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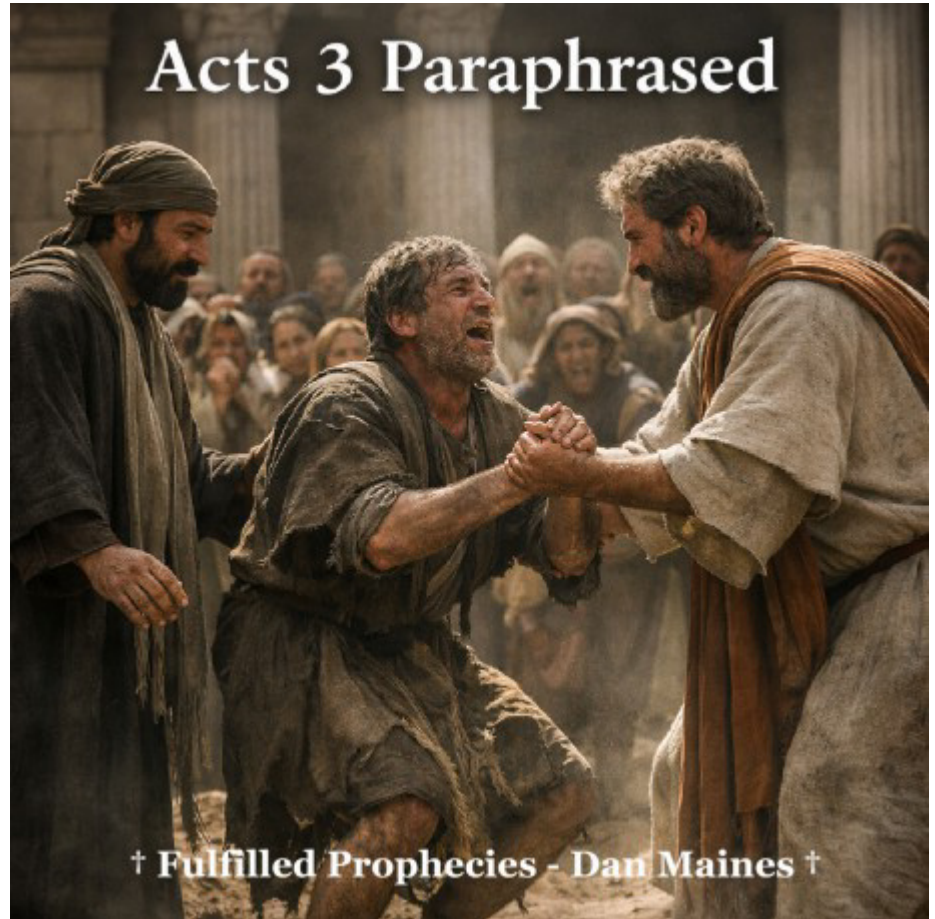
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Acts 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 3 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows the power of Christ working through His apostles in that generation, confirming what Jesus said would take place among them (John 14:12)

† The healing of the lame man is a sign of covenant restoration happening in real time (Isaiah 35:6)

† Peter uses this moment to call that generation to repent before the judgment that was about to fall on Jerusalem

Acts 3:1

Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, around the ninth hour

† The temple was still active, showing the Old Covenant system had not yet passed away (Hebrews 8:13)

† This places us in the transition period before AD 70

† The apostles were still among Israel, calling them before the end of that system

Acts 3:2

A man unable to walk from birth was being carried and placed daily at the temple gate called Beautiful to beg from those entering

† This man represents Israel, unable to stand in righteousness under the law (Romans 8:3)

† His condition from birth shows the deep inability of the flesh

† The temple system could not heal him, showing its limitation

Acts 3:3

When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began asking to receive money

† He was focused on physical need, not spiritual restoration

† This shows how people looked for temporary help instead of true healing

† He didn't yet understand what God was about to do

Acts 3:4

Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, Look at us

† The apostles redirected his attention away from the crowd

† This moment prepares him for an encounter with God's power

† God often shifts attention before He moves

Acts 3:5

He gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them

† His expectation was limited to money

† God was about to give far more than he imagined

† This shows how small expectations are exceeded by God's work

Acts 3:6

But Peter said, I don't have silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you, in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk

† The power is in the name of Jesus, not material wealth

† This shows Christ was still active through His apostles

† Authority comes from Him, not from earthly means

Acts 3:7

Taking him by the right hand, he raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were strengthened

† The healing was immediate and complete

† This shows full authority, not partial healing

† It confirms divine power, not human effort

Acts 3:8

With a leap he stood and began to walk, entering the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God

† This fulfills prophecy that the lame would leap (Isaiah 35:6)

† Restoration had begun in that generation

† He entered healed, something the law could never produce

Acts 3:9

All the people saw him walking and praising God

† The miracle was public and visible

† This removed all doubt about what happened

† God made sure the sign was undeniable

Acts 3:10

They recognized him as the one who used to sit at the gate begging, and they were filled with wonder and amazement

† They knew this man, there was no confusion

† This confirmed the miracle was real

† It removed excuses for rejecting the message

Acts 3:11

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at Solomon's portico, full of amazement

† The miracle drew a crowd quickly

† Signs opened the door for teaching

† God used this moment to bring attention to the message

Acts 3:12

Peter said, Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you stare at us as if by our own power we made him walk

† Peter removes attention from himself

† The miracle is credited to God alone

† This prevents false focus on man

Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has glorified His servant Jesus, the one you handed over and denied before Pilate

† Peter connects Jesus to their covenant God

† He confronts them with their actions

† This shows continuity between Old and New

Acts 3:14

You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be released to you

† They chose Barabbas over Christ

† This exposes their guilt clearly

† It shows the depth of their rejection

Acts 3:15

You put to death the Prince of life, the one God raised from the dead, and we are witnesses

† They killed the source of life

† God overturned their action by raising Him

† The apostles confirm this as eyewitnesses

Acts 3:16

By faith in His name, this man has been made strong, the one you see and know

- † The miracle is tied directly to Jesus
- † This proves He is alive and active
- † Faith in His name is the source of power

Acts 3:17

Now brothers, I know you acted in ignorance, as your rulers also did

- † Ignorance is acknowledged but not excused
- † This opens a path to repentance
- † Responsibility still remains

Acts 3:18

But what God announced beforehand through the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled

- † The suffering of Christ was prophesied
- † Everything happened according to plan
- † This confirms the authority of scripture

Acts 3:19

Therefore repent and return so your sins may be wiped away and times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

- † The call is immediate, repent now
- † Forgiveness was available in that moment
- † Refreshing comes from God's presence

Acts 3:20

And that He may send Jesus, the one appointed for you

- † This refers to Christ coming in judgment and presence (Matthew 16:27-28)
- † This was about their generation, not a distant future
- † Christ's coming was tied to covenant fulfillment

Acts 3:21

Whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things spoken by the prophets

- † The restoration was what the prophets spoke of
- † This was fulfilled in that generation
- † Not something delayed thousands of years

Acts 3:22

Moses said, The Lord will raise up a prophet like me, you must listen to Him

- † Jesus is that prophet
- † Israel was required to hear Him
- † This establishes His authority

Acts 3:23

Every soul that does not listen to that prophet will be destroyed from among the people

- † This is covenant judgment language
- † It was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem
- † Those who rejected Him were cut off

Acts 3:24

All the prophets from Samuel onward announced these days

- † The prophets pointed to their time
- † This confirms the timing was near
- † It was not about a distant age

Acts 3:25

You are sons of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers

- † They were the direct recipients
- † The promises belonged to them first
- † Responsibility rested on them

Acts 3:26

God raised up His servant and sent Him to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways

- † The blessing was repentance
- † Christ was sent to them first
- † The goal was transformation

Historical References

- † Josephus records the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem, confirming the judgment on that generation
- † Eusebius writes about the fall of Jerusalem as fulfillment of Christ's warnings
- † Tacitus describes the destruction and turmoil among the Jewish people

How it applies to us today

- † Christ's authority is already established and active
- † The kingdom is present, not future
- † We live in the reality of fulfilled promises

Q & A Appendix

Q What does the lame man represent

A He represents Israel's inability under the law (Acts 3:2)

Q What proved Jesus was alive

A The miracle done in His name confirmed His power (Acts 3:16)

Q Who was Peter speaking to

A He was speaking to the men of Israel in that generation (Acts 3:12-13)

Q What was the call given to them

A They were told to repent and return (Acts 3:19)

Q What happened to those who rejected the prophet

A They were cut off, fulfilled in judgment (Acts 3:23)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Acts 3

- † Josephus, Wars of the Jews
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History
- † Tacitus, Histories

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