

CHAPTER 2

A Refreshing Textual
Look at Acts 3:19-21

You have read Acts 3 before and this total Sermon from Simon Peter; however if you sit under a fundamentalists Bible Baptist preacher I doubt that you have heard all the words in textual format, especially on God's holding of Christ captive in heaven until the very end of this old earth and the ushering in of the new earth, that is at "the restoration of all things". Therefore just a fresh look at the words themselves should be refreshing for you, but beyond that is the potential for more, much much more!

In the first of this series on "Refreshing Evangelism" or "Times of Refreshing from the presence of the Lord" if you prefer, Blackwood's book on homiletics, *PREACHING FROM THE BIBLE*, was mentioned; and from that book as a source of authority along with Riley's *PREACHER AND HIS PREACHING*, Charles Spurgeon's *LECTURES TO MY STUDENTS*, we would note that there in general 3 types of sermons: (1) textual, which goes straight down through the text like in Acts 3:19-21 and in the order of the text; (2) expository, where a chapter or so of Bible verses are expounded like we may do later in this series on this whole sermon from Simon Peter in the early days of the kingdom of Christ immediately after the ascension of Christ to heaven; and (3) topical, where a certain doctrine of teaching **{doctrine and teaching are interchangeable words}** in the Bible is covered everywhere it is located in the Bible, or as many as the preacher can

A Refreshing Textual Look

find with the use of something like NAVE'S TOPICAL BIBLE or a good concordance.

2-1: A Refreshing Look at Acts 3:19-21 with some exciting previews of REFRESHINGS you will receive in the future newsletters.

1. Times of Refreshing must have the foundation of repentance, conversion, and the blotting out of sins on the part of God. (Acts 3:19)
 2. The completion of Times of Refreshing comes with the simultaneous Second Coming of Christ, the new Jerusalem lowered to Mount Zion, and the creation by God the new heavens and the new earth. (Acts 3:20a)
 3. God the Father sends Jesus Christ the second time, as He also sent Him the first time except the second time in power and glory. (Acts 3:20a)
 4. This same Jesus Christ was preached throughout the history of Israel by the Prophets, starting with Moses. (Acts 3:20b and 2:22-24)
 5. Even as heaven now receives on the dead in Christ until the creation of the new earth, Christ will be in heaven until "the restoration of all things". (Acts 3:21a).
- "...since the world began" (Acts 3:21b) marks the beginning of all things (Genesis 1:1); and "the restoration of all things", people and land, marks the end of all things with the re-creation of new heavens and a new earth. The Apostle John on the isle of Patmos had a special revelation of this great event of the restoration of all things.

(1). Restoration of the Land.

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth¹, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I John

1. This is another problem of preaching in the church today that promotes the turning away from truth from the pulpits: you hear about heaven, but seldom do you hear about the new earth which is going to be the eternal above of all real "called and chosen" Christians after the Second Coming.

A Refreshing Textual Look

saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God {see how everything is sent by the God in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the New Jerusalem}...(Revelation 21:1,2)

(2). Before that, in Revelation 20:11-15, John saw the restoration of the peoples of the earth.

6. This famous "restoration of all things" was spoken of and written in the Prophets from the beginnings of the Bible. (Acts 3:21b)

2-2: Recently a Bible search question, sincere or insincere and skeptical who knows, came on www.biblecombibleman.com which asked "is sound doctrine the same as sound teaching?"

1. Sound doctrine is sound teaching if it comes from the Bible, as in the Bible the words "doctrine" and "teachings" are interchangeable.

2. When sound doctrine does not flow out of the Bible from the teachings of the Bible as given by the prophets, apostles, and Jesus the problem is not with the Bible, it is with the attitude of the interpreter. The reader or hearer must be willing to do what is taught in order to properly understand it

3. That brings us naturally to consider the ASPI interpretation of the Bible. It is quoted, "no scripture is of any private interpretation, **{Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation, as you must first be born again and then have the help of the Spirit for understanding}** but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:20,21), but few get the impact that this demands not many interpretations of Scripture, but only one; and anytime there is a contradiction of interpretation, one of more parties has lost contact with the reality of the way the Bible was written. Primarily contact with the Holy Spirit, and a prerequisite to do the will of God and Christ in order to understand. In short, the majority of people and even Christians just can not get it into their heads, that the learning and understanding of the Bible is different from all other learning; because the Bible and the way it was written is different from all other books and wisdom,

A Refreshing Textual Look

2-3: *Another search question, what are the stages of turning away from truth?*

Hopefully this sincere seeker after Bible truth found the answer as directed to such e-book as DEN OF THIEVES, HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS, and most specifically in "Turning Away Finalizes the Falling Away". It behoves that speaker to look at and download the free PDF of the same title and save to his computer, of course that requires a Adobe Reader is on his computer, also free from www.adobe.com.

As you have read or will read in "Turning Away Finalizes the Falling Away", the introduction begins with the 5 stages of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:4,5, of which "Turning Away" is the fourth stage. God Himself takes care of the 5th stage as such of called only but not chose of God's people are "turned into fables". **{It happened a long time ago to most in the Roman Catholic church and even more in the Mormon Church--in fact since they started with their famous non-Christian Bibles, there is a question as to how they could have every fallen into truth; but only in the last 40-80 years has it been happening to members of Protestant churches.}**

Then TURNING AWAY continues with a statement of the gist of the message:

"GIST OF THIS MESSAGE: TURNING AWAY FROM TRUTH IS TURNING AWAY FROM THE REAL GOD THAT IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS, AND BEING TURNED INTO FABLES IS THE SELF-CREATION AND SELF CONSTRUCTION OF AN IMAGE OF GOD FOR SALVATION THAT IS A BROKEN CISTERN THAT CAN NOT HOLD WATER."

While most pastors today would have you think in order for increased membership, that falling away is absence from attendance at their church, a careful study of Bible, especially in Jeremiah and Hebrews, indicates that falling away is really a falling away from God, Christ, and the real Bible. One might say that everything that was lost in the Garden is once again lost as God's "called but not chosen" people lose the benefits of RESTORATION!

You must download and read the message. The other main points, which one might call the stages of turning away from truth, are: (1) the text of the message of Jeremiah 7:28 {don't forget that Jeremiah preached the

A Refreshing Textual Look

stages of turning away from truth every day at the temple gate, and this is recorded in the famous temple message of Jeremiah 7 and 23; also that the Bible is given to not only individuals for examples of what to do and what not to do, but also to cities and nations (Jude 7)); (2) what can help America and American churches today from Jeremiah deal with the stages of the falling away and of turning away from truth--the next time you read through the testing and tribulations of Revelation, and then pray at the close of the book "even so come quickly Lord Jesus Christ", remember that the twin events of the Falling Away and the final tribulation are (a) inevitable and (b) and must happen immediately before the Second Coming--

"3. The answer is simple: (1) a minority of Christians in the churches and in America will overcome the Falling Away and the turning away from truth and (2) the majority of church members and citizens that lose the battle with truth also lose their salvation so that the Second Coming also loses hope of eternal salvation with God for them.

NOTE: Is it any wonder that Paul says "work out your salvation {or work at and with your salvation, and from the inside out} with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). And Paul writes in Hebrews, the book of the falling away, "how shall we escape {escape what? the falling away and eternal death} if we neglect {in any way} so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3)

Remember we are still in the stages of turning away from the message you can download in PDF, "Turning Away Finalizes the Falling Away":

(3) When truth dies in a nation of God's people, and the answer is in Jeremiah 7, for God's people then and now; and if you have not read it, and meditate on it, and taken it very seriously as to what could also happen to you other people who think you are among God's chosen, THEN WAKE UP!

(4) When was truth born in Israel?

(5) True Prophecy is truth: False Prophecy is a lie and False Truth.

(6) How Judah was cut off from the truth? Here is your answer in that message of the stages of the turning away, 1...2...3, etc.

A Refreshing Textual Look

(7) Falling Away is to the Second Coming as Truth is to the Falling away. In other words the falling away must come before the Second Coming and a loss of truth before the great apostasy of the Falling Away¹.

(8) A nation of God's people, majority-wise, can turn away from truth. It happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and it can happen here.

(9) As the pillar of the truth crumbles and as the ground of the truth shakes.

(10) We depend on the truth about truth in the Bible.

(11) Strange so much about truth in the Bible and yet so little heard from the pulpits of the nation. One would think we are already deep into this fourth {turning away from truth} and final stage of the Falling away just before God turns our whole nation into fables.

2-4: What will be restored at the end? as Restoration of ALL things at the end time Second Coming of Christ is obvious in the text above of Acts, "...Jesus Christ...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things..." (Acts 3:29,21)

The very general answer is simple: **EVERYTHING LOST IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WHEN MAN FIRST SINNED WILL BE RESTORED!**

1. Yes brethren, it is shouting time as first of all close fellowship with this great God of the Universe, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ will be restored through Christ. It was lost as God cast our distant forefathers, Adam and Eve, out of the Garden; and it will be restored as God lowers the New Jerusalem down from heaven to ever live and dwell among a new world with a new earth of God's people.

2. For those that have already died in Christ and those caught up with them at the Second Coming and termination of the old earth by fire, the physical bod-

1. If you are real serious and spiritual Christian, that can also see and understand the Bible, with "eyes to see and ears to hear", you can see both happening now

A Refreshing Textual Look

ies of real Christians that have previously on the old earth been members of the one body, the assembly of Christ, will be restored. Lost in the Garden was sinlessness, lost was the absence of pain and sorrow and death; and all these lost benefits will be restored! Isn't that worth a shout. This is in short full salvation of the everlasting soul with the body. While today preachers use the words like lost and save, and speak of how there is the beginning of salvation in the new birth with continuation in Christlikeness through sanctification by the Spirit of God, then finally glorification at the END as the soul and body come back together, Peter in this famous second sermon after the Ascension of Christ described it all and more in the potently packed words of "the restoration of all things".

3. It is beyond our understanding as to which Christians of the assembly written in heaven will be better off, the ones that have already died before the Second Coming or the ones who must make it through the Falling Away and the final tribulation of destruction of the old earth, OR the Christians who have already died "in Christ". Obviously while the previously dead Christians can have their souls in heaven with God and Jesus before the Second Coming, then be transferred with their bodies to everlasting life on the new earth, this is contrasted with the live ones who have their bodies and souls instantly restored at the Second Coming. And again, it is shouting time as either one is great!

