

THE SECOND SERMON: POINTS FOR PREACHING ACTS 03:12–26

Introduction

The points that should be preached and taught throughout the world are clearly seen in this passage.

- I. A crowd gathered — Peter grasped the opportunity (v. 12).
- II. Point 1: the source of power and holiness (vv. 12-13).
- III. Point 2: the death of Jesus (vv. 13-15).
- IV. Point 3: the resurrection of Jesus (v. 15).
- V. Point 4: Jesus' name made a man completely whole (v. 16).
- VI. Point 5: there is no excuse — God foretold the Messiah's death (vv. 17-18).
- VII. Point 6: repentance and conversion (turning to God) (v. 19).
- VIII. Point 7: Jesus' return and the restoration of all things (vv. 20-21).
- IX. Point 8: judgment (vv. 22-24).
- X. Point 9: a warning — you are especially privileged and blessed (vv. 25-26).

I. *Acts 03:12 Opportunity for Witnessing*

A crowd gathered and Peter grasped the opportunity. The people were amazed at the healed cripple. As word of his amazing healing spread throughout the temple, the people began to run and gather around him in Solomon's porch. (See Mk. 11:27, for details of the temple arcades.)

1. The people knew beyond question that the crippled beggar had been healed. They had known him to be a cripple for over forty years; he had *never walked* (Acts 4:22).
2. The people were eager for an explanation. The audience was ready-made for the gospel, so Peter grasped the opportunity and began preaching.

II. *Acts 03:12–13 Source of Power and Holiness*

Point one is the source of power and holiness. Note three things.

1. The people marvelled. They marvelled not only at the miracle, but at the power and holiness of Peter and John. They recognized that power and holiness were essential to perform such a miracle. They wondered...
 - who Peter and John were, for men just did not have such power.
 - what kind of holiness caused God to give them so much power.
 2. Peter made the fact clear, very clear. *Power and holiness* are not of men. God does not work miracles for men to be glorified. Note exactly what Peter said.
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- a. “Why does this surprise you?” Miracles should not surprise or puzzle men, for God is God. He is all powerful, able to work miracles, and He loves and cares for man’s welfare. Therefore, miracles should be expected. They should be the common experience of men who walk under the loving and watchful eye of God, a God who loves and cares so much that He just reaches out to look after those persons who trust Him.
- b. “Why do you stare at us?” Peter declared forcibly: we are not the source of this miracle. It is not our power and holiness that has wrought the miracle. Man has no merit, no virtue, no morality, no strength, no authority, no power to work such a miracle. *There was nothing about them that deserved such power, no holiness whatsoever.* God had worked the miracle and God alone.
- c. The power and holiness is of God’s Son. In working miracles, God is glorifying His Son, His Servant Jesus. Note how carefully Peter declared this.

⇒ God *has sent* His Son, that is, His Servant (*ton paida*). The Greek word is Servant. It is a name or title for the Messiah (Isa. 42:1-4; 52:13). The Messiah was to be the “Servant of the Lord” (cp. Isaiah chapters 50-53). Peter was declaring that “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our Fathers” has done this miracle. He has glorified His Son. that is, His Servant the Messiah.

⇒ God’s Son, His Servant, is Jesus. Jesus is the Messiah. God worked the miracle to glorify His Servant; therefore, it is Jesus’ power, holiness, Person and worth that are to be glorified.

Mat 9:6 “*But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...*” Then he said to the paralytic, “*Get up, take your mat and go home.*”

Mat 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*”

Luke 8:25 “*Where is your faith?*” he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, “*Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.*”

John 17:2 “*For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.*”

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Rom 1:4 And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thought 1. All three points are powerful lessons for us, lessons that would radically change our lives if we heeded them. Just think! If we trusted and honoured God’s Son more than we do, how much more would we...

- experience God's care and love in looking after us?
- walk humbly before men, denying self and the attention of people?
- be focusing attention upon Jesus and His honour and glory?

III. *Acts 03:13–15 The Death of Jesus Christ*

Point two is the death of Jesus. Note the charges against men, men who killed God's Son. (See Acts 2:23, 36; 5:30.)

1. Men "handed over" God's Son. It was not only the men of Jesus' day who put Jesus on the cross. It is every man who has ever lived. No man would have done differently. We all would have crucified Him. This is the very point of His death.

=> Jesus died for *every man's sin*.

=> It was every man's sin that *necessitated His death*.

No man is exempt from God's love; no man is exempt from the death of Jesus. Every man's sins are covered by God's love and Jesus' death. Therefore, every man — in all the arrogance and rebellion and denial of his sins — delivered Jesus up to the cross and killed Him. It was for my sins He died. It was my sins that put Him on the cross.

2 Cor 5:14-15 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2. Men denied and disowned Jesus, even when He was innocent. Jesus was innocent of the crimes with which He was charged. Even the Roman governor, Pilate, recognized this (see Lk. 23:2-4, 13-16). There was no charge against Him that was justified. He was being *rejected* and condemned because men did not like His claims.

=> He claimed to be the Son of God.

=> He claimed that men had to deny self completely, to give God everything, all they were and had. If they wished to follow God and live eternally, they had to surrender and give all.

Thought 1. Very few men are going to give everything to God. Therefore, men reject, accuse and condemn His claims as false, desiring to get rid of Him as quickly as possible. Guilt and innocence have little, if anything, to do with the matter. Men have to get rid of Jesus or else surrender to His claims. And most are not going to give up themselves and their possessions, not by any stretch of the imagination. (See *Commitment and Self-denial*, Acts 2:44-45; *Cross and Discipleship*, Lk. 9:23.) Thus they disown and seek to get rid of Him, even when He is innocent.

3. Men deny, disown Jesus, the Holy One and the Righteous One.
 - a. God had declared that His Son — His Servant, the Messiah — would be perfectly righteous.

Isa 53:11 *After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

- b. Scripture declares time and again that God's Son — His Servant, the Messiah — is perfectly righteous, without any sin whatsoever. (See *Jesus, the Son of Man*, Mt. 8:20.)

John 8:46 *“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?”*

2 Cor 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.*

Heb 7:26 *Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.*

1 Pet 1:19 *But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 John 3:5 *But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.*

4. Men desired a sinner, a murderer, even before God's Servant. There is a marked contrast between...

- “You *disowned* the Holy and Righteous One.”
- “You asked that a murderer even be released.” This is a striking truth: every man who rejects Jesus is choosing sinful men and their ways over the sinless Son of God and His ways. The unbeliever chooses...
- sin over holiness.
- righteousness over righteousness.
- sinful and murdering man over the Holy and loving Lord.
- corruption over incorruption.
- death over life.

Note: men desire murdering (sinful) mankind and his ways over the Son of God and His ways. Why? Because murdering, sinful man allows men to walk and live as they wish (immorally and unjustly).

5. Men killed the Author of Life. The word *Author* (archegon) means both Prince and Author. Peter is calling Jesus the Prince and Author of life, the very Source of all Life. Jesus Christ is both the Giver and the Saviour of life. (See Jn. 1:4; 1:4-5; 10:10; 17:2-3. Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2-3.)

Luke 2:11 *“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

John 3:14-17 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Acts 5:30-31 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

ACTS 03:13 DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. Acts 03:13

Jesus went to the cross because of man’s sin — every man’s sin. No man is exempt from God’s love. It was for every man that Jesus died. Therefore, every man, in all the arrogance and rebellion and denial of his sins, delivered Jesus up to the cross and killed Him. □

IV. Acts 03:15 The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Point three is the resurrection of Jesus. (See *Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, Acts 1:3; *Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, Acts 2:24; notes, Acts 2:25-36.)

V. Acts 03:16 The Name of Jesus Christ

Point four is Jesus’ name. His name made a man completely whole.

1. It is the name of Jesus alone that makes a man whole. Jesus alone has the power and holiness, merit and virtue to make a man whole.

John 14:13 “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.”

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

John 16:23 “In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

Eph 5:20 *Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. It is faith in Jesus' name that makes a man whole. Both the messenger of God and the person who needs help must believe in the power of Jesus to make a person whole.
 - => God is not going to work *through* a messenger who does not believe "in the name of Jesus."
 - => God is not going to work *in* a person who needs help if that person does not believe in the name of Jesus.
 - => God is not pleased with anyone who does not believe, and cannot help anyone who will not trust Him to help.

Heb 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Something else: God cannot indulge unbelief; He cannot be divided against Himself. It is only *foolishness* — foolish talk, foolish discussion and foolish commentary — to say God indulges unbelief, that He is divided against Himself. Faith is always necessary in both the servant and the person needing God's help.

Mat 8:13 *Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.*

Mat 9:29 *Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you."*

Mat 17:20 *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Mark 3:24-25 *"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."*

Mark 9:23 *"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."*

Eph 2:8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

3. It is "By faith in the name of Jesus" that makes a man completely whole. A man must believe "in the name of Jesus," but belief is a gift of Christ. Faith is not an emotion or a thought or a commitment that a man tries and tries to stir up within himself. It is not *of himself*.

Eph 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (see Heb. 12:2)*

The thought, the impulse, the movement, the tug, the pull to believe is *initiated* by God's Spirit. A man's spirit is dead. It cannot in and of itself move toward a living

relationship with God. A dead spirit cannot make any movement whatsoever, for it is dead. When a man experiences and senses the pull to believe, he needs to stop resisting and believe. He needs to let go and trust Christ. When God initiates belief and moves upon a man's heart *with the gift of belief*, the man needs to exercise his will in accepting Jesus; he needs to give all he is and has to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour. It is by such belief and commitment that a man is made perfectly sound. (See *Believe*, Jn. 2:24; *Draw*, Jn. 6:44-46.)

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 12:32 “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

Song 1:4 Take me away with you — let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!

Jer 31:3 The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

Hosea 11:4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them.

ACTS 03:16 COMPLETE HEALING (HOLOKLERIAN)

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. Acts 03:16

To be whole: to be perfectly sound in *all* of one's parts; to be perfectly complete and entire. It means the man was perfectly sound in both body and soul. □

VI. Acts 03:17–18 Death of Jesus, Fulfilment of Scriptures

Point five is that there is no excuse. God had foretold Messiah's death. Note two facts.

1. The people who rejected and killed Christ did so in ignorance. They did not know what they were doing, but they should have known. They had the prophets who proclaimed the coming and the death of God's Son. God had foretold all that a man needed to know to accept His Son. Their ignorance is not condoned. They are without excuse. They killed Christ in the sin and shame of rebellion against God, refusing to study and listen to the Scriptures, not accepting them for what they said.

John 5:39 “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”

2. God fulfilled the prophetic Scriptures in the suffering of Jesus (see *Jesus Christ, Death*, Acts 2:23).

VII. Acts 03:19 Repentance

Point six is repentance and conversion (turning of God). The words *conversion* or *turn* (epistrepsate) means to turn again. Men must repent and turn again to God. (See *Repentance*, Acts 17:29-30.) If a man turns his life over to God and changes his behaviour, two things happen.

1. His sins are *wiped out* (exaliphtenai): erased, smeared out, rubbed off, obliterated — just like handwriting is erased and wiped off a wall.

Psa 51:9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Isa 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

Isa 44:22 “I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”

2. The Lord will send “times of refreshing” from His presence. When a person comes to know Christ personally, he experiences times...
 - of refreshment and renewal
 - of rest and comfort
 - of joy and rejoicing
 - of strength and commitment
 - of grace and blessings
 - of release and deliverance
 - of revival and stirrings

Thought 1. Repentance is an absolute essential for forgiveness. A person just cannot continue and continue doing the same old things and expect forgiveness. He must repent, turn away from his sin to Christ. If a person is sincere, he will repent.

Mat 3:2 And saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Acts 8:22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Ezek 18:31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?

VIII. *Acts 03:20–21 The Return of Jesus Christ*

Point seven is Jesus' return and the restoration of all things. Note several clear facts.

1. God “will send the Christ,” the Messiah, back to earth again, the same Jesus Christ that has been “appointed for you” (see Acts 1:10-11).
2. Jesus Christ is *presently* in heaven and will be there until He returns. “He must remain in Heaven” until He returns. It is from there that He carries on His present ministry (see note, *Ascension*, Acts 1:9).
3. There is to be a “restoration of everything” (see *Restoration*, Acts 3:21).

ACTS 03:21 RESTORATION (APOKATASTASEOS)

He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 03: 21

To set in order again; to bring back to a former condition or state of being; to recreate or remake or renew all over again. (See *Regeneration*, Mt. 19:28.)

Peter clearly says what he means, identifying the time to which he refers. There is to be a time when “the restoration of everything” will take place, a time when all things will be *made new* or *remade* into their perfect state. There will be a *new order* of things under the personal rule and reign of Christ. (See *Regeneration*, Mt. 19:28. See Rom. 8:19-23; Isa. 11:6-9.) Note two things.

1. The words “until the time comes for God to restore everything” point toward a period of time, perhaps several, over which the restoration will take place. The restoration will include several events, several periods of time. It will not be everything ending all at once; all the events involved in the restoration will not take place at the same time.
2. Scripture teaches several major events of the restoration that will happen at different times.
 - a. There will be the return of the Lord Himself to catch up and resurrect the believer (see 1 Th. 4:13-5:3).

1 Th 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

John 14:2-3 “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and

prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

- b. There will be the salvation of Israel (see Rom. 11:25-36).

Rom 11:25-26 *I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.”*

- c. There will be the millennial reign of Christ upon earth (see *Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ*, Rev. 20:4-6).

Rev 20:4-6 *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*

- d. There will be the deliverance of the whole creation from suffering and corruption, including both nature itself and those among mankind who believe (see Rom. 8:18-27).

Rom 8:21-23 *That the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

- e. There will be the explosive destruction and melting of heaven and earth by fire as well as the making of the new heavens and earth by God.

2 Pet 3:10-13 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

Rev 21:1-5 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

- f. There will be the glorious moment when Christ will hand over the kingdom [His mediatorial ministry] to God the Father...that God may be all in all (see 1 Cor. 15:24-28).

1 Cor 15:24 *Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. □*

IX. Acts 03:22–24 The Judgment

Point eight is judgment. God predicted the coming judgment through the prophets.

1. Moses predicted that God would send His Prophet (the Messiah) to earth (Deu. 18:14-19). People must hear God's Prophet or be cut off and destroyed (see *Cut off, Destroyed*, Acts 3:23).
2. All the prophets from Samuel also predicted the coming and judgment of God's Prophet (see Lk. 3:24- 31; 3:32-38; 3:38).

ACTS 03:23 CUT OFF; DESTROYED (EXOLETHREUTHESETAI)

Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people. Acts 03:23

To be utterly destroyed or slain; to lose one's well-being; to be wasted and ruined and given a worthless existence. It does not mean that a person will cease to exist. It means a person will be destroyed and devastated and condemned to a worthless existence. He will suffer waste and loss and ruin forever and ever.

Mat 25:46 *"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (see vv. 25-45)*

Mark 3:29 *"But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."*

Luke 3:17 “His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Rom 2:8-9 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2 Th 1:7-9 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

Heb 10:29-30 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

2 Pet 2:9 If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

Rev 20:15 If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:8 “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.” □

X. Acts 03:25–26 Privileges of the Jews

Point nine is a warning to Israel. However, the warning is really to all men, for the Son of God Himself has been to earth and *blessed all men* with the glorious message of salvation. The Jews were especially privileged in four things. (See *Israel*, Rom. 9:3-5.)

1. They were the heirs of the prophets. They had the glorious heritage and message of God’s very special servants.
2. They were the people with whom God made a very special covenant, a very special promise. He chose them to be the people and the race through whom He would send the Offspring or the Seed, that is, His Son, into the world.
3. They were the people to whom God sent His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. They were the first people who were blessed by God, blessed with the glorious message of repentance and forgiveness.

Rom 9:1-5 *I speak the truth in Christ — I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.*

Rom 10:1-3 *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ■*