

World Upside Down: The Book of Acts

Acts 3:11-26

- 1. A common saying has it that “ignorance is bliss.” What’s true about this expression, and what are its limitations?**
- 2. Neither power nor piety, but the *Pais* (vv. 11-13), is responsible for the healing.**

Pais/paidos (cf. pediatric) = “servant,” “child”

Behold, my servant (LXX: *pais*) shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
so shall he sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

- Isaiah 52:13-15

- 3. The Author of life was vindicated by the Father (vv. 14-15).**

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Hebrews 12:2

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

- John 10:17-18 (cf. Solomon's Portico)

[God's Son] was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...

- Romans 1.3-4

4. Our faith in God, in Jesus' name, makes us whole (v. 16; cf. v. 13).

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

- John 1:12

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- 1 Peter 1:20-21

5. God has shown forbearance on the basis of ignorance (vv. 17-18).

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

- Luke 23:34

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Timothy 1:12-14

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in

their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

- Ephesians 4:17-18

6. In repentant faith, we await the reconciliation of all things (vv. 19-21).

For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.

- Isaiah 65:17

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- Colossians 1:18-20

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- Ephesians 1:7-10

7. Jesus has the last word on the promises of God (vv. 22-24).

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen...I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

- Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19

He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

- Matthew 17:5

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

- 2 Corinthians 1:20

8. The true Israel is those trusting in God's primordial promise, now fulfilled in Jesus (vv. 25-26).

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Genesis 12:1-3

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

- Galatians 3:8

"There will be no second generation Israel, no grandchildren for God, only those who have repented and turned toward God are of God."

- Will Willimon