

Acts # 3

“The Next Big Question”

Introduction to Acts

**AS BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE ON EARTH?**

Every Christian should ask himself this question: ‘After salvation, what do I do now?’

*Eternal salvation is an accomplished fact at the moment we expressed faith alone in Christ alone and Heaven is an absolute guarantee for anyone who has believed in Jesus Christ as Savior; Roman 8:38-39.*

But the quality of a believer’s life on earth depends on his execution of the plan of God after salvation, so his impact and blessings in time and eternity depend on his fulfilling God’s plan in time.

**Human history may be classified into six dispensations grouped into three categories of two dispensations each.**

The Theocentric or pre-Incarnation dispensations are: the Age of the Gentiles and the Age of Israel which occurred long ago before God had spoken to us through His Son; Heb 1:1-2.

*The Christocentric dispensations begin with the First Advent of Christ (also called the Dispensation of the Hypostatic Union) and continue with the Church Age which is the present dispensation.*

The Church carries out to completion the precedent established in our Lord’s First Advent.

Finally, eschatology is the study of the final destiny of the human race and the eschatological dispensations that the Bible prophesies and promises for the end of history are the Tribulation and the Millennium.

**Since Jesus Christ DID go to the cross and is now glorified, Satan’s former purpose in focusing solely on Him has changed.**

Every believer in Jesus Christ is a target in the angelic dispute, which has greatly intensified.

*Knowing God and His grace, angelic free-will had an opportunity to choose for God and one third of the angels rejected it.*

Therefore, while the fallen angels were saying, “Not fair!” God created man in order to demonstrate to them that His position in grace was valid; that love can only express itself through grace and that God cannot change His character to accommodate any creature, whether angel or human being.

**The Devil is destroyed by something he cannot reproduce: GRACE!**

Our security is in the fact that God cannot change and our assurance is Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.

*Billions of years ago in eternity past, God knew about every need we would have at every stage of this intensified conflict.*

**From the moment of salvation, every believer in Jesus Christ, regardless of age, sex or status in life, is in the throes of a great spiritual warfare.**

The creation of man is the result of this conflict, which has existed since some time

in eternity past.

*It is a battle in which the fallen angels are pitted against God, His elect angels and against all believers in Jesus Christ.*

As a member of the human race, Jesus Christ overcame the world so that we as believers in Him can overcome the world by first not conforming to it by renewing our minds to be like His mind and in this way we will not love the world.

**In His humanity, our Lord not only refused to conform to this world's system but He also overcame the world by relying on the Holy Spirit to empower His humanity and the Word of God to guide His humanity.**

The Book of Acts is about the furtherance of God's unfolding plan in which He brings forth the church as the continuation of His Son's ministry on earth.