

## God Reigns

<sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ <sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

### ❖ Intro:

- **The Spirit has come upon the disciples**
- They are preaching the gospel throughout Jerusalem
- **The Church is together and growing**
  - They are spending a lot of time together
  - In the Word of God
  - And In Prayer
  - And they are Generous toward each other
  - There all helped those that had need
  - No one lacked
- **Peter and John are continuing going to the temple to pray**
  - On one such day, they see a man that is lame
  - Had been for over 40 years
  - He was lame when Jesus was at the temple
  - Probably even saw Jesus...
  - I am sure he heard about the other lame guy that got healed
- **Peter and John look at him**
  - Peter tells him, I do not have silver or gold...
  - But Jesus has given me the faith to heal you
- **Peter uses this as an opportunity to preach the gospel to the quickly gathering crowd**
  - He gives all glory to Jesus for the healing...
  - Peter also points out that they are to blame for the death of Jesus...
  - He tells them Jesus was not just a man
  - **Rather He Is:**
    - The Servant of God
    - The Holy and Righteous One
    - The Author of Life

### ❖ Outline:

- 1) The Ignorance of Man
- 2) The Sovereignty of God
- 3) The Purity of Sinners
- 4) The Return of Our Sovereign
- 5) The Promises of God
- 6) The Kindness of God

## ❖ The Ignorance of Man

- <sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.
- Ignorance:
- **They Acted... Actively participate in ignorance**
  - Their rulers led the way...
  - They were unaware
- **Ignorance is no excuse though...**
  - Sins of Ignorance are still sins...
  - Being unaware and not having the knowledge they needed would not excuse them
  - In the Old Testament... The priest would have to bring an offering to the Lord for themselves...
    - And for sins that were done by the people in ignorance...
- **Grace is Offered**
  - Peter does give them an opportunity to change
  - **God is willing to overlook their part in the rejection of His Servant, His Son Jesus**
    - He is even willing to overlook the sins of the High Priest who was behind it all
    - **Illustration:**
      - ◆ If God is so kind as to pardon everyone that had a hands on part in His Death
      - ◆ How gracious do you think you will be toward you...
- **Summary:**
  - Ignorance is no excuse: We are all still responsible for our sins... You and old...
  - God offers a full pardon
    - Based off the death of His Son Jesus Christ

## ❖ The Sovereignty of God

- <sup>18</sup> **But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.**
- **God Reigns over all things...**
  - Even though man is responsible for their actions...
  - Nothing catches God off guard... Nothing ever occurs to God
- **God had planned this all out**
  - He did not cause men to sin...
  - We are just naturally inclined to do so...
  - **Peter tells us in Acts 2 that the coming of Jesus and His death...**
    - **Acts 2:23** <sup>23</sup> **this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,**
    - God had a Definite plan and he had prior knowledge
    - This does not just mean that He could see the future...
    - Which He could... it is just not the future to Him...
    - But also that God had a plan
    - He planned this out... It was His definite Plan
- **God does what He wills (Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon found this out)**
  - God used him and his country to bring judgment on His own people of Israel
  - Then the king of Babylon begins to think highly of himself
  - As if He had been the builder of His kingdom...
  - God immediately strikes him down to being as an animal
  - For seven years he lived outside with the animals... Having lost all reason
- **When his reason returned he had a different take on things...**

- Daniel 4:35 “For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; <sup>35</sup> all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

➤ **Peter Tells them that God is in Control**

- Everything He said through the prophets would happen
- Everything concerning the concerning the Christ would happen...

➤ **The Prophecies**

▪ **There are hundreds scattered throughout the Old Testament**

- Penned even thousands of years prior
- By chosen men of God scattered throughout History and across the globe
- Some are very specific
- Some are seen through the events of Israel like Passover
- Some are placed into the fabric of worship at the temple
  - ◆ From sacrifices to the way the furniture in the temple was made
  - ◆ And even what types of furniture

▪ **29 of these prophecies were fulfilled in just one day...**

- The specifics are mind boggling...
- And Impossible... Unless there is a supernatural Power behind it all...
- And He is the Lord of Hosts
- **Isaiah 46:9,10 I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’**

➤ Maybe Next Week We will look into them more closely

➤ **Satan and Man both tried to stop God**

- In their own ways they tried to stop the plans of God
- But even in the killing of Jesus
- God remained Sovereign...
- Jesus willingly layed down His life

➤ **Even Today:**

- Man can not stop God
- We can make laws and have our own ideas and want freedom...
- But in the end:
- GOD IS GOD and there is no other...
  - Even His greatest enemies will come and bow down at His feet and proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord

❖ **The Purity of Sinners**

- **<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,**

➤ **Sinners can have their sins removed...**

- They will be taken from us... And remembered no more...
- Because of the kindness and goodness of God our sins can be covered over...

➤ **Repent therefore and turn back**

- Therefore: Because Jesus suffered according to His promises
  - God said this would happen...
  - And now He has fulfilled this promise
- **Repent and Turn back**

- So Peter is telling them to repent and turn back...
- The meaning of these words would be:
  - ◆ **Change your mind and ways and return**
- What a loving appeal to these guys Peter is giving...
  - **Then I first looked at the meaning of the word:**
    - ◆ I pictured Peter speaking to these guys who were behind the murder of Jesus
    - ◆ I pictured these guys like Paul who thought they were right...
    - ◆ And Peter is saying... why don't you guys just change your minds...
- **Turn back is easy to understand**
  - It means to return
  - Peter is appealing to them to return to God...
  - They may not have realized they were not with God...
  - I think this is why it was so difficult for them to believe in Jesus as their Messiah
  - He told them they were wrong...
  - It is quite difficult to return to God if you think you are already with Him
- **Peter also stresses that they repent...**
  - If they are going to return to God... they must repent...
  - As the word is understood... :
    - ◆ They must change their mind and ways...
  - This same word is used in:
    - **Luke 3:8<sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.**
      - ◆ And
    - **Acts 26:20 ...that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.**
- **So Repentance is a changing of ones mind of beliefs**
  - **That then leads to a change in actions...**
  - You really can not separate the two can you?
- **Result of Repentance: The Obliteration of your sins**
  - **So that your sins may be blotted out**
- **It literally means that your sins will be wiped off of you**
  - The evidence of your sins will be obliterated or eliminated...
    - ◆ There will be no record of your sins
  - **How awesome is this...? By changing my mind and believing in the True Jesus**
    - ◆ My sins can be obliterated
- **So that: Times of Refreshing may come from the presence of God...**
  - God wants to bless us...
  - And turning from our ways and having our sins removed... leads to
  - Refreshing coming from the Face of God
- **Refreshing**
  - It is debated as to what exactly Peter means here...
  - **But what is easily understood is the God is going to refresh you...**
    - God is going to give them relief after a time of anguish
    - And thinking about your sins... and your destiny because of those sins brings anguish
    - And repentance brings about refreshing from God...
  - **There is also a sense of renewal... God is blotting out your sins...**
    - And He is renewing you in your relationship with Him
  - **One of the best ways to describe what happens to a person when they are saved**

- Is that they have been cleansed... and it is the best feeling in the world...
- God has given them relief from their sins...
- **The Refreshing Never Ends...**
  - God is always their to bring us relief and renewal... and bring us refreshing from the Spirit
- **This will be lived out to the fullest extent:**
  - At the return of Jesus and His coming Kingdom
- **From the Face of God**
  - God's Face toward us is not one of anger or judgment...
  - Rather... Repentance turns God's face towards us for Kindness
- **God Wants to Purify Sinners... He does not want to leave us to our own desires that lead to destruction**

#### ❖ **The Return of Our Sovereign (Briefly)**

- and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,<sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.
- The Christ – Our Sovereign
- Sent
- **Heavens Receive until the time of restoring all the things God spoke about**
  - Means: Jesus is going to wait until the Father says it is time to Return.
  - He Has Done this Before: He first sent His Son at the time He planned...
    - So Jesus comes... Dies on the Day of Passover...
    - Just as God planned...
- **He Will Return**
  - 1 Thess 4:16 <sup>“16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
- **There Will Be a Restoration**
  - All things will be restored...
  - He will make a new heaven and a new Earth
  - Rev 21:1 “ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

#### ❖ **The Promises of God**

- <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’
- **God kept promising to bless the people of the earth...**
  - Noah... Abraham... Isaac... Jacob... Moses... Jesse... David... The Jewish Nation... Mary and Joseph... Peter and the Disciples... The Gentiles...
  - You and me
  - We are all Children of the Promise
- **VS 22 Peter refers to the words of Moses**
  - Moses was a great Witness for the people...
  - They lived by and loved the laws that Moses had delivered to the People...
  - They trusted Moses...
- **The Promise of God through Moses:**

- **God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers...**
  - God will raise Him Up
  - For you
  - A Prophet
  - Like Me
    - ◆ Jesus and Moses have a lot in common...
    - ◆ The Exodus Event is an O.T Type Prophecy of the Coming of Jesus
    - ◆ A teller of the truths of God
  - From your Brothers

➤ **The Consequences of Rejecting Jesus**

- **<sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'**
- Those that do not listen to this prophet and what he has to say:
- Will be destroyed from the people...
  - Means they will be ruined or removed
  - Similarly as to those who opposed Moses
    - ◆ The ground just swallowed them up and down they went...

➤ **The Promises of God through the Prophets**

- **<sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.**
- **We are going o look at this more deeply next week**

➤ **Peter Reminds them the promise is to them:**

- **<sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers,**
  - You are the Sons of the prophets
  - And the Sons of the Covenant God made with your Fathers
- **Covenant is a Promise:**
  - **Hebrews 6:13** <sup>13</sup> For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

➤ **The Promise of God to Abraham**

- **saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'**
- God Told Abraham that He would bless all the families of the earth...
  - He promised to do this through the offspring of Abraham

➤ **God Promised...**

- And God fulfilled His promises
- What about God's promises to you?
  - That he will return
  - That you will find rest
  - That your sins will be removed
  - That you can find great joy in Him alone...
- God is truthful.... And will always fulfill His promises

❖ **The Kindness of God**

- **<sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.'**

➤ **God is Kind**

➤ **Raised up His Servant**

- The word almost means child slave
  - But the word is used for a servant thought of very kindly...

- The root of the word means child...
- Peter uses the same word here for servant as he does in vs 13
  - In vs 13 he says God had glorified His Servant Jesus
- **And this Servant Jesus... Was sent to you guys first**
  -
- **Jesus is Sent to Bless**
  -
- **Jesus blesses by turning people from their wickedness...**
  - God could let us have our own way... He knows we want it...
  - We want to go our own way so badly...
- **To Turn people away from their wickedness**
  - **This word used by Peter would be understood as: *To make you change your beliefs***
  - **When Jesus was arrested and eventually brought to Pilate**
    - This exchange occurs
      - ◆ **Luke 23:14<sup>14</sup>** and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him.
    - **How interesting is this:**
      - ◆ The same word Luke uses to describe Jesus turning people from their wickedness
        - Is used here when describing the Jewish leaders accusations against Jesus
      - ◆ **Jesus is accused of trying to change peoples beliefs**
        - The leaders meant it in a negative way
        - But Jesus was straightening crooked paths...
      - ◆ Jesus did come to turn people back to God
    - **Take Notice:**
      - ◆ When so often we fight against certain ways of thinking...
      - ◆ Certain ways of living...
      - ◆ Let us make sure our way is not crooked...
- **Peter is asking them to change their minds...**
  - Jesus came so they would change their ways
  - To turn from wickedness one must first see their wickedness...
  - **Example:**
    - I preached a sermon one time entitled: *Jesus did not come for everyone...*
    - I got some really big bugged out eyes on that one...
    - I got the title out of Mark
    - **Mark 2: 17<sup>17</sup>** And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”
  - **Can you see your wickedness?**
    - Peter says that Jesus came to turn people from their wickedness...
    - That means their evil ways...
    - Can we see our ways that are evil?
- **Do you need to change your beliefs?**
  - Do you need to turn from your wickedness?

## ❖ Invitation