



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Record of the Beginning of Jesus' Reign

Chapter Three

INTRODUCTION

QUESTION: Isn't God a mystery, and unknowable? Why should you presume to define the nature of God, thereby limiting Him?

ANSWER: Some religions presume that God is, by nature, a puzzle – an enigma. Therefore, they assume the Bible's statements about God are likewise mysterious and enigmatic: not intended to be understood.

We do not agree! Our definition recognizes man's limitations – not God's. We can identify God as far as He has revealed Himself. That revelation, albeit limited, is not inaccurate! Not enigmatic! God has not tricked us with mysteries to confuse us. He is not fooling us with fairy tales. The limited Bible data we do have about God is dependable.

IN the first two lessons, we took special notice of the revolutionary nature of Jesus and His kingdom – in terms of its antipathy to the world system. This aspect of Jesus is usually considered radical and repugnant to the typical church goer . . . who prefers to think of Him as a babe in a manger, or a dead martyr, rather than a reigning Lord. Also, because of the inherent threat from Christ's kingdom, to the world system, there has been a massive, long-standing cover-up orchestrated by church and state (i.e., the world system) to alter the Bible record and modify man's perspective of the nature of Christ and His kingdom.

We discovered, also, that Jesus never flew away into outer space, and that His kingship (and kingdom) was not postponed. It has been in effect ever since He was raised up from the dead and given the throne – about 29 AD. Jesus then, in His new elevated state, remained invisible and present here on earth, reigning over His people.

Because the nature of Jesus' reign is so different from that of mortal human kings, it might take time for some to grasp the concept of the kingdom already being viable and present. But, as you get to know the nature of your King and His methods, the things you read in Acts and the rest of the New Testament make more sense, and the kingdom is no longer a mystery reserved for a never-coming "someday." By logically piecing together the many details in this chronicle, we will become better acquainted with our King and His present Kingdom.

Perhaps the most conspicuous thing that sets King Jesus apart from ordinary kings is that He is supernatural. He became a supernatural king when He was raised up to immortality. So, since Jesus is a supernatural king, it should not seem odd to us that He can be present with us **INVISIBLY**, and His presence manifested to us through our spiritual awareness of the life-changing events and circumstances He has worked, and continues to work, rather than in a physical appearance to us. In Acts 3, you will see a good example of a life-changing event in the supernatural healing of a lame man.

Also, in lesson three, you will gain further insight into Jesus' method of reigning by learning the difference between "a ruler" and "a leader." Understanding the important difference helps you understand why God never gave man authority to rule over man. Men who would be rulers are usurpers and tyrants.

Jesus is our only King and ultimate Leader. He fulfills a position for which He alone is fit. As our prototype and example, Jesus is the most excellent portrait of a leader. He leads the way of man, by the example of the life He led.

One of the most prominent aspects of this chapter of Acts is its persistent referral to the nature of Jesus. Watch closely for the recurring evidence pointing to the fact that Jesus and Yahweh are two distinctly separate entities. Luke understood this well, and he couldn't help expressing it throughout the entire book of Acts! We have spotlighted the different clues he and Paul use to build upon this fact. They appear in special boxes throughout the lesson. The subject will continue to pop up in future lessons, as well.

It is important for you to not miss these references with respect to this controversial issue – not only so that you will know who and what your King really is, but also to avoid intimidation and control by religious organizations and power-hungry pastors insisting that you must believe in “the deity of Christ” in order to be “saved.” This false doctrine has grown out of the “Trinity” doctrine, and is an important tool used by religious establishments to build

churches and amass power. For centuries, this tactic has been used by rulers and priests to terrorize and verbally bludgeon people senseless. Then, they exploit their confused and hapless victims.

But, as we begin to see what the apostles experienced in the kingdom, back then, we can see better where we stand today. Christ is advancing His work, bringing His reign full circle. We are growing and inexorably advancing as Jesus leads toward the fulfillment of His commission and the maturation of the kingdom.

ACTS 3:1-5 THE LAME MAN

Now, Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being 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 of them that entered into the temple;

Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple was asking a gift.

And Peter, with John, fastening his eyes upon him, said, Look at us.

And he gave heed to them, expecting to receive something of them.

THE lame man caught their attention expecting to receive something from them. And Peter said “Look at us.”

This man was about to receive more than he expected. As it is with the gift of life, healing is an act of love and mercy – not an earned reward. People who have been healed sometimes ask, “What did I do to deserve this?” The answer is, “Nothing!” Healing is an act of mercy. It is not that we deserve it. We only receive it.

ACTS 3:6-10 PETER'S GIFT = FAITH

Then Peter said, Silver and gold I do not have; but that which I have I give to 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.

And, leaping, he up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

And they knew that it was he which sat for gifts at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened to him.

HEALINGS and miracles always attract crowds. And, of course, the crowds they attract are made up of every sort, with every motive. Thus, the followers of healings and miracles are not necessarily interested in learning about Christ and His ways.

This crowd was typical in that it tended to extoll man instead of God – as this chapter continues to explain.

ACTS 3:11-12 THE MIRACLE

And as the lame man who was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

And Peter, having seen it, answered to the people, "Men! Israelites! Why do you marvel at this? or why do you gaze at us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?"

WE see that the followers of healing and miracles tend to worship the man they see involved in it.

But, it was the name (authority) of Jesus – and faith in that authority – that Peter showed this man to make him strong. Peter was not displaying his own powers.

Here is a lesson for us today. There are countless would-be healers in America today. There are countless people seeking the power to work miracles. This ability is then equated with "Godliness." And these would-be healers go to great lengths trying to acquire miracle-worker status. They pray; they fast; they read the Bible; they punish themselves; they meditate. They do everything they can think of to achieve their perception of a coveted plateau of "holiness" which they hope will give them the ability to heal people or perform some miracle under the pretense of serving God. It sounds good on the surface. But, there is something under the surface that is not good.

The would-be miracle worker's logic goes something like this: "If I can gain miracle-worker status, then that will prove that I am Godly, and people will no longer take me for granted." Like Simon the sorcerer, would-be healers think of themselves as "great ones" (Acts 8:9-11).

Thus, what appears ostensibly to be a good motive is actually disguising an underlying evil motive. Why do we say this? Because the would-be healer is driven by an evil and unprofitable motive if he is seeking power over others. And, it is out of line to assume that God needs any man to help Him keep control of His own creation. God includes man in His work, but the success of that work does not depend upon man.

For instance, have you ever tried to change someone into a Christian? If you have, you may have learned that you can't do it. None of us can. We can't change people. If Jesus wants someone to turn to Him, He must affect it through supernatural means – by changing something in the heart.

CONSIDER THIS: There are many con-artist preachers whose purpose is simply to gain notoriety and money. They care nothing about God's will, though they feign sincerity. These tricksters, in reality, use clever tricks (magic) to deceive people into thinking that they are really healing the sick and the lame. "Healers" bring in big bucks ... but, the people's health continues to deteriorate.

No matter how polished we get, no matter how intelligent we think we are, no matter how spiritual we become, we still won't be able to turn people to Christ. Only Christ can change the heart – soften the stone. However, sometimes He does use one of us as a tool in the process.

Thus, man is only incidental to miracles such as changing of hearts, healings, etc. These things do occur, but not as the result of our involvement. They occur **IN SPITE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT**. They are from God – not from us!

The fact remains that the common underlying motive of the men who want to work miracles is not to profit the kingdom of God, but rather to profit themselves by proving that they are better or holier than others in a religious setting. Thus, he presumes to have "power," and becomes a "miracle worker" – convincing others that HE causes miracles to occur.

ACTS 3:13-15 ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY BLAMED FOR CHRIST'S DEATH

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Child* Jesus; whom you delivered up, and denied him before Pilate, who had decided to release him.

But you disowned the holy and righteous One, and you asked rather for a murderer (Barabbas) to be granted to you;

And you killed the Prince of life, whom God raised up from the dead; of which we were witnesses.

* "child" = Gk PAIDA: a specific term of endearment – literally "youth." This term, while not indicated by the KJV translators, is distinctly different from the usual TEKNA ("child; product"), and OUIOS ("son; inheritor"). See also 3:26 (page 8).

AS we learned in chapter two, Israelites as well as Jews were held responsible for Christ's death. In Acts 3:12, Peter again points this out to the men of Israel. Those who try to justify Israel – and put the blame elsewhere – should take note of this fact.

Some folks try to justify themselves by blaming “Jews” (whoever they perceive “Jews” to be), or some other “race” (whatever they perceive “race” to mean). They may prefer to think that Israelites are innocent, and rally around this shallow and arrogant presumption. They inevitably end up following a theology based almost exclusively on hatred of “other” people – especially the ones they perceive as “Jews” (non-Israelite). This, of course, is childish and fruitless in light of the fact that “Jews” are not even a genetic group, and therefore cannot be identified by race alone. That leaves the genetic Jew Haters without the means to identify those they claim to hate.

ACTS 3:16 FAITH IN CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

And, through faith in his (Jesus') name, this man whom you see and know has confirmed that name. And the faith which is through Him has given this whole gift to him before you all.

HERE, Paul speaks of Jesus' “name” (authority). This faith in Jesus is what Peter perceived to be lacking in this crowd.

A proper understanding of authority makes us realize that, by its very nature and definition, authority flows from one person to another. It flows from one who is higher, to one who is lower. So, if Jesus has “authority” (i.e., He was authorized) He had to receive it from someone greater. Thus, the Father authorizes the Son.

ACTS 8:18-21 SIMON THE SORCERER

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

Saying, Give me also this power, that on who ever I lay hands, he may receive holy spirit.

But Peter said to him, Your money perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

You have neither part nor lot in this matter: for your heart is not right before God.

This is a classic example of the evil motive of the typical “miracle worker.” Of course, not everybody who desires to work miracles is as bad as this guy. He, nonetheless, represents his trade in general.

Simon was from the Jerusalem area. He was thought to be a miracle-worker. In Acts 8:9-11, we read also of this man. It says that he had bewitched the people, and that he considered himself to be “some great one.” Then, when he saw Peter and John's “magic” he perceived it to be greater than his own magic, and he sought to purchase it for himself – like one magician purchases a trick from another magician.

Some people will say, “Well, the only problem was that he tried to use money to buy it, and you shouldn't try to buy that sort of thing with money.” But, this misses the point, and allows them to continue hanging on to the basic error – namely, the idolatry of seeking, condoning and worshiping miracle workers. They postulate that miracle-worker status is still an honorable pursuit, and that people should just pursue it by better means.

But, this is still off point. Alternate ways of pursuing “miracle-worker status” are still in error. They still equate, in principle, to trying to purchase it with money. Consider the economics of it. Money equates to time and labor. Money is a symbolic representation of time and labor – used as a record of the amount of one's effort expended (invested) in a project – not unlike a bookkeeping entry. In this sense, there's no difference between money on one hand, and time and labor on the other hand. Because, in order to get money, we have to spend time and effort to earn it. The money is merely a symbol of the time and effort invested.

Thus, whether one offers money, or time, it is still the same principle: the intention is to purchase something.

However, miracles are not for sale from God. They are not the result of the effort and acumen of man. There is no formula man can develop, or learn, for working miracles.

Miracles do occur, but not by formula ... and not by man. Sorcery is not a real science. Tricks are not miracles.

People sometimes find themselves in the presence of a miracle being manifested by God, through our King, Jesus. And sometimes, people who happen to be near where a miracle is taking place will think they are somehow responsible for that miracle. They begin to think of themselves as “miracle workers.” You may know of someone who has found himself in such a situation, and then tried to take advantage of it by thinking and or claiming that he, himself, worked the miracle. But, in truth, Jesus is the only worker of true miracles among us.

By the same token, the apostles were not seeking the ability to work miracles – as the pagans did. In fact, they were very careful to make it clear that they couldn't take credit for the miracles.

QUESTION: But aren't you forgetting that the Israelites were from God and the Jews were of the Devil ... and that the two seed lines have been at war with each other since the world began? Why would the Israelites (God's people) kill one of their own? Wouldn't the Devil's people be more likely to have crucified Christ?

CONSIDER THIS: Many "healers" think of God as merely a magical force to manipulate and use by employing the right formula of incantations, rituals, or other pseudo-scientific manipulations. What they don't realize is that God is not a magical force existing at man's disposal. So-called "healers" are Elmer Gantry-type charlatans whose vocation is bilking and conning the gullible.

ACTS 3:17-18 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "RULERS" AND "LEADERS"

And now, brethren, I perceive that through ignorance you did it, as did also your chiefs.

But those things, which God before had published by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he has so fulfilled.

PETER'S Israelite audience had been participants (some unwittingly) in the death of Jesus. By denying Him, they became complicit to the crime. Many just chose to be willingly ignorant of the world around them. Others elected to personally assist in putting Him on the cross.

Peter says they all are guilty of Christ's blood, but that he perceived they did it in ignorance. He says that the chiefs (leaders) were ignorant as well. This statement raises a few questions.

Who were the "chiefs" (leaders) in Israel? If you say the leaders were the Pharisees you are again faced with another question. Since the chief (ruling) Pharisees were the very ones who politically orchestrated the crucifixion of Christ, is it possible that they were ignorant? Could their intentions not have been evil?

NO! They weren't ignorant. Their part in the murder of Jesus was NOT by accident. They worked, conspired,

and pushed to get Jesus killed. In fact, the gospels tell us that they schemed to kill Jesus to save Jerusalem from embarrassment.

He was exposing their corrupt system. They may not have understood all things about Jesus, but they recognized that He was no criminal, and that He was not worthy of death. They were neither ignorant nor innocent when they sought and attained Jesus' execution.

Why, then, does verse seventeen say that the "chiefs" participated in it through ignorance? Because the "chiefs," in verse seventeen, were not the Pharisee chiefs. Rather, these "chiefs" were the real Israelite elders.

There is also a distinction between "RULERS" & "LEADERS." You must recognize this distinction to make sense of this verse.

In order to see the difference between rulers and leaders, we must first understand the difference between POWER and AUTHORITY. Remember, earlier in this lesson we

SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS NOT YAHWEH

In Acts 3:13, we read that the God of Abraham glorified "His Child." Logically, this automatically implies the existence of two persons: 1. The Father, & 2. The Child (who grew to be The Man Jesus).

In 3:15, it says that God raised up Jesus from the dead.

Back in chapter two, we dispelled the theory that a DEAD God might have somehow brought Himself back to life.

Understanding the elements of this question makes the evidence very clear. Life issues forth from life. Life cannot be produced by something (or someone) dead.

Therefore, there are, unquestionably, two distinct entities inferred in that verse. Yahweh (entity #1) was alive during the time Jesus (entity #2) was dead.

discussed how God gave authority to Jesus. Now let's see how the authority principle works for other Israelite leaders. A study of the early verses of Romans 13 explains this in more detail:

Let every soul submit himself to the higher authorities For there is no authority but of God: for the authorities that exist are ordained (appointed) of God.

Romans 13:1

This verse is talking about men in positions of leadership. Leaders lead with authority. Rulers rule with force. The former upholds and keeps the freedom of the people, while the latter destroys freedom and builds centralized empires. True leaders (authorities) exist only by appointment of God. Anyone not appointed of God is not an authority – regardless of whether he holds political office or not.

For example, a king who doesn't follow the laws of God does NOT have

the authority from God to be over people even though he has political power by means of his office, and by means of his standing armies (police). Rulers have power (brute force), not authority.

Because of the nature of authority, it can only be derived from a higher source. God gives authority to men He wants in leadership positions. Authority gives a man the responsibility to lead. It does NOT give power over others.

The Sanhedrin, for example, had no authority from God. They chose to be rulers (not leaders) since they did not follow God's law ... and they were against Christ. They ruled

the temples and were in positions of power in the government. The distinction between "rulers" and "leaders" is clear when you think about it.

Thus, we see the intent of verse seventeen. It is possible, therefore, that the elders (those in the natural position of leaders) in Israel were actually ignorant ... being deceived and exploited by the rulers.

It is the same today. Politicians use brute force or power to rule over the people. These "rulers" don't care one whit about God's law. Neither are they "authorized" by God. They are not "authorities." They are "powers."

QUESTION: But, doesn't God place unrighteous rulers over the people to punish them for their sins? And, if so, shouldn't we obey those rulers and take our punishment in silence?

ANSWER: God's punishment is designed to evoke a corrective response. Only the ungodly and cowards prefer to take punishment silently in order to ignore reality and not face their errors.

Secondly, during a period of godly punishment the laws of God are not suspended. Those laws still operate. And, they preclude our sitting silently while evil government destroys our heritage and enslaves our children. To do so would cause us to incur MORE punishment.

It is a strange and cowardly mentality of man when he worships the rod that beats him.

ACTS 3:19 THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Repent therefore, and turn around, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing come from the face of the Lord.

THE "times of refreshing" was not a future hope. Rather, it was stated as a timeless reward for faith. Whereas the KJV translators turned an aorist* verb ("come") into the future tense ("shall come"), they changed the meaning of Paul's statement.

"From the face of the Lord" is an interesting phrase. Please make note of it. In lesson one, we talked about the Greek word "parousia," which means "presence." We talked about the fact that Jesus is present – although not in visible form. Here, in verse nineteen, Paul admonishes everyone to repent and prepare themselves so they can be refreshed "from the face (i.e., presence) of the Lord." This "refreshing" was occurring right then in the presence of the Lord.

***AORIST:** In Greek, a verb tense which indicates timelessness; not limited to past, present, or future.

ACTS 3:20 JESUS HAS ALREADY BEEN "SENT"

And He (Yahweh) sends forth Jesus Christ, which before was proclaimed to you:

A GAIN, since they were in Christ's presence, at that time, it is obvious that Yahweh wasn't waiting until the so-called "end of time" to send Him to His people. King Jesus has been present with His people from the time His reign began. Thus, God "sent" (commissioned) Jesus to be His representative to man. As such, Jesus was being "sent" to those who were called out to hear and follow.

Thus, He is being sent; He is NOT waiting to be sent.

QUESTION: If Jesus was "sent," and has continued to be present during our age, then why hasn't He stopped all the death, destruction, and corruption in the world?

ACTS 3:21 THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

Whom heaven (God's government) must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of his saints from the age of his prophets.

If you are using a King James Version to follow these verses, you will notice that the government-authorized translators of 1611 often hid the meaning of the verses. "Heaven" has since become universally thought of as a Utopia in the clouds.

The KJV phrase, "... since the world began" should read "... from the time of his prophets." The difference is obvious.

Notice the phrase "the restitution of all things." Here, again, is something that is usually skipped over. We see Jesus on the throne until "the times of restitution of all things."

In I Corinthians 15, we find this:

Then the fulfillment, when He (Jesus) delivers up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He (Jesus) shall have

disabled all governments and all authorities and powers (i.e., completed judgment).

I Corinthians 15:24

In this verse, the futurist KJV translators chose the word, "end" instead of "fulfillment." "End" is one of the favorite terms of the Futurists. To them, it denotes a stopping of time, the destruction of the Earth, cessation of all life as we know it, and a cosmic Utopia to replace all that has "ended." However, "end" is the wrong word. It should be "fulfillment" which means something else altogether. Paul is expressing the idea of attaining a goal – not a termination.

For he (Jesus) must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy, death, is being made powerless.

I Corinthians 15:25,26

Notice the present active tense, "is being" as contrasted to the KJV's wrong translation, "shall be". The KJV changed the action from the present to the future. They made the text fit their theology ... and their theology was Futurist.

For He (Yahweh) has put all things under His (Jesus') feet. But when He (Yahweh) says all things are put under Him (Jesus), it is manifest that He (Yahweh) is excepted, which did put all things under Him (Jesus).

And when all things shall be subdued unto Him (Jesus), then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him (Yahweh) that put all things under Him (Jesus), that God (Yahweh) may be all in all.

I Corinthians 15:27, 28:

I Corinthians 15 is a parallel teaching to Acts 3:21. It does, however, go into more detail about the "restitution of all things." As you can see, "the restitution of all things" is described as the bringing to account of all creation. "Restitution" means to make things right by settling all debts and disputes.

MORE SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS NOT YAHWEH

Here's an insurmountable problem for anyone who thinks that the Son and the Father are one and the same being.

Peter is telling the people that they should repent and seek the refreshment that comes from the presence of Jesus. He then says that Yahweh (referring back to verse 18) sends Jesus. Now, if Jesus is being "sent," there must be a sender. This word ("send") is much like the word "commission." A commission is an assignment given from a "commissioner" to one who is "commissioned."

Without two entities (1. the Sender, and He who is sent) the verse makes no sense. Father and Son are two entities – not one entity posing as two.

ACTS 3:22-25 THE ABRAHAMIC BLESSING

Moses truly said, "The Lord God will raise up, of your brethren, a prophet like unto me; you will hear all his words, whatsoever he shall say to you.

And it will be that every soul which does not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.

Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel, and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, announced these days.

You are the sons (inheritors) of the prophets, and of the covenant which God covenanted unto your fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

GOD covenanted to Abraham and his children to use them to make an example and a statement to the rest of the families of the Earth. Israel was also to carry His

law – first, to their own, and then to other nations. In this, Israel was a tool through which God blessed all families of the Earth.

Jesus' Reign is the working out of judgment and restitution of all things. He is directing the way of His called-out people, giving them ears to hear and eyes to see.

And, when He deems the time to be right, He will also show us how to escape Babylon and avenge the blood of our martyred brethren (*"Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works; in the cup which she has filled fill to her double. How much she has glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her:"* -Revelation 18:6-7a).

CONSIDER THIS: Apparently, the main reason some people insist that Yahweh is also Jesus is because they think that Yahweh Himself had to die in order to redeem Israel. And, since Scripture identifies Jesus as the One who died, they figure He must have been Yahweh – otherwise the sacrifice would not have worked.

Thus, the question for them is: "If it was Yahweh Himself who was prophesied to die for Israel, why would He have changed into someone else before He died?"

They usually respond with, "He had to become a mortal man to be able to die." The next logical question then would be: "Did Yahweh truly become mortal? Or, did He just slip temporarily into a mortal shell of flesh, and then escape out of the shell when it died?" If this is their answer, then they are claiming that only the mortal "shell" died, not Yahweh Himself.

Where, then, was the "sacrifice"? Where was the death? As you can see, this theory always leaves unresolvable issues.

ACTS 3:26 GOD'S "CHILD"

To you first, God sent forth his Child blessing you in turning each one of you from your wicked deeds.

HERE, as in verse 13, the term "his Child" was purposely omitted by the KJV translators, and replaced with "his son Jesus." While both may refer to the same person, the correct rendering shows an expression of endearment which carries with it a special significance that is lost in the KJV. The fact that God ever thought of Jesus as "his Child," adds such a depth of personal meaning to their father/son relationship that one would have to be either blind or callous to ignore it. Such statements in Scripture would border on blasphemy if Yahweh and Jesus were, in reality, only one being.

God's Child grew up to be His Son-Inheritor – whom He raised from the dead to send to Israel. Then, as we saw in chapter two, the message, the reign, and the blessing went first to Jerusalem, then Judea, and Samaria. Then it went "to the uttermost part of the world."

It only began in Jerusalem. It continues today ... worldwide.

MORE SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS NOT YAHWEH

Consider I Cor 15:

Reflect back to the time before the crucifixion – when Jesus was yet walking in the flesh. Was Jesus, at that time, 1. God?, 2. Man?, or 3. God-man?

The answer is that Jesus was obviously a mortal man at that time. He had to be mortal because He actually died. Neither God, nor a "god man," could have actually died.

Jesus became "the firstfruits" – He was the first of the dead to be given life. In verse 23, Jesus is labeled both "man" and then "firstfruits" in the same sentence.

In verse 24, we read that Jesus delivers up the kingdom to God when He disables all governments and all authorities and powers. Wouldn't that statement be confusing and deceptive if, truly, Jesus were the Father? Would God intentionally deceive us? Man's limitations are by God's own design. He does not throw curves and stumbling blocks before His people, exacerbating the confusion and deception upon an already limited creation. To suggest such a thing amounts to imputing evil motives to God.

Paul says that Jesus delivers the kingdom (or the reign) to the Father after Jesus has disabled all governments and authorities. This statement is nonsense if the Son and the Father are one-and-the-same.

Verse twenty-seven explains further. Paul says that the "all things" that must be put under Jesus' feet does not include Yahweh.

Again, this is a clear distinction between the Father and the Son. This would make no sense whatsoever if Jesus and Yahweh were both the same being. Here is a clear and straight forward differentiation between the two.

END OF LESSON THREE.

FOR ANSWERS AND NOTES, SEE ENCLOSED "ANSWER SECTION."

ANSWERS & COMMENTS

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES LESSON THREE:

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Man's faith must be in Christ – not in man, or institutions of man. In order to have this kind of faith men must understand that Jesus is a present reality – not just a hopeful future event.

2. "Authority" is different from "power." The authority God gives to man does NOT give man power to rule over other men. "Rulers" do not have "authority" from God.

3. Gifts of healings, and miracles, are from God – not from men. Men are incidental to miracles. So-called "healers" are con men who try to make it appear that they have a power unto themselves, or a private access to God, to work miracles.

4. When the Gospels and the New Testament letters refer to Jesus being "sent," they mean that His mortal life, His ministry, His death, His new raised life, His ascension to the throne, and His current reign are all sent. The error of the churches is that they think they are still waiting for Jesus to be "sent back" to Earth. Their attitude amounts to a denial of Christ as He really is.

5. Jesus is accomplishing the "restitution of all things." This "restitution" is not to be confused with the notion of "returning to paradise" as taught in some churches. Nor is it, in any way, equated with the notion of "going to heaven." Rather, it means the settling of debts, and righting all wrongs.

6. The many references to both Jesus and His Father show a clear father/son relationship. This, of course, shows two distinct beings, and exposes the Trinity doctrine, as well as the "Deity of Christ" doctrine of the churches, as unworkable and impossible.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

pg.5

No. We have not forgotten that silly theory from certain churches (even though it deserves to be forgotten). It is true that some churches claim that the races of men were genetic offspring of gods – some from God and some from "Satan." Some actually teach that the Jews are a race that originated from the crossbreeding of "Satan" and Eve. Some churches also teach that certain races originated from hybrid mixtures of animals with humans. Churches that adhere to these wild doctrines are without credibility.

By the same token, some churches claim that the Israelites originated from a genetic mixture of God with mortals.

Thus, two opposing sides are imagined: "the offspring of the Devil," and "the offspring of God."

This teaching would be hilarious if it weren't for the unfortunate people who find themselves duped and confused by it. For these people, Jesus wasn't needed to save mankind from their descent into the morass of sin and degradation. To them, Jesus was only needed to identify and point out who were the genetic "spawn of God" – as opposed to who were the genetic "spawn of the Devil."

Thus, Jesus (according to this weird theory) was not sent to actually save anyone – but rather to find, identify, and rally those who were already holy because God's literal blood flowed in their veins and god's genes made them superior to other people.

pg.6

Unfortunately, most people continue to equate "the presence of

Jesus" with "the end of all sin and trouble." They seem unable to fathom the possibility of Jesus being present and reigning while imperfection still exists in the Earth.

However, the Bible is specific and clear on this. Jesus reigns DURING the time that His enemies are being disabled, and the restitution of all things is being accomplished. And, during that reign, He gives us "times of refreshing" as a result of His presence.

The Futurist churches (a section of the Beast System) have indoctrinated people to think in terms of Jesus' kingdom becoming possible only AFTER all enemies have been conquered, AFTER all sin is overcome, and AFTER all the work of the kingdom is finished. However, that is NOT the way a reigning king works ... and that is NOT the way Jesus works.

The work of the kingdom is being accomplished in the Earth today. The King (Jesus) is reigning, overcoming, conquering, and accomplishing that work.

That IS the work for which Jesus was "SENT" – and that He is presently doing. That is the work He offers to us, and we are given the option to participate.