



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Did They Kill the Author of Life?

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David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 3:11-18

“And while he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. 12) But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, ‘Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13) The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14) But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15) but put to death the Prince of Life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. 16) And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17) And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. 18) But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled.” (NASB)

“PETER CONTINUED, YOU ASKED THAT A MURDER’S LIFE MIGHT BE SPARED, BUT YOU PUT THE VERY AUTHOR OF LIFE TO DEATH—AN AMAZING PARADOX!” F.F. BRUCE

Why does Peter correct the idea that this miracle was by their power? What are the six contrasts that Peter uses to correct them? How was it possible to kill the Author of Life? In what way did God prove that His Gospel in Christ was true?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > FEBRUARY 13: ACTS 3:19-26 *THE SECOND SERMON IN THE CAPITAL: REPENT OR PERISH!*
- > FEBRUARY 20: ACTS 4:1-15 *KINDNESS FROM THE CONGRESS OF ISRAEL?*

Never, in the history of Israel, was there a greater contrast between the people inhabiting it and particularly those inhabiting the capital. Many and their leaders had brazenly and unjustly condemned and killed their perfect and innocent Messiah. They felt justified in their unlawful behavior because they imposed on the Romans a type of death they were not even allowed to do, crucifixion! They knew Jesus had claimed to be their Messiah, which they condemned as blasphemy, yet Pilate had even written that claim on His cross as the reason for his execution: “*Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.*” They gloated in the cross of Jesus because He was proven to be “*cursed by God*” (Deut. 21:22-23). Therefore, they thought they had won twice. They had killed Him and in a manner proving His claims as Messiah (or God) were false. Then there were the Apostles and the 120 who had met Jesus after His resurrection and who had prayed fervently for ten days for the coming of His promised Holy Spirit. Suddenly, on the day of Pentecost, Jesus’ authority was revealed as the Spirit was sent upon them so that they miraculously spoke to all in Jerusalem in languages from all over the world. 3000 had been saved and baptized that day. Not only had all the 3000 shown a transformed life by their sacrificial love for one another, but as they were assembling together for prayer in the temple, another executive act from Jesus had healed the lame man.

“ACTS BEGINS WITH A MIRACLE CONCERNING A TOTALLY IMMOBILE MAN, YET GOES ON TO RECOUNT HOW THE GOSPEL PROGRESSES FROM JERUSALEM TO ROME, AND IS VERY MOBILE INDEED!” DAVID COOK

BIBLE STUDIES

- THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
- THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
- THURSDAY @ 4:30 PM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB ROOM 312 SENATOR CARRICO’S OFFICE

Virginia

Did They Kill the Author of Life?

I. THOSE CONFOUNDED

ACTS 3:11-12

Peter and John with the healed lame man probably joined the throng praying in the temple, but the joy of the leaping lame man continued to attract attention. Many knew for sure that they recognized him as the lame man who sat by the Beautiful Gate. As the crowd gathered around the Apostles and the leaping beggar clung to them under Solomon's Portico, Peter realized that they had missed the point of the miracle. Their astonished admiration was upon the Apostles and not the King of Heaven who had caused the miracle. Peter would not let such confusion be allowed for a moment. He addressed them as a man of prayer: "*Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made this man walk?*" With this question he directs their admiration away from the Apostles and toward Jesus. He will not allow any glory to be taken from God!

"THE CROWD'S DILEMMA WAS THAT WHILE THEY ACKNOWLEDGED GOD ALONE AS HAVING THE POWER TO DO MIRACLES, THEY HAD DENIED THAT JESUS WAS GOD, AND THAT HIS FOLLOWERS HAD DIVINE POWER GRANTED BY GOD. SO THEY WERE LEFT WITH NO EXPLANATION FOR WHAT THEY HAD JUST SEEN." JOHN MACARTHUR

II. THEIR CRIME

ACTS 3:13-16

Peter shows his hearers six clear contrasts highlighting their incomparable crime in crucifying Jesus Christ. He first meets them where they are, reminding them of the Old Testament promises they know so well. 1) The God of their fathers, whom they all claimed to serve, they had rejected and killed as had been prophesied. Peter begins and ends his preaching by referring to Jesus as "*His Servant*" (Acts 3:13, 26). The word is precisely the same word used in Isaiah 52:13 & 53:11, which they all knew referred to their Messiah. They had enjoyed the passages that spoke of His conquering reign, but they had ignored the prophecy of His suffering. 2) They had "*delivered up*

and disowned" Jesus, demanding the death of the innocent while their pagan king, Pilate had sought to release Him. 3) They had denied "*the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer*" (Isaiah 53:11). How often, even in America today, are the innocents killed while their murderers are preferred? 4) They deliberately chose a destroyer of life in place of the giver and Author of Life. Evolution can give no explanation for life, only Jesus is the efficient cause of life. He also is the only Author of eternal life (John 14:6). 5) Peter declared, "*The One whom 'You killed,' 'God raised from the dead.'*" Though you have rejected Him, God has exalted Him and now He exercises His authority from heaven. 6) By faith in Him and the authority of His name, this one you killed has "*strengthened this man who you see and know.*" Jesus, whom you executed as a criminal, has done this great kindness to the lame man and "*has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.*"

"GOD NOT ONLY REVERSED YOUR IGNORANT WICKEDNESS IN PUTTING JESUS TO DEATH BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD, HE ACTUALLY USED YOUR FOLLY AS A MEANS OF FULFILLING HIS OWN PURPOSE WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY DECLARED THROUGH ALL THE APOSTLES." C.K. BARRETT

III. THE KING

ACTS 3:16-18

Peter proclaimed to his hearers that what is necessary is "*faith in His name.*" He sought their hope referencing their ignorance that Jesus is the Messiah, and reminds them of the prophecies, "*that His Christ should suffer.*"

"A CALL TO REPENTANCE NATURALLY FOLLOWS. IT IS BRIEF AND SERIOUS, YET IT IS ENFORCED BY NO THREAT, BUT BASED ON THE MOST GRACIOUS PROMISES." CHARLES ERDMAN

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you careful in seeming accomplishments to give glory to the Author of your life?
- 2) Are there areas in your life where you seem to be one way, yet in reality you are the opposite?
- 3) Have you ever repented and received Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Lord of your life?