

Rom 8:8 If we follow our desires, we cannot please God.

Rom 8:9 You are no longer ruled by your desires, but by God's Spirit, who lives in you. People who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them don't belong to him.

Rom 3:31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

So I just want to make this very clear once again before we move on.. we are not to “Convert” and be baptized.. we are to “repent” which means turn away from our sins.. and be baptized.

ACTS CHAPTER 4

Okay... so now lets read Acts chapter 3 verse 19 down to the end:

Act 3:19 "Therefore, repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be erased;

Act 3:20 so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord's presence; and he may send the Messiah appointed in advance for you, that is, Yeshua.

Act 3:21 He has to remain in heaven until the time comes for restoring everything, as God said long ago, when he spoke through the holy prophets.

Act 3:22 For Moshe himself said, 'Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You are to listen to everything he tells you.

Act 3:23 Everyone who fails to listen to that prophet will be removed from the people and destroyed.'

Act 3:24 Indeed, all the prophets announced these days, starting with Sh'mu'el and continuing through all who followed.

Act 3:25 "You are the sons of the prophets; and you are included in the covenant which God made with our fathers when he said to Avraham, 'By your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.'

Act 3:26 So it is to you first that God has sent his servant whom he has raised up, so that he might bless you by turning each one of you from your evil ways."

Now I want us to remember that Kefa (Peter) is speaking to a crowd of Jews that had come to worship at the temple and just saw him heal a crippled man, who was crippled from birth! He was not talking to Gentiles here. These were Jews who were going to the Temple to worship.

And what does Peter say to them?.. He reminds them of what Mosses had already told them in the Torah:

Deu 18:15 "Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to him,

Deu 18:16 just as when you were assembled at Horev and requested Adonai your God, 'Don't let me hear the voice of Adonai my God any more, or let me see this great fire ever again; if I do, I will die!'

Deu 18:17 On that occasion Adonai said to me, 'They are right in what they are saying.

Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him.

Deu 18:19 Whoever doesn't listen to my words, which he will speak in my name, will have to account for himself to me.

So once again we have Peter quoting directly from the Torah about Mosses and how he had prophesied that Yahshua HaMashiach would come, and Peter points to this prophesy as being fulfilled through Yahshua.

And once again I want to reiterate... that Yahshua did not come to replace the Father.. he came as his Fathers Agent. Many different denominational charters of Christianity today will teach and preach that Jesus replaced his Father, and that his Father gave him all authority in Heaven and on Earth.. and while this is true.. this does not by any means that God the Father gave up his power and authority and walked off the job to go retire someplace.

Yahovah our Father in Heaven gave his power and authority to his son through his agency... to rule and reign. The son is the agent, of the father, and has been bestowed with his authority and power by the Father who still is the Father!

Who did our Messiah teach us to pray to when he taught us to pray?:

Mat 6:7 "And when you pray, don't babble on and on like the pagans, who think God will hear them better if they talk a lot.

Mat 6:8 Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Mat 6:9 You, therefore, pray like this: 'Our Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy.

Mat 6:10 May your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Mat 6:11 Give us the food we need today.

Mat 6:12 Forgive us what we have done wrong, as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.

Mat 6:13 And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One. [The latter half of verse 13 is not found in the oldest manuscripts.] For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen.'

Yahshua never came to replace the Father.. he came to represent the Father, and the Father was in him and he in the Father. He was his Father in spirit, and yet a man in his flesh. Moses was both a representative of Yahovah and a mediator between Yahovah and his people and so too is Yahshua both a representative of Yahovah and a mediator between Yahovah the Father and his people.

CJB

Isa 43:11 I, yes I, am Adonai; besides me there is no deliverer.

ESV

Isa 43:11 I myself am the LORD, and there is no other Savior.

KJV

Isa 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.

CJB

Hos 13:4 Still, I am Adonai your God, from the land of Egypt; and you don't know any God but me or, other than me, any Savior.

ESV

Hos 13:4 But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior.

KJV

Hos 13:4 Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no savior beside me.

Does everyone see this?... Does everyone understand this? Does anyone need a decoder ring to understand this? Does anyone think they need four years of seminary school to understand this? Does anyone think that they need 4, 5, or 6 degree's in philosophy to understand this?

1Ti 2:5 For God is one; and there is but one Mediator between God and humanity, Yeshua the Messiah, himself human,

1Ti 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom on behalf of all, thus providing testimony to God's

purpose at just the right time.

So what Peter is trying to get across here in chapter three as he's speaking to this Jewish crowd is that from Moses and on to Samuel and through out all of the prophets.. they all came to proclaim the coming Messiah. Everything that those prophets were trying to teach the people, and everything that Yahovah had laid out before them would one day mean something to them.

And he tells this Jewish crowd in verse 25:

Act 3:25 "You are the sons of the prophets; and you are included in the covenant which God made with our fathers when he said to Avraham, 'By your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.'

You see Peter is telling them that they were the flesh and blood offspring of Abraham and the prophets.. and this is why the Messiah was sent to them first! What did Yahshua himself proclaim?

Mat 15:24 He said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Isra'el."

What did he say when he sent out the twelve in Matthew chapter 10?:

*Mat 10:5 These twelve Yeshua sent out with the following instructions: "Don't go into the territory of the Goyim, and don't enter any town in Shomron,
Mat 10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Isra'el.*

Why?.. Because he had to join the two sticks of Ezekiel back together again into one stick... one “House of Israel” so that the nations of the world could be once again grafted into them.

Romans chapter 11, Galatians 3:28 and 29, Jeremiah 31:31 through 33...

Mar 3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Mar 3:25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

The two kingdoms had to be made one, before the rest of the nations could be grafted into them. And these Jews understood that... and that my friends is why we see in Acts 4:4 that over five thousand men that day believed.. and that's not even counting the women and children that were with them. Thats five thousand families just that day that saw this crippled man walk and heard the gospel preached by Peter and John, who understood.

So many Jews did turn that very day and believe, however many did not. And let me say this right up front my friends... the Jewish “Talmud” in many respects is just as much an

abomination to Yahovah our Father as the Catholic Catechism. Today's modern Jewish "Talmud" says horrible and discussing things about their own Messiah, and I won't get into that here today other than to say this.. the ancient "Talmud" before the Assyrians over took the northern kingdom was not as bad as today's modern day "Talmud" so we really have to be careful about running back into the arms of the Jews and a lot of their Jewish traditions and their oral writings that we find in their "Talmud" because I can tell you right now it is an abomination in many respects. And this is why we see Yahshua our Messiah chastising them in the 23rd chapter of Matthew calling them a "brood of vipers", "white washed tombs", "blind guides", and "two fold children of hell".

They did the same thing that the Roman Catholic Church has done. They over wrote the laws, commandments, and precepts of Yahovah our Father and turned them into a pack of lies that did nothing other than to give themselves authority over Gods people. And that's what its all about my friends... its all about who has the authority, and who wields the power of God.

I tell you the truth my friends... no one has the power of Yahovah God unless he obeys his commandments.

He who says he knows him and does not keep his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him. (1st John 2:4)

Now with all of that being said... what must be acknowledged by today's modern day Christendom is that Yahovah our Father revolved all His salvation plans, all of his efforts, and even the persons involved, around the House of Israel.

The Word of God in stone was given to a Hebrew (Moses), and Yahshua.. the Word of God in the flesh was Himself a Hebrew. And both Mosses and Yahshua both gave the Word of God to the only chosen people he ever mentioned anywhere in the scriptures... the Hebrews... that are also known as.. "The House of Israel".

So the lesson to be learned here my friends is that we need not run to far into today's modern day version of Christianity, but by the same token... we must not run to far into ancient Judaism either. The truth lies in the middle of the road, found in scripture.

Okay lets move into Acts chapter 4

Act 4:1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducee's came upon them,

Act 4:2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Act 4:3 *And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.*

Act 4:4 *But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.*

Act 4:5 *On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem,*

Act 4:6 *with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.*

Act 4:7 *And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"*

Act 4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,*

Act 4:9 *if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,*

Act 4:10 *let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.*

Act 4:11 *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.*

Act 4:12 *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Act 4:13 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

Act 4:14 *But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.*

Act 4:15 *But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another,*

Act 4:16 *saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.*

Act 4:17 *But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."*

Act 4:18 *So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

Act 4:19 *But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,*

Act 4:20 *for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."*

Act 4:21 *And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.*

Act 4:22 *For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.*

Act 4:23 *When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.*

Act 4:24 *And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign*

*Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,
Act 4:25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,
"Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?
Act 4:26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against
the Lord and against his Anointed"—
Act 4:27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus,
whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of
Israel,
Act 4:28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.
Act 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to
speak your word with all boldness,
Act 4:30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed
through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was
shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God
with boldness.
Act 4:32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one
said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in
common.
Act 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of
the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.
Act 4:34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or
houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold
Act 4:35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.
Act 4:36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of
encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,
Act 4:37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles'
feet.*

Now I want us to understand that all of this has taken place within an hour or two of the healing of the crippled man... all of this fuss with the Temple high priests, and the Captain of the Temple Police all had to do with the healing of this one crippled man that Peter and John told to get up and walk.

And I want us to put ourselves in the place of where Peter and John were, and who it was that were taking them into custody.

These “High Priests”, and these Sadducees, and Pharisees... who were they?
We first need to understand that soon after the Maccabees had taken back the temple from Antiochus Epiphanes... back in 164BC which represents the festival of Hanukkah by the way... we find that the Maccabees had also taken over the Levitical Priesthood and the office of high priest from the descendants of Aaron.

The line of “High Priest” back then was the line of “Zadok” who was the rightful descendant of Aaron, but after the Maccabean revolt to take back the temple... the “Hasmon” family led by Judas Maccabee stepped in and took the place of “High Priest” and after that, the office of “High Priest” was nothing like what the Torah had prescribed it to be.

So now the office of high priest was no longer a descendant of Aaron, but instead it became more of a political seat than anything else, and you had many high priests to deal with. And the Saducees did not believe in the oral law of the Pharisees.. the Sadducees only believed in strict adherence to the written Torah.

The Pharisees on the other hand were all about the “Oral Law” and often times even enforced it above and beyond the Torah and what was written, and this is why Yahshua said that this people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt 15:8-9)

So we can see this very mixed bag of rag tag individuals many of them who by Gods Law really had no right to be holding the seat that they were in... now chastising Peter and John for healing this crippled man and for preaching the gospel of Yahshua which was a gospel of resurrection from the dead... something that the Saducees did not believe in.

So with all of that being said it's not hard to understand that Peter and John were a direct threat to these so called “High Priests” and these Saducees and Pharisees. If this man that they just crucified was indeed the Messiah, it could mean the end of their long held authority over the people, and they knew it.

So what we have here is a division not unlike what we have today.

Back then it was the Sadducees and the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin who hung the Messiah on the cross through the agency of the gentile Romans... against the true Torah believing people who believed that Yahshua was the Messiah.

And today we have the Roman Catholic Church and her so called Protestant daughter churches who celebrate their own man made laws, commandments, their own man made Sabbaths, festivals, rituals, and myths... against the true Torah believing people who believe that Yahshua is the Messiah.

And this war that we see today my friends... has only just begun.

Not much in over two thousand years has really changed... but it is going to ramp up as time goes by and as we move through these last days. And that's all I have to say about that... until next week when we'll move farther into Acts chapter 4.