



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 3-4
- II Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 4:29
- Hab. 2:1-4; Deut. 18:15-19

A PROFOUND CHALLENGE

- Perfect Soundness
- Sons of the Prophets
- Great Grace

Do you recognize an opportunity when it presents itself? Are you the first to volunteer? Are you the type who accepts a challenge easily? Do you jump in enthusiastically? Don't think impetuous when you hear "jump in"; think instead eager, fervent and passionate. Here am I, send me! You want me to represent you? I'm in awe; I'm humbled; I'm stunned, but I'll do it! It seems that the more obvious it becomes that we are called to something magnificent and undeniable, the more some will dig in their heels and deny. Others respond instantly, not with denial but acceptance, wonderment, appreciation and utter amazement. Which type are you? Do you run towards or away from challenges?

Here is a grand recommendation for when you encounter a profound truth. Don't dip your toe—rather, immerse your whole body, soul and spirit! Suck the marrow from the moment.

Extraordinary things happen when you do; your eyes open to possibilities not previously noticed—some of which match the magnitude of the profound truth staring you in the face with profound challenges that stand between you and the expression of that truth! Challenges have a way of pressing us through a cheese cloth, until there is hardly a bead of moisture left, like being squeezed from all sides until even taking a sip of oxygen seems elusive. But once you see it, you can't unsee it!

That is what it is like, at times, when your eyes open to the mysteries of God and the herald screaming in your brain becomes so loud, so clear, and so pervasive that it is impossible to imagine the plain message was a hidden secret just moments ago, but it was. You just might be a special agent assigned to the earth for such a time as this, to understand these kingdom mysteries. And, that is one of those things that fits the sentiment of this message; don't dip your toe—immerse your whole body, soul and spirit! Seize the opportunity! Suck the marrow out of it!

Do you want to know a secret? It's about your role in the earth at this moment in history. "In your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." You were most certainly taught that was the unique role of Abraham. And when you suddenly discover it is not unique, that you too are called as such, it represents one of those profound truths that comes with many profound challenges. But

that's okay, because great challenges are met head on with great grace, the divine power necessary to turn a challenge into a reality!

PROPHETIC SEED:

“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him **has given him this perfect soundness** in the presence of you all.” Acts 3:16 NKJV

“**You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And **in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**’ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.” Acts 3:25-26 NKJV

“And **with great power** the apostles gave **witness to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.” Acts 4:33 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has **given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in **Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not

imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:** we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**" II Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**" Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week in [To Be Continued...](#) we were in Jerusalem for the pilgrimage of the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost). Y'shua instructed His disciples to stay in Jerusalem because they were about to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, and they would be receiving a new download of power. Then, He ascended into Heaven.

The disciples returned to the place they were staying and unified in fervent prayer. Later on, with 120 people present, they chose a new twelfth apostle to replace Judas. This is obviously a different location than the upper room of a first-century house, which could not accommodate so many people. Peter gave a

speech in which he tells the story of Judas' betrayal, and then in accordance to the prophetic word in the Psalms about replacing the betrayer, they decided on Matthias.

Then the day of Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot) arrived and they are all gathered in the Temple area where the Holy Spirit descended on mankind, and there was supernatural evidence that this was the promise they were told to wait for. Peter stood up among thousands of people and referred to the prophecy from Joel to explain what they were all witnessing. He referred further to the Psalms of David to teach them all how this event specifically pointed to Y'shua of Nazareth, the one they crucified. He is the Messiah who has defeated death, and this is all part of His promise, and everything leading up to this was part of the Father's plan—even Y'shua's suffering and death.

The people were moved and many wanted to know how to take part. Peter made it simple! "Repent, be baptized in Y'shua's name, confess He is the Messiah, and that He alone can cancel the debt of your sins." That day, from the thousands gathered at the Temple, three thousand became believers in Y'shua and were baptized.

From there, the church continued to grow and they met to learn in the Synagogue and the Temple, as well as daily meetings from house-to-house. In those intimate settings they learned together, worshiped together, and shared life together, with the emphasis on

living a simple life and making sure no one was left behind and all needs were met! Truly they believed that Y'shua alone could cancel the debt of their sins and grant them eternal life.

This week the miracles begin, and so does the persecution. They had a short period of peace after Pentecost, but now the words of their savior ring true. "They hate Me and they will hate you; they will persecute Me and they will persecute you!" Peter and John will be arrested for preaching the resurrection. (See [The Great Conspiracy](#) for a full exposé on the conspiracy to cover-up the resurrection.) But not before Peter again stands up and explains to the masses what they are experiencing. Don't be stunned at the miracles you are seeing as if we are the ones performing them. This is the power of God at work and all you are witnessing is a fulfillment of prophecy.

And in the midst of miracles and ancient prophecies coming to life, the religious leaders do what we have all come to expect—they reject the truth, deny Christ. They arrest Peter and John, but not before five thousand people come to the faith. They are brought to trial in front of another corrupt court. Remember, a servant is not greater than his master; what they do to Me they will do to you. (See [Final Footsteps](#) for a full exposé on these corrupt courts).

Peter gives a stellar defense and glorifies the name of Y'shua, but these corrupt religious hypocrites order them to depart and to

no longer spread the name of Y'shua, nor teach His teachings. But, Peter and John make it perfectly clear that they have zero intention to comply with such a ruling; they will keep preaching the resurrection! The court can do nothing more to them and they are released. The rulers, elders, scribes, and high priest are, in a sense, handcuffed because of the masses of people praising God for what they have witnessed.

Of course, Peter and John continue in their ministry, testifying even to the persecution, which adds to the inspiration and unity of the Church. They prayed for even more boldness and more miracles and it was so. And the Holy Spirit poured out on many! They continued in unity and God's grace (power) was over everything they touched and the miracles abounded. Their entire focus was to preach the resurrection and they did so while making sure everyone was provided for.

Acts 3

A Lame Man is Healed (Acts 3:1-10)

1. Peter and John went to the temple to pray at the traditional prayer time (3:00 pm).
 - (a) They encounter a man who was born crippled over forty years ago (as per Acts 4:22), begging for money at the gate of the temple.

- (b) Peter looked intently at him and got his attention.
- (c) The man expected a donation, but Peter explained that he had no money to offer him, but he did have something better!
- (d) In that moment he told the man to rise and walk in the name of Y'shua the Messiah, of Nazareth.
- (e) Peter took the man's hand and helped him to his feet and his limbs were healed.
- (f) The man walked into the temple leaping for joy and praising God in the presence of all the regular temple-goers, who knew this man's condition, as he was a regular beggar who sat at the eastern entrance to the temple (the beautiful gate).
- (g) Those who saw him were filled with wonder!

Preaching in Solomon's Portico (Acts 3:11-18)

2. The man clutched on to Peter and John as the astonished people gathered at Solomon's Colonnade (a covered porch located on the east side of the outer court on the Temple Mount, just opposite the Beautiful Gate.)
3. Peter addresses the crowd with yet another teaching (we already saw two teachings in Acts 1-2).
 - (a) Don't be so amazed as if we performed this miracle in our own strength or because we are so godly.

- (b) Your God, who you are here to worship in this temple, has done this to bring attention to His Son Y'shua.
- (c) Remember Him? He's the one you all begged Pilate to murder, and to instead release Barabbas, even after Pilate determined Y'shua was innocent and intended to free Him.
- (d) You chose to ignore the very God you came here to worship today and, instead, had the Prince of life killed, but we have all seen with our own eyes that God raised Him from dead.
- (e) This is how it works:
 - 1) We call on Y'shua's name, the Son of God.
 - 2) We have faith that He is the Messiah and even that faith is not to be credited to us.
 - 3) Y'shua gives us the faith to believe.
 - 4) He is the One, through us, that has healed this man.
 - 5) And what you are seeing on the outside, the miracle of this man walking, who was crippled from birth, is only the outer appearance of a much bigger thing.
 - 6) He is now "perfectly whole." That means he is healed in his spirit and soul as well, not just his body.
- (f) Peter is then quite gracious as he acknowledges that both they and their leaders made the choice to abandon Y'shua and have Him murdered out of complete ignorance.

- (g) Plus, it was all a fulfillment of prophecy that the Messiah would suffer and die—it had to happen.

A Prophet Like Moses (Acts 3:19-26)

- 4. However, you cannot remain in your ignorance forever—you must repent!
 - (a) Come to our side and believe Y'shua is the One we've all been waiting for—the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of Israel.
 - (b) That is the only way your sins will ever be washed away as if they never happened.
 - (c) If you repent and believe, you will experience a time of renewal and relief because you will actually experience God's presence in your life.
 - (d) The Holy Spirit will invade your hearts and you will literally feel God on the inside!
 - (e) And even though this entire controversy over whether or not Y'shua is the Christ, is precisely what is now being settled by our preaching, and your witnessing of this man's miracle, and our testimony about how it happened, there is even more to it than that—if you could possibly imagine!
- 5. Let me bring you up to speed:
 - (a) You murdered the Christ, and He resurrected, and He walked among us for forty days.

- (b) Then He ascended to sit at the right hand of His Father in heaven, just as was prophesied.
- (c) He told us right before He was handed over by Judas that He must go away, so He could send us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, as if the resurrection was not enough.
- (d) There are countless eye witnesses who saw Him alive for those forty days after He was murdered and resurrected, and before He ascended into heaven.
- (e) Ten days after His ascension (which we also witnessed), we were all at the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost).
- (f) That is where the promise that He would send the Holy Spirit after He departed also came true.

6. But there is still more...

- (a) The God you are here to worship at this temple is going to send Y'shua to us a second time!
- (b) However, He must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things.
- (c) The next great lesson to explore, for all who believe, contains these mysteries:
 - 1) What exactly is the restoration of all things?
 - 2) Who is responsible for it?
 - 3) When will it occur?
 - 4) What will it look like?

- 5) How will we know?
7. The fact that this must occur can also be confirmed in our ancient prophecies, starting way back at Samuel, and was also something Y'shua taught us about when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration.
8. Let's first extract some ideas from what Moses said in Deuteronomy 18:15-19. Moses speaking...
- (a) *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me [Moses] from your brethren.*
 - (b) *Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*
 - (c) *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*
9. Here is what you must realize, and this will seem both exciting and daunting.
- (a) You are an extension of all those prophets who prophesied these things, and in a sense "started this work."
 - (b) Therefore, you are now responsible to finish the work Y'shua continued while He was here.
10. I say continued because He advanced the work:
- (a) Through His birth (by becoming a man).
 - (b) By His life (because of His sinless testimony).
 - (c) Because of His death (His willingness to shed His blood to pay for your sins).

- (d) By His resurrection (He has risen from the grave by the power of His Father to defeat death).
- (e) And finally by His departure (He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of His Father until the restoration is complete).

11. Yes, Y'shua finished His work, but the work is NOT finished.

That rest is your job with His help. Remember, He went away (ascended) so He could send the Holy Spirit as our helper. If He had not, the Spirit who will guide us into all truth would not come, He revealed.

- (a) In a sense, the work started with your personal redemption.
- (b) Then it is your job to redeem the whole world (through Him)!

Acts 4

The Persecution begins as Peter and John are Arrested (Acts 4:1-4)

12. Peter's graciousness about "those leaders," who were

responsible for killing Y'shua, clearly does not extend to every one of them, as many of them will persist in their obstinance.

- (a) As Peter testified, some of the priests, the temple security, and some Sadducees interrupted the meeting and were furious that these men would keep claiming Y'shua's name and His resurrection.
- (b) First off, the Sadducees don't believe in any resurrection.

- (c) Then, of course, these priests (some Pharisees) were likely involved with the coverup orchestrated by the religious leaders, when they bribed the guards from the tomb to lie about the resurrection, even though they witnessed it.
 - (d) The guards were paid to say Y'shua's body was stolen by His disciples and that the resurrection was a farce.
 - (e) Maybe some of these priests were not even directly involved in the bribery scheme. They don't even know the truth, but simply believe what they've been told.
13. Either way, they take Peter and John into custody and place them in jail until the next day, because it was already evening.
- (a) That time of the year, the sun sets shortly after 7:00pm in Jerusalem.
 - (b) Remember, Peter and John went up to the temple to pray at 3:00pm, so this entire episode has been going on for a number of hours, and it is likely just before sunset that they are taken into custody.
 - (c) The arrest did not stop many people, who saw the miracle and who listened to Peter's testimony, from believing everything they heard.
 - (d) That day about five thousand people came to the faith.

Peter and John Address the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-12)

14. The next day Peter and John stand before all the religious leaders, including Caiaphas, the high priest (and His family).

- (a) The question on the table is this: “What power did you access in order to perform this miracle?”
- (b) Peter gives a Spirit-inspired response... *“If we are being evaluated, not on the result of the miracle, a man crippled from birth has been made whole, but instead by how it happened, then I am happy to tell you it was all Y’shua, the very man you crucified and whom God raised from the dead!”*
- (c) A classic case of... *“If you might not like the answer, you should not ask the question!”*
- (d) And I will remind you of Psalm 118:22 as well. It was prophesied that you would reject Him!
- (e) And I will add something else that I am sure you don’t want to hear: *“There is no other way to redemption than through the position and authority of Y’shua of Nazareth!”*

The Name of Y’shua is Forbidden to be Spoken! (Acts 4:13-22)

15. Here we are again with the religious leaders backed up against the truth. Y’shua did it to them many times, and now His disciples are following in His footsteps.

- (a) All the religious leaders know Peter and John were fishermen; they are not trained Torah scholars, just students of Y'shua.
- (b) And yet, they are astounded and cannot deny the miracle.
- (c) The man was over forty years old and he has been crippled since his birth!
- (d) They are all very familiar with the identity of the man and his condition because he sat right outside the entrance to the temple every day—for years!

16. What will they do about it?

- (a) The unmistakable claim has the religious elite backed into a corner. *“Y'shua, the man you crucified and whom God raised from the dead is how this all happened, (and by the way, will continue to happen)...”*
- (b) They send everyone out of the room, except the decision-makers, to figure out what they can do with these two guys who have performed an UNDENIABLE miracle.
- (c) Even they admit amongst themselves that they cannot deny what they've witnessed!
- (d) They cannot punish Peter and John because there are too many witnesses who can testify to the truth.
- (e) Instead they decided, *“Let's threaten them and command them to stop testifying His Name and teaching about Y'shua.”*
- (f) And that's what they tell Peter and John!

17. However, Peter and John have no intention to comply!

- (a) This is their response to the order. *“You are free to believe that it is more important for us to obey you than it is to obey God. However, we have decided to obey God’s commands and not the commands of men, when those orders contradict God’s commands. Therefore, we will keep teaching and preaching about Y’shua and sharing all our testimonies!”*
- (b) All these religious hypocrites can do at that moment is issue a few more threats, but then they were forced to release Peter and John.
- (c) There are simply too many people waiting and watching outside, who clearly believe everything they saw and heard.

Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)

18. This ruling and empty threat only serve to further embolden the disciples who went back and told everyone what happened while they were in custody.

- (a) Victories such as this serve to unify Y’shua’s followers.
- (b) The people hearing the testimony begin singing the first few verses of David’s Psalm (Psalm 2:1-2; See all Psalm 2).
- (c) This is the meaning of the song: *“Yahweh is the creator of all things. Why does any human feel they can plot against the Creator and be successful, especially rulers who think they can come against God’s anointed One?”*

- (d) The people further acknowledge... *“For sure Y’shua is the anointed One, and even though all that happened to Him was by the hands of the Roman leaders and pagans, and Israel, it was all within the Father’s will and predetermined purpose!”*
- (e) Then the mass of fellow believers present affirm Peter and John in prayer; *“Father, you see their hearts and their desire to serve you, even in the midst of persecution. Anoint them to boldly continue bringing Your word and use them by performing many miracles through them, as they continue to preach the name of Y’shua.”*

19. Then the Holy Spirit invaded that meeting place and it quaked and they went forward into their ministries courageously.

Sharing in All Things (Acts 4:32-37)

20. Unity continued among all believers, and they were happy to share their possessions as if they were no longer attached to the ownership of “things!”

- (a) The apostles continued to share the truth of the resurrection with great power because an abundance of God’s grace was on them and in them!
- (b) Because of their newfound view on personal ownership of stuff, the people spontaneously, and of their own volition, sold their property and supported all those in need.

- (c) The money from the sales was brought to the apostles who distributed it as needed.
- (d) Finally, we are introduced to Barnabas (the Son of Encouragement), who also sold everything he had and brought his money to the apostles.

PERFECT SOUNDNESS

1. More than you think!

A. A Lame Man is Healed (Acts 3:1-10)

(1) Not what you expected...

(a) Looking for one thing but receiving something more!

1. “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple **at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour**. And a certain man **lame from his mother’s womb** was carried, whom they **laid daily at the gate** of the temple which is called **Beautiful**, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, **asked for alms**. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, **Peter said, “Look at us.”** So he gave them his attention, **expecting to receive something from them**. Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: **In the name of Jesus** Christ of Nazareth, **rise up** and

walk.” And he took him by the **right hand** and lifted him up, and **immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength**. So he, **leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple** with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. **Then they knew** that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and **they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**” Acts 3:1-10 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) More than you can imagine!

1. “Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above** all that we **ask or think**, according to the **power** that works in us,” Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

- a) This crippled man is asking for money!
- b) He DOES NOT receive that for which he asks.
- c) No, he gets exceptionally and extensively more!
- d) Don’t think exceptional + extensive...
- e) It’s not additional; it’s exponential!
- f) Think exceptional x extensive...
- g) Why? How? Because God’s power is at work!

(3) Acts 3:1-10 (comments)

(a) A Lame Man is Healed

1. Peter and John went to the temple to pray at the traditional prayer time (3:00 pm).
 - a) They encounter a man who was born crippled over forty years ago (as per Acts 4:22), begging for money at the gate of the temple.
 - b) Peter looked intently at him and got his attention.
 - c) The man expected a donation for the poor (alms), but Peter explained that he had no money to offer him, but he did have something greater!
 - d) Peter took the man's **right hand** and helped him to his feet and his limbs were healed.
 - e) Why His right hand?
 - f) The right hand is a place of honor. Y'shua sits at the right hand of the Father, a place of equal status within the Godhead (See: Hebrews 1:3, 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 7:55-56; Ephesians 1:19-20).
 - g) God extends His right hand to us and we are the extension of His right hand to the world.
 - h) The healed man walked into the temple leaping for joy and praising God in the presence of all the regular temple-goers, who knew this man's

condition, as he regularly sat at the eastern entrance to the temple (the beautiful gate).

- i) Those who saw him were filled with wonder!
- j) Could anyone still possibly deny what they had witnessed?

B. Preaching in Solomon's Portico (Acts 3:11-18)

(1) Why are you so amazed?

(a) We did not do this; the God you worship did this to bring your attention to Y'shua!

1. "Now as the lame man who was **healed held on to Peter and John**, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, **greatly amazed**. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, **why do you marvel at this?** Or why look so intently at us, **as though by our own power or godliness** we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus**, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But **you denied** the Holy One and the Just, and **asked for a murderer** to be granted to you, and **killed the Prince of life**, whom **God raised from the dead**, of which we are

witnesses. **And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong,** whom you see and know. Yes, the **faith which comes through Him** has given him this **perfect soundness** in the presence of you all. Yet now, brethren, I know that you **did it in ignorance**, as did also your rulers. But those things **which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets**, that the Christ would suffer, He **has thus fulfilled.**" Acts 3:11-18 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Not our power, but His power working in us...

1. "and what is the exceeding greatness **of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of **His mighty power** which He worked in Christ when He **raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV

a) We have access to the power that the Father used to raise Christ from the grave.

(b) Faith—Power—Godliness

1. "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained **like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and**

Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:1-4 NKJV

- a) The faith we have first comes from Christ.
- b) That give us access to His divine power.
- c) His power fuels our Godliness
- d) Godliness is wholistic integrity, a body, soul, and spirit in perfect alignment with God (perfect soundness).

(3) Acts 3:11-18 (comments)

(a) Preaching in Solomon's Portico

1. The healed man clutched on to Peter and John as the astonished people gathered at Solomon's Colonnade (a covered porch located on the east side of the outer court on the Temple Mount, just opposite the Beautiful Gate.)

2. Peter addresses the crowd with yet another teaching (we already saw two teachings in Acts 1-2).
- a) Don't be so amazed as if we performed this miracle in our own strength or because we are so godly.
 - b) Your God, who you are here to worship in this temple, has done this to bring attention to His Son Y'shua.
 - c) Remember Him? He's the one you all begged Pilate to murder, and to instead release Barabbas, even after Pilate determined Y'shua was innocent and intended to free Him.
 - d) You chose to ignore the very God you came here to worship today and, instead, had the Prince of life killed, but we have all seen with our own eyes that God raised Him from dead.
 - e) This is how it works:
 - 1) We call on Y'shua's name, the Son of God.
 - 2) We have faith that He is the Messiah and even that faith is not to be credited to us.
 - 3) Y'shua gives us the faith to believe.
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- 5) And what you are seeing on the outside, the miracle of this man walking, who was crippled from birth, is only the outer appearance of a much bigger thing.
- 6) He is now “perfectly whole.” That means he is healed in his spirit and soul as well, not just his body.
- 7) When a man walks in that perfect wholeness, it is called Godliness.
- f) Peter is then quite gracious as he acknowledges that both they and their leaders made the choice to abandon Y’shua and have Him murdered out of complete ignorance.
- g) Plus, it was all a fulfillment of prophecy that the Messiah would suffer and die—it had to happen.

SONS OF THE PROPHETS

2. A Higher Calling than You Thought!

A. A Prophet Like Moses (Acts 3:19-26)

(1) The Sons of the Prophets

(a) Repentance and beyond!

- 1. **“Repent therefore and be converted,** that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may

come from the presence of the Lord, and **that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, *'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.**'* Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are **sons of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, **'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'** To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.""

Acts 3:19-26 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Key things to notice!

1. Y'shua is coming back again—after the restoration.

2. A prophet will be raised up to lead the way before His return.
3. Bad things are coming to those who don't listen to that prophet.
 - a) **Acts says it like this:** "And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.**" Acts 3:23
 - b) **Deuteronomy says it like this:** And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, **which he speaks** in My name, **I will require it of him.**"
Deuteronomy 18:19
 - c) **Malachi says it like this:** "Lest I come and **strike the earth with a curse.**" Malachi 4:6
4. If you are willing, YOU will play a critical role when that time comes!
5. Why? Because by extension, the sons of the prophets must carry on the work of their fathers.

(3) Acts 3:19-26 (comments)

(a) A Prophet Like Moses

1. You cannot remain in your ignorance forever—you must repent!

- a) Come to our side and believe Y'shua is the One we've all been waiting for—the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of Israel.
- b) That is the only way your sins will ever be washed away as if they never happened.
- c) If you repent and believe, you will experience a time of renewal and relief because you will actually experience God's presence in your life.
- d) The Holy Spirit will invade your hearts and you will literally feel God on the inside!
- e) And even though this entire controversy over whether or not Y'shua is the Christ, is precisely what is now being settled by our preaching, and your witnessing of this man's miracle, and our testimony about how it happened, there is even more to it than that—if you could possibly imagine!

2. Let me bring you up to speed:

- a) You murdered the Christ, and He resurrected, and He walked among us for forty days.
- b) Then He ascended to sit at the right hand of His Father in heaven, just as was prophesied.

- c) He told us right before He was handed over by Judas that He must go away, so He could send us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, as if the resurrection was not enough.
 - d) There are countless eye witnesses who saw Him alive for those forty days, after He was murdered and resurrected, and before He ascended into heaven.
 - e) Ten days after His ascension (which we also witnessed), we were all at the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost).
 - f) That is where the promise that He would send the Holy Spirit, after He departed, also came true.
3. But there is still more...
- a) The God you are here to worship at this temple is going to send Y'shua to us a second time!
 - b) However, He must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things.
 - c) The next great lesson to explore, for all who believe, contains these mysteries:
 - 1) What exactly is the restoration of all things?
 - 2) Who is responsible for it?
 - 3) When will it occur?

4) What will it look like?

5) How will we know?

d) We will address these questions in Section C below... *"Who is the Prophet Like Moses?"*

4. The fact that this must occur can also be confirmed in our ancient prophecies, starting way back at Samuel, and was also something Y'shua taught us about when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration.

5. Let's first extract some ideas from what Moses said in Deuteronomy 18:15-19.

a) *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me [Moses] from your brethren.*

b) *Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*

c) *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*

1) Who is the prophet like Moses to whom Peter is referring in Acts 3:22-23?

2) We will address this question in Section C below... *"Who is the Prophet Like Moses?"*

6. Here is what you must also realize, and this will seem both exciting and daunting.

- a) You are an extension of all those prophets who prophesied these things, and in a sense “started this work.”
 - b) Therefore, you are now responsible to finish the work Y’shua continued while He was here.
7. I say continued because He advanced the work:
- a) Through His birth (by becoming a man).
 - b) By His life (because of His sinless testimony).
 - c) Because of His death (His willingness to shed His blood to pay for your sins).
 - d) By His resurrection (He has risen from the grave by the power of His Father to defeat death).
 - e) And finally by His departure (He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of His Father until the restoration is complete).
 - f) And because of His departure He sent the Holy Spirit through whom we can complete our part.
- 1) *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. **It is to your advantage that I go away;** for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; **but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**”* John 16:7
NKJV

2) *““I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.**”* John 16:12-13 NKJV

3) See [To Be Continued...](#) for details on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

8. Y'shua finished His work, but the work is NOT finished. That rest is your job with His help.
- a) It starts with your personal redemption.
 - b) Then it is your job to redeem the whole world (through Him)!
 - c) Yes, Y'shua finished His work, but the work is NOT finished. Now it your turn!

B. Principles at Work!

(1) Willingness to Receive the Whole Gift

(a) Your healing is not just physical!

- 1. “And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him **has given him this**

perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” Acts 3:16 NKJV

a) You are perfectly whole in spirit, soul and body!

(b) God’s power has provided everything you need...

1. His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” II Peter 1:3 NKJV

2. “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **knowing that the testing of your faith** produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**” James 1:2-4 NKJV

3. “Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV

a) Godliness is wholistic integrity: your whole spirit, soul, and body are in alignment with God’s heart!

b) It takes perseverance through testing, but the end game is that you lack nothing!

(2) Willingness to Accept the Mantle

(a) You have a pedigree and the job to go with it!

1. **"You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And **in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.""

Acts 3:25-26 NKJV

- a) You are the seed of Abraham. Your inheritance makes you the one through whom all the families of the earth will be blessed.
- (b) How did you become the seed of Abraham?

1. **"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** Galatians 3:29 NKJV

- a) It's simple, YOU ARE Abraham's seed through Christ.
- b) If you identify as a born-again Christian, YOU ARE Abraham's seed.
- (c) Stand by, you have a job to do and the time is near. What will you do? What will you say?

1. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, **"Here am I! Send me."**" Isaiah 6:8 NKJV

a) Do? Raise your hand; accept the opportunity; face the challenge, and go!

2. **"I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.** Then the Lord answered me and said: **"Write the vision And make it plain** on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. **Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come,** It will not tarry. "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith."** Habakkuk 2:1-4 NKJV

- a) Say? Be patient, the message is coming.
- b) Once you catch the vision, write it down so it is plain to see and easy to understand for the masses.
- c) Have faith—it will come and you will know what it means when it does!

(3) Willingness to Suffer

(a) The message WILL NOT be popular

1. **"And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody** until the next day, for it was already evening." Acts 4:3 NKJV

- a) There are many who would like things to stay the way they are.
 - b) They are thriving in the current religious climate and anything that will shake up the power and authority structure is unwelcome.
- (b) A servant is not greater than his Master!
 - 1. “Remember the word that I said to you [*John 13:12-17-Foot washing*], ‘**A servant is not greater than his master.**’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” John 15:20 NKJV
 - a) If the religious elite rejected and persecuted Y’shua, they will certainly do the same to you, if you are willing to advance His message.
- (4) Willingness to Be His Ambassadors
 - (a) Access God’s power and testify!
 - 1. “And **with great power** the apostles gave **witness to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.” Acts 4:33 NKJV
 - a) God’s power is at your disposal to use for His purposes!
 - b) He wants to use you by working through you to bring His message (not your own!).

(b) Ambassadors of Grace!

1. “Now **all things are of God**, who **has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though **God were pleading through us**: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, **be reconciled to God**. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**.” II Corinthians 5:18-21 NKJV

- a) First God reconciled us to Himself through Christ.
- b) Then He commissioned us, as His ambassadors, in order to reconcile others, as He works through us.
- c) To be used as such, ambassadors must be true and authentic representatives (copies) of the One they represent. They can’t have their own agendas!
- d) Accept the assignment/challenge, and you will not only be able to access God’s grace but you will...

(c) Impart God’s Grace...

1. “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV
 - a) Take God’s grace that is in you and transfer it to others, so they too can experience God’s grace.
 - 1) “**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven** them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”” John 20:23 NKJV
 - 2) “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone **turns him back**, let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**” James 5:19-20 NKJV

C. Who is the Prophet Like Moses? (A deep dive!)

- (1) What did Peter intend to impart to those listening?
 - (a) Let’s review Peter’s words again...
 1. “**For Moses truly said** to the fathers, ‘The Lord your God will **raise up for you a Prophet like me** from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.**’” Acts 3:22-23 NKJV

- a) However, right before Peter spoke about Moses, **he referred to Christ** and told them to repent...
 - b) And that has certainly contributed to the historic confusion about to whom Peter is referring when he cites the words of Moses from Deuteronomy 18:15-19. *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me [Moses]..."*
 - c) Is Y'shua the Prophet like Moses?
 - d) There seems to be almost universal agreement, throughout Christianity, that the prophet like Moses being prophesied about in Deuteronomy is Y'shua Himself.
 - e) There are, however, glaring errors with that belief, when you look deeper, below the surface.
- (b) You should recognize that Peter insinuates **TWO** different time periods into the ministry of Christ in the preceding three verses (Acts 3:19-21), in order to understand that he is indeed **NOT** saying Y'shua is the Prophet like Moses.
1. "Repent therefore and be converted, **that your sins may be blotted out**, so that **times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**, ***and that He may send Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you

before, whom heaven must receive **until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:19-21 NKJV

a) Peter speaks of **a time of refreshing** ***and** **a time of the restoration of all things**.

- 1) **...a time of refreshing:** repent, become a Christian, your sins are forgiven, come into relationship with the Lord. (This is everyone’s born-again experience.)
- 2) **...a time of the restoration of all things:** something different than the born-again experience (time of refreshing); something else God has been saying through His prophets.

2. What else has God been saying?

a) *“and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,”* (Acts 3:20) obviously refers to Him coming again—apart from His birth, death, burial, and resurrection. And because He departed (ascended) and sent the Holy Spirit—He must come again!

- 1) “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to**

prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:2-3 NKJV

- b) Then, Peter reveals something critical about where Christ has gone and what must happen before He returns!
- c) We can receive Christ for our refreshing and the remission of our sins any time; Y’shua need not come back for that.
- d) He is coming again for something else. (Note: see [To Be Continued...](#) for more information on what Y’shua is coming back to do!)

3. **However, most vital at this moment is this:** What must happen before He can return, and where is Y’shua until that time?

- a) The restoration of all things must happen first, and Y’shua must remain in heaven until the restoration is complete.
- b) We will explore what “restoration of all things” means as we progress in this study.
- c) What we do already know is that it has something to do with “the prophet like Moses.

- d) So that means knowing who that prophet is, and listening to him **MUST BE VITAL!**

(2) Let's go to the source...

- (a) Notice three key elements within the Deuteronomy text!
What will the prophet like Moses be like?

1. **Moses Speaking:** "The LORD your God will raise up for you **a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, **according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb** in the day of the assembly, saying, '**Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.**' "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. **I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.** And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, **I will require it of him.**"

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

- a) He will be like Moses in Horeb, when God gave the Law.
- b) The prophet will speak what the Lord commands.
- c) All those who don't listen will pay a consequence.

(b) Who will be like Moses in Horeb, delivering the Law, with consequences pending?

1. **“Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**”** Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

- a) The Who is the prophet like Moses? Elijah!
- b) The timing? Before the Y’shua comes back again (before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD). This is consistent with Peter’s words...
“that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,” (Acts 3:20)
- c) His message? Remember the Laws of Moses in Horeb and to restore hearts of families!
- d) The consequence? If the people don’t listen there will be a curse!

(3) **Connect the Dots...**

(a) Listen to Elijah, the prophet like Moses or...

1. **“...I will require it of him.”** Deuteronomy 18:19

2. "...every soul **shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.**" Acts 3:23 NKJV
3. "**Lest I come and *strike the earth with a curse.**"
Malachi 4:6
 - a) And the prophet that links these three verses is Elijah, "*Behold I send you Elijah,*" not Y'shua!
 - b) *Food for thought: The earth is already under a curse, so it will not be a new curse as much as it is that the curse cannot be lifted.
 - c) The curse happened at creation (see Genesis 2:16-17; 3:17-24) and still exists to this day—until...?
 - d) You guessed it...the Restoration of all Things—until which time Y'shua remains in heaven (Acts 3:21)—which certifies that He is NOT the prophet like Moses who restores all things!!!

D. The Restoration of all things

- (1) Y'shua will not return for a second time until the restoration of all things...
 - (a) What things should happen to indicate such?
 1. "And he will **turn the hearts** of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their

fathers, ***Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**"" Malachi 4:6 NKJV

2. "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool** [*from Psalms 110:1-2*]." Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV

(b) *Again, notice the curse of creation that still remains...

1. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For *the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Romans 8:18-22 NKJV

- a) We had a time of refreshing and now Y'shua is in heaven sitting at the right hand of the Father until something happens.

- b) What is He waiting for?
- c) His enemies to be made His footstool.
- d) The revealing of the sons of God. (For a full exposé on the revealing of sons see: [Who are Legitimate Sons?](#))
- e) The restoration of all things!
- f) And this restoration is something God spoke about through His prophets, and...
- g) The Lord will raise up a prophet like Moses to restore all things.
- h) And you now know that is Elijah—NOT Y'shua!

(2) Connecting Moses and Elijah and Elijah to John the Baptist

(a) Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration

1. “Now after six days Jesus took **Peter, James, and John** his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. **And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them**, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for **Moses, and one for Elijah.**” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright

cloud overshadowed them; **and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”**”

Matthew 17:1-5 NKJV

2. “Now **as they came down from the mountain**, Jesus commanded them, saying, **“Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”**”

Matthew 17:9 NKJV

3. “And His disciples asked Him, saying, **“Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”** Jesus answered and said to them, **“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”
Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.” Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV

- a) Peter, James and John join Y’shua on the mountain and He shows them what His glorified body will look like.
- b) Suddenly Moses and Elijah appear (how the disciples recognized them is a wonder!).

- c) The same voice appears that announced Y'shua's first coming at His baptism!
- d) This prophetic picture connects this event to what Y'shua will look like at His second coming!
- e) The voice from heaven and seeing Moses and Elijah together, prompts this question when they come down from the mountain: **"Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"**
- f) Y'shua tells them Elijah comes first **to restore all things** (precisely what Peter later teaches in Acts 3 as he refers to Deuteronomy 18).
- g) Is this making sense now?
- h) Peter learned this from Y'shua in Matthew 17, before the crucifixion and before the ascension!
- i) That is why He could teach it to the people in Acts.
- j) But, he already knew Elijah must **come first** before the great and dreadful day of the Lord (the Second Coming), because that was clearly prophesied Malachi. *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."* Malachi 4:5

- k) And now Peter has learned that John the Baptist was the shadow of Elijah, serving as the prophet who **came first** before the Lord's First Coming!
 - l) Elijah will come again to restore all things—but don't tell anyone until after the resurrection!
 - m) Note: Acts 3 is when Peter teaches what he learned about Elijah, and II Peter is where he tells of his mountaintop experience (both occasions were after the resurrection as instructed)...*"For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such **a voice came** to Him from the Excellent Glory: **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."* II Peter 1:17-18 NKJV
- (b) John the Baptist and Elijah at Y'shua's Baptism...
1. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" **For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'** ... "{16}
- When He had been baptized, Jesus came up

immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**”

Matthew 3:1-3, 16-17 NKJV

- a) John the Baptist was serving as a shadow of the prophet who had to come before the Lord to prepare the way for His first coming!
- b) John is referred to as the voice of one crying, in the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord: *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”* Isaiah 40:3 NKJV (See Isaiah 40:1-8)!
- c) And John was also prophesied to come in the spirit of Elijah! (by an angel speaking to his father as we will see next!)
- d) Let’s connect the dots...

(3) Prophecy about John the Baptist

- (a) An angel prophesies about (John to be) to Zacharias (his father to be), and then Zacharias prophesies about John...**Carefully notice what John is called to do/be!**

1. "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth **will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.**" Luke 1:13 NKJV
2. "**And he will turn** many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."" Luke 1:16-17 NKJV
3. **Zacharias' Prophecy: ""And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;** For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins," Luke 1:76-77 NKJV
 - a) John will go before Y'shua in the spirit and power of Elijah.
 - b) John will "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" (The restoration ministry of Elijah in Malachi 4.)
 - c) The Child will be a prophet of the Most High.
- (b) LATER ON... when John is question about his relationship to Elijah...

1. **"Now this is the testimony of John**, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, **"What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."** **"Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."** Then they said to him, **"Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,'"** ' as the prophet Isaiah said." Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, **"Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"** John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."" John 1:19-27 NKJV
 - a) He says he is not Elijah or the Prophet, but why?
 - b) He confirms that he is "The voice of one crying, in the wilderness..., but why?"

- c) Because John is NOT **the Elijah** of Malachi 4, **the prophet** who prepares the way before Christ's Second Coming.
 - d) John is *"the spirit and power of Elijah"* who prepares the way for Christ's First Coming.
- (4) Elijah is the **messenger** who prepares the way for the **Messenger's** (Second Coming)!
- (a) One messenger prepares the way, the other Messenger comes with a refiners fire (the Second Coming).
1. *"Behold, I send My **messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.** And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, **Even the Messenger of the covenant**, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. **"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness."***
 Malachi 3:1-3 NKJV
- a) When Y'shua returns, He will not be doing any restoring. By that time it is too late!

- b) Whatever & whoever is not restored will be separated as fire purifies silver and gold, and as soap removes stains!

GREAT GRACE

3. God's Power Rises Above the Challenge

A. Persecution begins: Peter and John are Arrested (Acts 4:1-4)

(1) The persecution begins...

(a) Suffering is Inevitable

1. "Now as they spoke to the people, the **priests**, the **captain of the temple**, and the **Sadducees** came upon them, **being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection** from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. **However, many of those who heard the word believed;** and the number of the men came to be **about five thousand.**" Acts 4:1-4 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) The way to the kingdom is through the trials...

1. "...“We **must** through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”” Acts 14:22 NKJV

a) Just like John prepared the way in the wilderness!

- (b) Creation is still in a state of corruption, so there will be challenges...
 - 1. "...In the world **you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'" John 16:33 NKJV
 - a) And remember we already have the victory.
- (c) Various challenges are a forgone conclusion so...
 - 1. "My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into **various trials**," James 1:2 NKJV
 - a) You might as well enjoy them!
- (3) Acts 4:1-4 (comments)
 - (a) The Persecution begins as Peter and John are Arrested
 - 1. Peter's graciousness about "those leaders," who were responsible for killing Y'shua, clearly does not extend to every one of them, as many of them will persist in their obstinance.
 - a) As Peter testified, some of the priests, the temple security, and some Sadducees interrupted the meeting and were furious that these men would keep claiming Y'shua's name and His resurrection.
 - b) First off, the Sadducees don't believe in any resurrection.

- c) Then, of course, these priests (some Pharisees) were likely involved with the coverup orchestrated by the religious leaders, when they bribed the guards from the tomb to lie about the resurrection, even though they witnessed it.
 - d) The guards were paid to say Y'shua's body was stolen by His disciples and that the resurrection was a farce.
 - e) Maybe some of these priests were not even directly involved in the bribery scheme. They don't even know the truth, but simply believe what they've been told.
2. Either way, they take Peter and John into custody and place them in jail until the next day, because it was already evening.
- a) That time of the year in Jerusalem the sun sets shortly after 7:00pm.
 - b) Remember, Peter and John went up to the temple to pray at 3:00pm, so this entire episode has been going on for a number of hours, and it is likely just before sunset that they are taken into custody.

- c) The arrest did not stop the people, who saw the miracle and who listened to Peter's testimony, from believing everything they heard.
- d) Five thousand people came to the faith that day.

B. Peter and John Address the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-12)

(1) Same Old Corrupt Courts

- (a) "By what power or by what name have you done this?"
 - 1. "And it came to pass, on the next day, that their **rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"** Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: **If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, 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 stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the**

chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”” Acts 4:5-12 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Power and Authority

1. “And they said to Him, “**By what authority are You doing these things?** And who gave You this authority to do these things?”” Mark 11:28 NKJV
 - a) Peter is questioned just as Y’shua was questioned by those carrying the same religious spirit!
 - b) Y’shua ignored them!
 - c) Peter tells them it’s all about Y’shua!

(b) Rejection: The Chief Cornerstone

1. “Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘**The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing,** And it is marvelous in our eyes’?
“Therefore I say to you, **the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.**” Matthew 21:42-43 NKJV

- a) Y'shua quoted the same Psalm (118:22) in *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants* after they rejected and killed the son!
 - b) It was all meant to be; it was all the Lord's doing!
 - c) The kingdom will be unattainable to the religious elite, but will dwell in those who will be faithful with the calling.
- (c) One way to eternal life!
1. "Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon **Peter** answered Him, "Lord, to **whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.** Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."" John 6:67-69 NKJV
 - a) Again Peter leans on an previous encounter with Y'shua—there is none other!

(3) Acts 4:5-12 (comments)

- (a) Peter and John Address the Sanhedrin
- 1. The next day Peter and John stand before all the religious leaders, including Caiaphas, the high priest.
- a) The question on the table is this: "What power did you access in order to perform this miracle?"

- b) Peter gives a Spirit-inspired response... *“If we are being evaluated, not on the result of the miracle, a man crippled from birth has been made whole, but instead by how it happened, then I am happy to tell you it was all Y’shua, the very man you crucified and whom God raised from the dead!”*
- c) A classic case of... *“If you might not like the answer, you should not ask the question!”*
- d) And I will remind you of Psalm 118:22 as well. It was prophesied that you would reject Him!
- e) And I will add something else you don’t want to hear: *“There is no other way to redemption than through the position and authority of Y’shua of Nazareth!”*

C. The Name of Y’shua is Forbidden to be Spoken! (Acts 4:13-22)

(1) When man’s rules conflict with God’s laws...

(a) It is evident to all; we cannot deny it! But we will anyway!

1. “Now when they **saw the boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were **uneducated and untrained** men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And **seeing the man who**

had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to **go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves**, saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that **a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all** who dwell in Jerusalem, and **we cannot deny it**. But so that it spreads no further among the people, **let us severely threaten them**, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.” So they called them and commanded them **not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus**. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “**Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**” So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.” Acts 4:13-22 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) A notable miracle occurred, but they prefer evil over good!

1. **“Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; That say, “Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it.” Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!”** Isaiah 5:18-21 NKJV

- a) A man was healed; there is no denying it.
- b) But, instead of celebrating the miracle, the religious leaders threaten Peter and John to no longer testify of Y’shua, the one who created the miracle.
- c) The bondage of such evil is as strong as the rope used to pull an oxcart.
- d) And worse yet, they participate in covering up God’s goodness, while claiming they are following His counsel.

- e) The punishment for those who act like good is evil and evil is good will be severe.
 - f) And to top off the evil deed, these types see themselves as the do-gooders!
- (b) Threats: Doctrines and Commands of Men and Hard Hearts
1. ““These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, **But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ ”” Matthew 15:8-9 NKJV
 - a) The ruling is this—do not share the truth about Y’shua any longer.
 - b) They literally feel their rules are as binding as God’s laws.
 - c) That is because their hearts are dark.
 - d) John and Peter say this— *“We don’t care if you believe your rules take precedent over God’s instructions. They don’t to us, so we will follow God and not you, and we don’t care if you like it!”*
- (c) Bad Rulings and Governing authorities
1. **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from**

God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **For he is God's minister to you for good.** But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for **he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**" Romans 13:1-4 NKJV

- a) So, we see that Peter and John clearly resist the authority of the rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest.
- b) How can they do that and still be within God's will?
- c) According to Romans, aren't all authorities appointed by God?
- d) Won't Peter and John bring judgment on themselves?
- e) The secret lies in this: *"He is God's minister to you for good."* So, if the authorities are out of alignment with God, you have ZERO obligation to

comply, because they are no longer sitting in the seat of authority as minister of good.

- f) Clearly these rulers are not against evil, but against good, the testimony of Christ and His healing power, and therefore can be disregarded without any reprisal from the Lord!

(3) Acts 4:13-22 (comments)

(a) The Name of Y'shua is Forbidden to be Spoken!

1. Here we are again with the religious leaders backed up against the truth. Y'shua did it to them many times, and now His disciples are following in His footsteps.
 - a) All the religious leaders know Peter and John were fishermen; they are not trained Torah scholars, just students of Y'shua.
 - b) And yet, they are astounded and cannot deny the miracle.
 - c) The man was over forty years old and he has been crippled since his birth!
 - d) They are all very familiar with the identity of the man and his condition because he sat right outside the entrance to the temple every day—for years!
2. What will they do about it?

- a) The unmistakable claim has the religious elite backed into a corner... *“Y’shua, the man you crucified and whom God raised from the dead is how this all happened, (and by the way, will continue to happen)...”* How will they respond?
 - b) They send everyone out of the room, except the decision-makers, to figure out what they can do with these two guys who have performed an UNDENIABLE miracle.
 - c) Even they admit, amongst themselves, that they cannot deny what they’ve witnessed!
 - d) They cannot punish Peter and John because there are too many witnesses who can testify to the truth.
 - e) Instead they decided, *“Let’s threaten them and command them to stop testifying and teaching about Y’shua.”*
 - f) And that’s what they tell Peter and John!
3. However, Peter and John have no intention to comply!
- a) This is their response to the order. *“You are free to believe that it is more important for us to obey you than it is to obey God. However, we have decided*

to obey God's commands and not the commands of men, when they contradict God's commands. Therefore, we will keep teaching and preaching about Y'shua and sharing all our testimonies!"

- b) All these religious hypocrites can do at that moment is issue a few more threats, but then they were forced to release Peter and John.
- c) There are simply too many people waiting and watching outside, who clearly believe everything they saw and heard.

D. Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)

(1) Testimony: Stand Your Ground

(a) The Unity Grows Stronger

1. "And being let go, they went to their own companions and **reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.** So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God **with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God,** who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against

His Christ.' **"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."** And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."** Acts 4:23-31 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) One Accord: that they may be one just as We are one!

1. **"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they**

may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:20-23 NKJV

- a) Unity of the church was apparent from the start (see Acts 1-2).
 - b) The persecution and Peter and John’s resistance against evil brought further unity to early Christians.
 - c) The oneness of God’s people is the perfect witness that Y’shua was sent by Yahweh!
- (b) God’s Determined Purpose: Sovereignty!
- 1. “But Jesus said to him [Peter], “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? **How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”**”
Matthew 26:52-54 NKJV
 - a) Yes, Y’shua stood before Herod and Pilate.
 - b) Yes, He was crucified on a Roman cross.
 - c) But everything that happened was predetermined and permitted by Yahweh.

- d) Even when He was arrested in the garden, He rebuked Peter for resisting His arrest.
- e) Y'shua could have stopped it, but it was the will of His Father to allow it, and Y'shua had already chosen His Father's will!

(c) Speak with Boldness: The Holy Spirit

1. "So [Joseph's] **advice was good in the eyes** of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, "**Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?**" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you." Genesis 41:37-39 NKJV
 - a) The disciples spoke with boldness as they were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) Joseph was only able to rise to power because he was inspired by the Spirit!

(3) Acts 4:23-31 (comments)

(a) Prayer for Boldness

1. This ruling and empty threat only serve to further embolden the disciples who went back and told everyone what happened while they were in custody.

- a) Victories such as this serve to unify Y'shua's followers.
 - b) The people hearing the testimony begin singing the first few verses of David's Psalm (2:1-2).
 - c) This is the meaning of the song: *"Yahweh is the creator of all things. Why does any human feel they can plot against the Creator and be successful, especially rulers who think they can come against God's anointed One?"*
 - d) The people further acknowledge... *"For sure Y'shua is the anointed One, and even though all that happened to Him was by the hands of the Roman leaders and pagans, and Israel, it was all within the Father's will and predetermined purpose!"*
 - e) Then the mass of fellow believers affirm Peter and John in prayer; *"Father, you see their hearts and their desire to serve you, even in the midst of persecution. Anoint them to boldly continue bringing Your word and use them by performing many miracles through them, as they continue to preach the name of Y'shua."*
2. The Holy Spirit invaded the meeting place and they went forward into their ministries courageously.

E. Sharing in All Things (Acts 4:32-37)

(1) Sufficient in all things!

(a) Spiritual and Physical Provision

1. “Now the multitude of those who believed **were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.** And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. **And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked;** for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and **laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.** And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” Acts 4:32-37 NKJV

(2) Principles at Work!

- (a) Physical Provision: Generosity—all they possessed was donated for the common good!

1. “By this we know love, **because He laid down His life for us.** And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But **whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”** I

John 3:16-17 NKJV

- a) Y’shua gave His **life** to those in need; and we are ALL in need!
 - b) As such, how could we not give our **stuff** to those in need?
- (b) Spiritual Provision: Great Power/Great Grace
1. “For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”
Ephesians 2:8 NKJV
 2. “Therefore, **having been justified by faith,** we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
 - a) Grace is God’s supernatural Power.
 - b) God’s grace saved you.
 - c) And you still have access to that grace to empower you to live out a Godly life.

(c) Stewardship: Everyone's needs were met!

1. "And my **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

NKJV

a) God is the supplier, and we are the distributors.

b) Live your life with an open hand! Open hands freely receive and freely give!

c) If you start believing you are the suppliers, it will be a short time before you live life with tight fists!

(3) Acts 4:32-37 (comments)

(a) Sharing in All Things

1. Unity continued among all believers, and they were happy to share their possessions as if they were no longer attached to the ownership of "things!"

a) The apostles continued to share the truth of the resurrection with great power because an abundance of God's grace was on them and in them!

b) Because of their newfound view on personal ownership of stuff, they spontaneously, and of their own volition, sold their property and supported all those in need.

- c) The money from the sales was brought to the apostles who distributed it as needed.
- d) Finally, we are introduced to Barnabas (the Son of Encouragement), who also sold everything he had and brought his money to the apostles.

Summary: PERFECT SOUNDNESS

1. More than you think!

A. A Lam Man is Healed (Acts 3:1-10)

- (1) Not what you expected...
 - (a) Looking for one thing but receiving something more!
- (2) Principles at Work!
 - (a) More than you can imagine!
 - 1. This crippled man is asking for money!
 - 2. He DOES NOT receive that for which he asks.
 - 3. No, he gets exceptionally and extensively more!
 - 4. Don't think exceptional + extensive...
 - 5. It's not additional; it's exponential!
 - 6. Think exceptional x extensive...
 - 7. Why? How? Because God's power is at work!
- (3) Acts 3:1-10 (comments)
 - (a) A Lam Man is Healed

1. Peter and John went to the temple to pray at the traditional prayer time (3:00 pm).
 - a) They encounter a man who was born crippled over forty years ago (as per Acts 4:22), begging for money at the gate of the temple.
 - b) Peter looked intently at him and got his attention.
 - c) The man expected a donation for the poor (alms), but Peter explained that he had no money to offer him, but he did have something greater!
 - d) Peter took the man's **right hand** and helped him to his feet and his limbs were healed.
 - e) Why His right hand?
 - f) The right hand is a place of honor. Y'shua sits at the right hand of the Father, a place of equal status within the Godhead (See: Hebrews 1:3, 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 7:55-56; Ephesians 1:19-20).
 - g) God extends His right hand to us and we are the extension of His right hand to the world.
 - h) The healed man walked into the temple leaping for joy and praising God in the presence of all the regular temple-goers, who knew this man's condition, as he regularly sat at the eastern entrance to the temple (the beautiful gate).

- i) Those who saw him were filled with wonder!
- j) Could anyone still possibly deny what they had witnessed?

B. Preaching in Solomon's Portico (Acts 3:11-18)

(1) Why are you so amazed?

- (a) We did not do this; the God you worship did this to bring your attention to Y'shua!

(2) Principles at Work!

- (a) Not our power, but His power working in us...

- 1. We have access to the power that the Father used to raise Christ from the grave.

- (b) Faith—Power—Godliness

- 1. The faith we have first comes from Christ.
- 2. That give us access to His divine power.
- 3. His power fuels our Godliness
- 4. Godliness is wholistic integrity, a body, soul, and spirit in perfect alignment with God (perfect soundness).

(3) Acts 3:11-18 (comments)

- (a) Preaching in Solomon's Portico

- 1. The healed man clutched on to Peter and John as the astonished people gathered at Solomon's Colonnade (a covered porch located on the east side of the outer

court on the Temple Mount, just opposite the Beautiful Gate.)

2. Peter addresses the crowd with yet another teaching (we already saw two teachings in Acts 1-2).
 - a) Don't be so amazed as if we performed this miracle in our own strength or because we are so godly.
 - b) Your God, who you are here to worship in this temple, has done this to bring attention to His Son Y'shua.
 - c) Remember Him? He's the one you all begged Pilate to murder, and to instead release Barabbas, even after Pilate determined Y'shua was innocent and intended to free Him.
 - d) You chose to ignore the very God you came here to worship today and, instead, had the Prince of life killed, but we have all seen with our own eyes that God raised Him from dead.
 - e) This is how it works:
 - 1) We call on Y'shua's name, the Son of God.
 - 2) We have faith that He is the Messiah and even that faith is not to be credited to us.
 - 3) Y'shua gives us the faith to believe.

- 4) He is the One, through us, that has healed this man.
- 5) And what you are seeing on the outside, the miracle of this man walking, who was crippled from birth, is only the outer appearance of a much bigger thing.
- 6) He is now “perfectly whole.” That means he is healed in his spirit and soul as well, not just his body.
- 7) When a man walks in that perfect wholeness, it is called Godliness.
- f) Peter is then quite gracious as he acknowledges that both they and their leaders made the choice to abandon Y’shua and have Him murdered out of complete ignorance.
- g) Plus, it was all a fulfillment of prophecy that the Messiah would suffer and die—it had to happen.

Summary: SONS OF THE PROPHETS

2. A Higher Calling than You Thought!

A. A Prophet Like Moses (Acts 3:19-26)

- (1) The Sons of the Prophets
 - (a) Repentance and beyond!

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Key things to notice!

1. Y'shua is coming back again—after the restoration.
2. A prophet will be raised up to lead the way before His return.
3. Bad things are coming to those who don't listen to that prophet.
4. If you are willing, YOU will play a critical role when that time comes!
5. Why? Because by extension, the sons of the prophets must carry on the work of their fathers.

(3) Acts 3:19-26 (comments)

(a) A Prophet Like Moses

1. You cannot remain in your ignorance forever—you must repent!
 - a) Come to our side and believe Y'shua is the One we've all been waiting for—the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of Israel.
 - b) That is the only way your sins will ever be washed away as if they never happened.
 - c) If you repent and believe, you will experience a time of renewal and relief because you will actually experience God's presence in your life.

- d) The Holy Spirit will invade your hearts and you will literally feel God on the inside!
- e) And even though this entire controversy over whether or not Y'shua is the Christ, is precisely what is now being settled by our preaching, and your witnessing of this man's miracle, and our testimony about how it happened, there is even more to it than that—if you could possibly imagine!

2. Let me bring you up to speed:

- a) You murdered the Christ, and He resurrected, and He walked among us for forty days.
- b) Then He ascended to sit at the right hand of His Father in heaven, just as was prophesied.
- c) He told us right before He was handed over by Judas that He must go away, so He could send us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, as if the resurrection was not enough.
- d) There are countless eye witnesses who saw Him alive for those forty days, after He was murdered and resurrected, and before He ascended into heaven.

- e) Ten days after His ascension (which we also witnessed), we were all at the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost).
 - f) That is where the promise that He would send the Holy Spirit, after He departed, also came true.
3. But there is still more...
- a) The God you are here to worship at this temple is going to send Y'shua to us a second time!
 - b) However, He must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things.
 - c) The next great lesson to explore, for all who believe, contains these mysteries:
 - 1) What exactly is the restoration of all things?
 - 2) Who is responsible for it?
 - 3) When will it occur?
 - 4) What will it look like?
 - 5) How will we know?
 - d) **We will address these questions in Section C below... *"Who is the Prophet Like Moses?"***
4. The fact that this must occur can also be confirmed in our ancient prophecies, starting way back at Samuel, and was also something Y'shua taught us about when He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration.

5. Let's first extract some ideas from what Moses said in Deuteronomy 18:15-19.

- a) *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me [Moses] from your brethren.*
 - b) *Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*
 - c) *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*
- 1) Who is the prophet like Moses to whom Peter is referring in Acts 3:22-23?

2) We will address this question in Section C below... *"Who is the Prophet Like Moses?"*

6. Here is what you must also realize, and this will seem both exciting and daunting.

- a) You are an extension of all those prophets who prophesied these things, and in a sense "started this work."
- b) Therefore, you are now responsible to finish the work Y'shua continued while He was here.

7. I say continued because He advanced the work:

- a) Through His birth (by becoming a man).
- b) By His life (because of His sinless testimony).

- c) Because of His death (His willingness to shed His blood to pay for your sins).
 - d) By His resurrection (He has risen from the grave by the power of His Father to defeat death).
 - e) And finally by His departure (He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of His Father until the restoration is complete).
 - f) And because of His departure He sent the Holy Spirit through whom we can complete our part.
 - 1) See [To Be Continued...](#) for details on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
8. Y'shua finished His work, but the work is NOT finished. That rest is your job with His help.
- a) It starts with your personal redemption.
 - b) Then it is your job to redeem the whole world (through Him)!
 - c) Yes, Y'shua finished His work, but the work is NOT finished. Now it your turn!

B. Principles at Work!

- (1) Willingness to Receive the Whole Gift
 - (a) Your healing is not just physical!
 - 1. You are perfectly whole in spirit, soul and body!
 - (b) God's power has provided everything you need...

1. Godliness is wholistic integrity: your whole spirit, soul, and body are in alignment with God's heart!
2. It takes perseverance through testing, but the end game is that you lack nothing!

(2) Willingness to Accept the Mantle

(a) You have a pedigree and the job to go with it!

1. You are the seed of Abraham. Your inheritance makes you the one through whom all the families of the earth will be blessed.

(b) How did you become the seed of Abraham?

1. It's simple, YOU ARE Abraham's seed through Christ.
2. If you identify as a born-again Christian, YOU ARE Abraham's seed.

(c) Stand by, you have a job to do and the time is near.

What will you do? What will you say?

1. Do? Raise your hand; accept the opportunity; face the challenge, and go!
2. Say? Be patient, the message is coming.
3. Once you catch the vision, write it down so it is plain to see and easy to understand for the masses.
4. Have faith—it will come and you will know what it means when it does!

(3) Willingness to Suffer

- (a) The message WILL NOT be popular
 - 1. There are many who would like things to stay the way they are.
 - 2. They are thriving in the current religious climate and anything that will shake up the power and authority structure is unwelcome.
- (b) A servant is not greater than his Master!
 - 1. If the religious elite rejected and persecuted Y'shua, they will certainly do the same to you, if you are willing to advance His message.
- (4) Willingness to Be His Ambassadors
 - (a) Access God's power and testify!
 - 1. God's power is at your disposal to use for His purposes!
 - 2. He wants to use you by working through you to bring His message (not your own!).
 - (b) Ambassadors of Grace!
 - 1. First God reconciled us to Himself through Christ.
 - 2. Then He commissioned us, as His ambassadors, in order to reconcile others, as He works through us.
 - 3. To be used as such, ambassadors must be true and authentic representatives (copies) of the One they represent. They can't have their own agendas!

4. Accept the assignment/challenge, and you will not only be able to access God's grace but you will...

(c) Impart God's Grace...

1. Take God's grace that is in you and transfer it to others, so they too can experience God's grace.

C. Who is the Prophet Like Moses? (A deep dive!)

(1) What did Peter intend to impart to those listening?

(a) Let's review Peter's words again...

1. Right before Peter spoke about Moses, ***he referred to Christ*** and told them to repent...
2. And that has certainly contributed to the historic confusion about to whom Peter is referring when he cites the words of Moses from Deuteronomy 18:15-19. *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me [Moses]..."*
3. Is Y'shua the Prophet like Moses?
4. There seems to be almost universal agreement, throughout Christianity, that the prophet like Moses being prophesied about in Deuteronomy is Y'shua Himself.
5. There are, however, glaring errors with that belief, when you look deeper, below the surface.

(b) You should recognize that Peter insinuates **TWO** different time periods into the ministry of Christ in the preceding three verses (Acts 3:19-21), in order to understand that he is indeed **NOT** saying Y'shua is the Prophet like Moses.

1. Peter speaks of **a time of refreshing** ***and** **a time of the restoration of all things**.
2. **...a time of refreshing:** repent, become a Christian, your sins are forgiven, come into relationship with the Lord. (This is everyone's born-again experience.)
3. **...a time of the restoration of all things:** something different than the born-again experience (time of refreshing); something else God has been saying through His prophets.
4. What else has God been saying?
 - a) *"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,"* (Acts 3:20) obviously refers to Him coming again—apart from His birth, death, burial, and resurrection. And because He departed (ascended) and sent the Holy Spirit—He must come again!

- b) Then, Peter reveals something critical about where Christ has gone and what must happen before He returns!
- c) We can receive Christ for our refreshing and the remission of our sins any time; Y'shua need not come back for that.
- d) He is coming again for something else. (Note: see [To Be Continued...](#) for more information on what Y'shua is coming back to do!)

5. **However, most vital at this moment is this:** What must happen before He can return, and where is Y'shua until that time?

- a) The restoration of all things must happen first, and Y'shua must remain in heaven until the restoration is complete.
- b) We will explore what "restoration of all things" means as we progress in this study.
- c) What we do already know is that it has something to do with "the prophet like Moses.
- d) So that means knowing who that prophet is, and listening to him **MUST BE VITAL!**

(2) Let's go to the source...

(a) Notice three key elements within the Deuteronomy text!

What will the prophet like Moses be like?

1. He will be like Moses in Horeb, when God gave the Law.
2. The prophet will speak what the Lord commands.
3. All those who don't listen will pay a consequence.

(b) Who will be like Moses in Horeb, delivering the Law, with consequences pending?

1. Who is the prophet like Moses? Elijah!
2. The timing? Before the Y'shua comes back again (before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD). This is consistent with Peter's words...
"that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before," (Acts 3:20)
3. His message? Remember the Laws of Moses in Horeb and to restore hearts of families!
4. The consequence? If the people don't listen there will be a curse!

(3) **Connect the Dots...**

(a) Listen to Elijah, the prophet like Moses or...

1. And the prophet that links these three verses is Elijah,
"Behold I send you Elijah," not Y'shua!

2. *Food for thought: The earth is already under a curse, so it will not be a new curse as much as it is that the curse cannot be lifted.
3. The curse happened at creation (see Genesis 2:16-17; 3:17-24) and still exists to this day—until...?
4. You guessed it...the Restoration of all Things—until which time Y'shua remains in heaven (Acts 3:21)—which certifies that He is NOT the prophet like Moses who restores all things!!!

D. The Restoration of all things

- (1) Y'shua will not return for a second time until the restoration of all things...
 - (a) What things should happen to indicate such?
 1. turn the hearts...*Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.
 2. sit down at the right hand of God, until His enemies are made His footstool
 - (b) *Again, notice the curse of creation that still remains...
 1. We had a time of refreshing and now Y'shua is in heaven sitting at the right hand of the Father until something happens.
 2. What is He waiting for?
 3. His enemies to be made His footstool.

4. The revealing of the sons of God. (For a full exposé on the revealing of sons see: [Who are Legitimate Sons?](#))
 5. The restoration of all things!
 6. And this restoration is something God spoke about through His prophets, and...
 7. The Lord will raise up a prophet like Moses to restore all things.
 8. And you now know that is Elijah—NOT Y'shua!
- (2) Connecting Moses and Elijah and Elijah to John the Baptist
- (a) Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration
1. Peter, James and John join Y'shua on the mountain and He shows them what His glorified body will look like.
 2. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appear (how the disciples recognized them is a wonder!).
 3. The same voice appears that announced Y'shua's first coming at His baptism!
 4. This prophetic picture connects this event to what Y'shua will look like at His second coming!
 5. The voice from heaven and seeing Moses and Elijah together, prompts this question when they come

down from the mountain: “**Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**”

6. Y’shua tells them Elijah comes first **to restore all things** (precisely what Peter later teaches in Acts 3 as he refers to Deuteronomy 18).
 7. Is this making sense now?
 8. Peter learned this from Y’shua in Matthew 17, before the crucifixion and before the ascension!
 9. That is why He could teach it to the people in Acts.
 10. But, he already knew Elijah must **come first** before the great and dreadful day of the Lord (the Second Coming), because that was clearly prophesied Malachi.
 11. And now Peter has learned that John the Baptist was the shadow of Elijah, serving as the prophet who **came first** before the Lord’s First Coming!
 12. Elijah will come again to restore all things—but don’t tell anyone until after the resurrection!
 13. Note: Acts 3 is when Peter teaches what he learned about Elijah, and II Peter is where he tells of his mountaintop experience (both occasions were after the resurrection as instructed)...
- (b) John the Baptist and Elijah at Y’shua’s Baptism...

1. John the Baptist was serving as a shadow of the prophet who had to come before the Lord to prepare the way for His first coming!
2. John is referred to as the voice of one crying, in the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord: *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”* Isaiah 40:3 NKJV (See Isaiah 40:1-8)!
3. And John was also prophesied to come in the spirit of Elijah! (by an angel speaking to his father as we will see next!)
4. Let’s connect the dots...

(3) Prophecy about John the Baptist

- (a) An angel prophesies about (John to be) to Zacharias (his father to be), and then Zacharias prophesies about John...**Carefully notice what John is called to do/be!**

1. John will go before Y’shua in the spirit and power of Elijah.
2. John will “turn the hearts of the fathers to the children” (The restoration ministry of Elijah in Malachi 4.)
3. The Child will be a prophet of the Most High.

- (b) LATER ON... when John is question about his relationship to Elijah...
1. He says he is not Elijah or the Prophet, but why?
 2. He confirms that he is “The voice of one crying, in the wilderness..., but why?”
 3. Because John is NOT **the Elijah** of Malachi 4, **the prophet** who prepares the way before Christ’s Second Coming.
 4. John is “*the spirit and power of Elijah*” who prepares the way for Christ’s First Coming.
- (4) Elijah is the **messenger** who prepares the way for the **Messenger’s** (Second Coming)!
- (a) One messenger prepares the way, the other Messenger comes with a refiners fire (the Second Coming).
1. When Y’shua returns, He will not be doing any restoring. By that time it is too late!
 2. Whatever & whoever is not restored will be separated as fire purifies silver and gold, and as soap removes stains!

Summary: GREAT GRACE

3. God’s Power Rises Above the Challenge

A. Persecution begins: Peter and John are Arrested (Acts 4:1-4)

- (1) The persecution begins...
 - (a) Suffering is Inevitable
- (2) Principles at Work!
 - (a) The way to the kingdom is through the trials...
 - 1. Just like John prepared the way in the wilderness!
 - (b) Creation is still in a state of corruption, so there will be challenges...
 - 1. And remember we already have the victory.
 - (c) Various challenges are a forgone conclusion so...
 - 1. You might as well enjoy them!
- (3) Acts 4:1-4 (comments)
 - (a) The Persecution begins as Peter and John are Arrested
 - 1. Peter's graciousness about "those leaders," who were responsible for killing Y'shua, clearly does not extend to every one of them, as many of them will persist in their obstinance.
 - a) As Peter testified, some of the priests, the temple security, and some Sadducees interrupted the meeting and were furious that these men would keep claiming Y'shua's name and His resurrection.
 - b) First off, the Sadducees don't believe in any resurrection.

- c) Then, of course, these priests (some Pharisees) were likely involved with the coverup orchestrated by the religious leaders, when they bribed the guards from the tomb to lie about the resurrection, even though they witnessed it.
 - d) The guards were paid to say Y'shua's body was stolen by His disciples and that the resurrection was a farce.
 - e) Maybe some of these priests were not even directly involved in the bribery scheme. They don't even know the truth, but simply believe what they've been told.
2. Either way, they take Peter and John into custody and place them in jail until the next day, because it was already evening.
- a) That time of the year in Jerusalem the sun sets shortly after 7:00pm.
 - b) Remember, Peter and John went up to the temple to pray at 3:00pm, so this entire episode has been going on for a number of hours, and it is likely just before sunset that they are taken into custody.

- c) The arrest did not stop the people, who saw the miracle and who listened to Peter's testimony, from believing everything they heard.
- d) Five thousand people came to the faith that day.

B. Peter and John Address the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-12)

(1) Same Old Corrupt Courts

- (a) "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) Power and Authority

1. Peter is questioned just as Y'shua was questioned by those carrying the same religious spirit!
2. Y'shua ignored them!
3. Peter tells them it's all about Y'shua!

(b) Rejection: The Chief Cornerstone

1. Y'shua quoted the same Psalm (118:22) in *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants* after they rejected and killed the son!
2. It was all meant to be; it was all the Lord's doing!
3. The kingdom will be unattainable to the religious elite, but will dwell in those who will be faithful with the calling.
4. One way to eternal life!

5. Again Peter leans on an previous encounter with Y'shua—there is none other!

(3) Acts 4:5-12 (comments)

(a) Peter and John Address the Sanhedrin

1. The next day Peter and John stand before all the religious leaders, including Caiaphas, the high priest.
 - a) The question on the table is this: “What power did you access in order to perform this miracle?”
 - b) Peter gives a Spirit-inspired response... *“If we are being evaluated, not on the result of the miracle, a man crippled from birth has been made whole, but instead by how it happened, then I am happy to tell you it was all Y'shua, the very man you crucified and whom God raised from the dead!”*
 - c) A classic case of... *“If you might not like the answer, you should not ask the question!”*
 - d) And I will remind you of Psalm 118:22 as well. It was prophesied that you would reject Him!
 - e) And I will add something else you don't want to hear: *“There is no other way to redemption than through the position and authority of Y'shua of Nazareth!”*

C. The Name of Y'shua is Forbidden to be Spoken! (Acts 4:13-22)

(1) When man's rules conflict with God's laws...

(a) It is evident to all; we cannot deny it! But we will anyway!

(2) Principles at Work!

(a) A notable miracle occurred, but they prefer evil over good!

1. A man was healed; there is no denying it.

2. But, instead of celebrating the miracle, the religious leaders threaten Peter and John to no longer testify of Y'shua, the one who created the miracle.

3. The bondage of such evil is as strong as the rope used to pull an oxcart.

4. And worse yet, they participate in covering up God's goodness, while claiming they are following His counsel.

5. The punishment for those who act like good is evil and evil is good will be severe.

6. And to top off the evil deed, these types see themselves as the do-gooders!

(b) Threats: Doctrines and Commands of Men and Hard Hearts

1. The ruling is this—do not share the truth about Y’shua any longer.
2. They literally feel their rules are as binding as God’s laws.
3. That is because their hearts are dark.
4. John and Peter say this— *“We don’t care if you believe your rules take precedent over God’s instructions. They don’t to us, so we will follow God and not you, and we don’t care if you like it!”*

(c) Bad Rulings and Governing authorities

1. So, we see that Peter and John clearly resist the authority of the rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest.
2. How can they do that and still be within God’s will?
3. According to Romans, aren’t all authorities appointed by God?
4. Won’t Peter and John bring judgment on themselves?
5. The secret lies in this: *“He is God’s minister to you for good.”* So, if the authorities are out of alignment with God, you have ZERO obligation to comply, because they are no longer sitting in the seat of authority as minister of good.

6. Clearly these rulers are not against evil, but against good, the testimony of Christ and His healing power, and therefore can be disregarded without any reprisal from the Lord!

(3) Acts 4:13-22 (comments)

(a) The Name of Y'shua is Forbidden to be Spoken!

1. Here we are again with the religious leaders backed up against the truth. Y'shua did it to them many times, and now His disciples are following in His footsteps.
 - a) All the religious leaders know Peter and John were fishermen; they are not trained Torah scholars, just students of Y'shua.
 - b) And yet, they are astounded and cannot deny the miracle.
 - c) The man was over forty years old and he has been crippled since his birth!
 - d) They are all very familiar with the identity of the man and his condition because he sat right outside the entrance to the temple every day—for years!
2. What will they do about it?
 - a) The unmistakable claim has the religious elite backed into a corner... *"Y'shua, the man you crucified and whom God raised from the dead is*

how this all happened, (and by the way, will continue to happen)...” How will they respond?

- b) They send everyone out of the room, except the decision-makers, to figure out what they can do with these two guys who have performed an **UNDENIABLE** miracle.
 - c) Even they admit, amongst themselves, that they cannot deny what they’ve witnessed!
 - d) They cannot punish Peter and John because there are too many witnesses who can testify to the truth.
 - e) Instead they decided, *“Let’s threaten them and command them to stop testifying and teaching about Y’shua.”*
 - f) And that’s what they tell Peter and John!
3. However, Peter and John have no intention to comply!
- a) This is their response to the order. *“You are free to believe that it is more important for us to obey you than it is to obey God. However, we have decided to obey God’s commands and not the commands of men, when they contradict God’s commands.*

Therefore, we will keep teaching and preaching about Y'shua and sharing all our testimonies!"

- b) All these religious hypocrites can do at that moment is issue a few more threats, but then they were forced to release Peter and John.
- c) There are simply too many people waiting and watching outside, who clearly believe everything they saw and heard.

D. Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)

(1) Testimony: Stand Your Ground

(a) The Unity Grows Stronger

1. Principles at Work!

(b) One Accord: that they may be one just as We are one!

- 1. Unity of the church was apparent from the start (see Acts 1-2).
- 2. The persecution and Peter and John's resistance against evil brought further unity to early Christians.
- 3. The oneness of God's people is the perfect witness that Y'shua was sent by Yahweh!

(c) God's Determined Purpose: Sovereignty!

- 1. Yes, Y'shua stood before Herod and Pilate.
- 2. Yes, He was crucified on a Roman cross.

3. But everything that happened was predetermined and permitted by Yahweh.
4. Even when He was arrested in the garden, He rebuked Peter for resisting His arrest.
5. Y'shua could have stopped it, but it was the will of His Father to allow it, and Y'shua had already chosen His Father's will!

(d) Speak with Boldness: The Holy Spirit

1. The disciples spoke with boldness as they were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
2. Joseph [in Egypt] was only able to rise to power because he was inspired by the Spirit!

(2) Acts 4:23-31 (comments)

(a) Prayer for Boldness

1. This ruling and empty threat only serve to further embolden the disciples who went back and told everyone what happened while they were in custody.
 - a) Victories such as this serve to unify Y'shua's followers.
 - b) The people hearing the testimony begin singing the first few verses of David's Psalm (2:1-2).
 - c) This is the meaning of the song: *"Yahweh is the creator of all things. Why does any human feel*

they can plot against the Creator and be successful, especially rulers who think they can come against God's anointed One?"

- d) The people further acknowledge... *"For sure Y'shua is the anointed One, and even though all that happened to Him was by the hands of the Roman leaders and pagans, and Israel, it was all within the Father's will and predetermined purpose!"*
- e) Then the mass of fellow believers affirm Peter and John in prayer; *"Father, you see their hearts and their desire to serve you, even in the midst of persecution. Anoint them to boldly continue bringing Your word and use them by performing many miracles through them, as they continue to preach the name of Y'shua."*

2. The Holy Spirit invaded the meeting place and they went forward into their ministries courageously.

E. Sharing in All Things (Acts 4:32-37)

- (1) Sufficient in all things!
 - (a) Spiritual and Physical Provision
- (2) Principles at Work!
 - (a) Physical Provision: Generosity—all they possessed was donated for the common good!

1. Y'shua gave His **life** to those in need; and we are ALL in need!
2. As such, how could we not give our **stuff** to those in need?

(b) Spiritual Provision: Great Power/Great Grace

1. Grace is God's supernatural Power.
2. God's grace saved you.
3. And you still have access to that grace to empower you to live out a Godly life.

(c) Stewardship: Everyone's needs were met!

1. God is the supplier, and we are the distributors.
2. Live your life with an open hand! Open hands freely receive and freely give!
3. If you start believing you are the suppliers, it will be a short time before you live life with tight fists!

(3) Acts 4:32-37 (comments)

(a) Sharing in All Things

1. Unity continued among all believers, and they were happy to share their possessions as if they were no longer attached to the ownership of "things!"
 - a) The apostles continued to share the truth of the resurrection with great power because an

abundance of God's grace was on them and in them!

- b) Because of their newfound view on personal ownership of stuff, they spontaneously, and of their own volition, sold their property and supported all those in need.
- c) The money from the sales was brought to the apostles who distributed it as needed.
- d) Finally, we are introduced to Barnabas (the Son of Encouragement), who also sold everything he had and brought his money to the apostles.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. A lame man is looking for something in Acts 3:1-10.

- A. What was he hoping for and what did he get?
- B. Relate his encounter to Ephesians 3:20.
- C. Why do you think Peter took the man's right hand?

2. In Acts 3:11-18, Peter explains to the crowd what they just witnessed...

- A. In your own words, explain Peter's reasoning.
- B. Relate Peter's reasoning to Ephesians 1:19-20 and II Peter 1:1-4.

- C. The lame man received more than a physical healing.
Describe what Peter meant by, “[Christ] has given him this perfect soundness.”

3. In Acts 3:19-26, Peter calls to action the people who just witnessed an undeniable miracle.

- A. The assignment here is this: Consult the sermon notes Pages 26-55 and craft a paper that proves Elijah is the prophet like Moses to whom Peter is referring, and NOT Y’shua.
- B. If you do NOT agree with that conclusion, then craft a paper that proves otherwise!

4. In Acts 4:1-4 Peter and John are detained; and in Acts 4:5-12 they are brought to trial:

- A. What is the main thing that disturbs the religious leaders?
- B. Bonus: how does the disturbance relate to Matthew 28:11-15?
- C. How does Acts 4:1-4 relate to Acts 14:22; John 16:33; and James 1:2?
- D. What leaders are present at the trial?
- E. What is the prevailing question and what is Peter’s response?
- F. Relate Mark 11:28; Matthew 21:42-43; and John 6:67-69 to Acts 4:5-12.

5. In Acts 4:13-22 there is the verdict:

- A. What is so astounding about Peter and John to the religious leaders?
- B. Why are they not able to make a definitive legal ruling against Peter and John?
- C. What do they rule instead? (And how might their ruling be described by Isaiah 5:18-21 and Matthew 15:8-9?)
- D. What is Peter and John's response? (And why is their response NOT a violation of Romans 13:1-4?)

6. Peter and John are released in Acts 4:23-31.

- A. What do they do when they get out?
- B. What effect does it have on the Church?
- C. How does that effect relate to John 17:20-23?
- D. What do they report that speaks of God's sovereignty and how might that relate to Y'shua's response in Matthew 26:52-54?
- E. Relate the boldness they had in the Holy Spirit in Acts 4:23-31 to how Joseph operated in Genesis 41:37-39.

7. Describe the following as it relates to Acts 4:32-37.

- A. Physical provision and generosity... (Refer also to I John 3:16-17.)
- B. Spiritual provision and grace... (Refer also to Ephesians 2:8 and Romans 5:1-2.)

C. Good stewardship and meeting needs... (Refer also to Philippians 4:19.)