Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 3; Matthew 3; Ezra 3; Acts 3

January 3 - Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: I have added emphasis with underlines, highlights, and [brackets] to Scripture for teaching purposes only.]

Genesis 3

The Fall

Gen 3:1 And the naḥash^a was more crafty than all the lives of the field which יהוה Elohim had made, and he said to the woman, "Is it true that Elohim has said, 'Do not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Footnote: ^aOr Naḥash. Traditionally rendered the "serpent". See Explanatory Notes "Serpent" and "Naḥash".

TS2009 Explanatory Notes: Serpent

Hebrew:

<u>Nahash</u>: Serpent, snake, image of a serpent, mythological fleeing serpent. King of the Ammonites during the time of king Sha'ul. Father of Abigail, the mother of Amasa. Commander of Abshalom's army.

Laḥash: Serpent-charming.

Neḥushtan: "A thing of brass": brazen serpent made by Mosheh in the wilderness that was worshipped in the time of king Hezekiah of Yehudah before he destroyed it.

Ir-nahash: City of a serpent. Also a Yehudi.

Zoheleth: Boundary stone near Yerushalayim where Adoniyah slew sheep and oxen.

Muppim: a Binyamite, one of the 14 descendants of Rahel.

Pethen: Snake, venomous serpent, cobra, adder, or viper.

Tsepha / Tsiphoni: Poisonous serpent, viper snake or Shephuphan or Shupham, serpent, son of Bela and grandson of Binyamin.

Shephiphon: Horned snake, adder.

Saraph: fiery serpent, poisonous serpent, seraph, seraphim majestic beings with 6 wings, human hands or voices in attendance upon Elohim.

Tannin / Tannim: dragon, serpent, sea monster, sea or river monster, serpent, venomous snake.

Greek:

Aspis: Asp, small and most venomous serpent.

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Drakon: Dragon, Great serpent, Satan. Ophis: Snake, serpent.

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the naḥash, "We are to eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden,

Gen 3:3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, Elohim has said, 'Do not eat of it, nor touch it, lest you die.' "

Never engage in a conversation with the enemy.

Gen 3:4 And the naḥash said to the woman, "You shall certainly not die.

Gen 3:5 "For Elohim knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like Elohim, knowing good and evil."

To this very day the accuser of the brethren, the adversary, entices with this same tactic: 'you will be like 'God.' Just a 'twist' or a 'nip' of the Scriptures can change foundational truths. Satan is a liar. He practices witchcraft and concocts a 'magical' potion of truth mixed with lies to deceive the sheep; guides them to the wrong path; and desires to keep them unhealthy.

Gen 3:6 And the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, and she took of its fruit and ate. And she also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made loin coverings for themselves.

Adam and Eve were no longer clothed in light; now they were clothed in skin and experienced nakedness. They now had corruptible bodies and the penalty of sin would bring death. We too have corruptible bodies; until, we as believers in Yahusha, receive our glorified bodies at the resurrection on the last day.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of יהוה Elohim walking about in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of יהוה Elohim among the trees of the garden.

Gen 3:9 And יהוה Elohim called unto Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

YHWH knew exactly where Adam was, but he wanted Adam to verbalize the state in which he had fallen. Positionally, Adam had distanced himself from YHWH due to sin.

Gen 3:10 And he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I

was naked, so I hid myself."

Gen 3:11 And He said, "Who made you know that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

This was a clear example of Adam and Eve not listening to YHWH's voice which they knew and were familiar with; and instead, they chose to listen to the voice of Satan, the deceiver.

Gen 3:12 And the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate."

Gen 3:13 And יהוה Elohim said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The naḥash deceived me, and I ate."

Gen 3:14 And יהוה Elohim said to the naḥash, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all livestock and more than every beast of the field. On your belly you are to go, and eat dust all the days of your life.

Gen 3:15 "And I put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed.b He shall crush your head, and you shall crush His heel." Footnote: bFirst promise of the Messiah.

Gen 3:16 To the woman He said, "I greatly increase your sorrow and your conception – bring forth children in pain. And your desire is for your husband, and he does rule over you."

Gen 3:17 And to the man He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'Do not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground because of you, in toil you are to eat of it all the days of your life,

Gen 3:18 and the ground shall bring forth thorns and thistles for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Gen 3:19 "By the sweat of your face you are to eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you return."

Gen 3:20 And the man called his wife's name Ḥawwah, because she became the mother of all living.

Gen 3:21 And יהוה Elohim made coats of skin for the man and his wife and dressed them.

Gen 3:22 And יהוה Elohim said, "See, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever..."

Gen 3:23 so יהוה Elohim sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

Gen 3:24 and He drove the man out. And He placed kerubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

The door had been shut away from the tree of life. Adam and Eve [Ḥawwah], no longer walked in the presence of YHWH in the garden. One day this partition of separation guarding the way to the tree of life, would be opened by Yahusha, who is the Door. We read about the door having been opened in Revelation 4:1.

Rev 4:1 After this I looked and saw <u>a door having been opened in the heaven</u>. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here and I shall show you what has to take place after this."

Matthew 3

John the Immerser Prepares the Way

Mat 3:1 And in those days Yoḥanan the Immerser came proclaiming in the wilderness of Yehudah,

Mat 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the reign of the heavens has come near!"

Mat 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Yeshayahu, saying, "A voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of יהוה, make His paths straight.'

" Isa_40:3.

We too are making the paths straight in preparing for the return of YHWH. This effort will intensify in the last days as noted in the Book of Revelation by the two witnesses.

Rev 12:14 And the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, to fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, Dan_7:25, Dan_12:7 from the presence of the serpent.

Mat 3:4 And Yoḥanan had a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist. And his food was locusts and wild honey.

Rev 11:3 "And I shall give unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clad in sackcloth."

Mat 3:5 Then Yerushalayim, and all Yehudah, and all the country around the Yarden went out to him.

Mat 3:6 and they were immersed by him in the Yarden, confessing their sins.

Mat 3:7 And seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his Immersion, he said to them, "Brood of adders! Who has warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

The days in which John the Immerser lived, seem like the days in which we live. There has been an awakening of knowing who we are in Yahusha. YHWH is gathering His people through the New Covenant Confirming Gospel. We understand that we are Israel; we are the temple with the Ruach HaKodesh living in us; we are His kingdom of priests of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation after the order of Melchizedek.

We recently read in our devotional on the Book of Revelation about two of the seven assemblies that were persecuted by those that said they were 'Jews' and were not. This same scenario is happening again as YHWH's people; proclaim and exalt His name and understand that we are Israel; the one new man.

The Sanhedrin [via the Chabad-Lubavitch Sect] were re-established in 2004. The Noahide Laws were signed into U.S. Public Law [102-14] in 1991 cloaked as 'Education Day' under President George. H. W. Bush. 'Education Day' / Noahide Laws, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018 from when it was first initiated as <u>a resolution in 1978 under Carter</u>. These laws whenever 'activated' would criminalize free speech, especially toward believers. These man-made laws are being elevated above YHWH's laws by those that say they are Jews and are not and by others that worship Satan instead of YHWH.

Rev 2:8 "And to the messenger of the assembly in Smyrna write, 'This says the **First and the Last**, <u>Isa 44:6</u>, <u>Isa 48:12</u> who became dead, and came to life:

Rev 2:9 "I know your works, and pressure, and poverty – yet you are rich – <u>and the blasphemy</u> of those who say they are Yehudim and are not, but are a congregation of Satan.

Rev 3:7 "And to the messenger of the assembly in Philadelphia write, 'He who is set-apart, He who is true, He who has **the key of David**, **He who opens and no one shuts**, **and shuts and no one opens**, <u>Isa 22:22</u> says this:

Rev 3:8 "I know your works – see, I have set before you an open door, and no one is able to shut it – that you have little power, yet have guarded My Word, and have not denied My Name.

Rev 3:9 "See, I am giving up those of the congregation of Satan, who say they are Yehudim and are not, but lie. See, I am making them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Mat 3:8 "Bear, therefore, fruits worthy of repentance,

Mat 3:9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as father.'^a For I say to you that Elohim is able to raise up children^b to Abraham from these stones.^b Footnotes: ^aSee <u>Joh 8:33-44</u>, <u>Rom 9:8</u> and <u>Rom 2:26-29</u>. ^bThe only difference in Hebrew between children and stones is the first letter of the word. Children-banim. Stones-abanim.

Mat 3:10 "And the axe is already laid to the root of the trees. <u>Every tree, then, which</u> does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Joh 15:6 "If anyone does not stay in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up. And they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Mat 3:11 "I indeed immerse you in water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to bear. He shall immerse you in the Set-apart Spirit and fire.

Mat 3:12 "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He shall thoroughly cleanse His threshing-floor, and gather His wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff He shall burn with unquenchable fire."

What John was implying by saying 'whose sandals I am not worthy to bear' related to Yahusha's authority being much greater. Keep in mind, John the Immerser, was the best qualified for the Aaronic Levitical High Priest. However, He functioned in the wilderness because the temple system was corrupt. The Romans had favored and elected someone that would work with them ~ Caiaphas. Even with John's great qualifications for his High Priestly position, John knew Yahusha was greater; Yahusha was the Messiah! Yahusha was the Melchizedek. Even the least in the kingdom of Melchizedek priests would be more righteous than the best of the best of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. Not on their own accord; but because they had made their garments white in the blood of the Lamb.

The Mikvah of Yahusha

Mat 3:13 Then יהושע came from Galil to Yoḥanan at the Yarděn to be immersed by him.

Mat 3:14 But Yoḥanan was hindering Him, saying, "I need to be immersed by You, and You come to me?"

John was very much aware that Yahusha was greater than he.

Mat 3:15 But יהושע answering, said to him, "Permit it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

John finally grasped the bigger picture. What was taking place was the transference from John, the High Priest of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood to Yahusha, the High Priest of the Melchizedek Order; thus, John permits it to be so.

This process had to be done to 'fill all righteousness' since at that time they were still functioning under the 'Book of the Law'. As with Moses cleansing Aaron and his sons, so was the process between John the Immerser and Yahusha. There was a priestly consecration process that was to be followed.

In Moses' day: The priesthood transferred from Melchizedek to Aaronic Levitical. During this time, the Melchizedek priesthood was denigrated; yet ran parallel to the transference reign of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood.

In John the Immerser's day: The priesthood transferred from Aaronic Levitical Priesthood back to the reign of the Melchizedek priesthood. The Aaronic Levitical priesthood under the Book of the Law had served its purpose until Yahusha had come.

Heb 7:26 For it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest – kind, innocent, undefiled, having been separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens,

Mat 3:16 And having been immersed, יהושע went up immediately from the water, and see, the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of Elohim descending like a dove and coming upon Him,

Mat 3:17 and see, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I delight."



Rebuilding the Altar

Ezr 3:1 Now when the seventh new *moon* came, and the children of Yisra'ěl were in the cities, the people gathered as one man to Yerushalayim.

What a beautiful opening verse. The Feast of Tabernacles [Booths] occurs in the 7th month and is also referred to as the Feast of Ingathering. This rehearsal prepares YHWH's people for His return when He will tabernacle with us and consummate our marriage to Him.

- Ezr 3:2 And Yěshua son of Yotsadaq and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel son of She'alti'ěl and his brothers, arose and built the slaughter-place of the Elohim of Yisra'ěl, to offer ascending offerings on it, as it is written in the Torah of Mosheh, the man of Elohim.
- Ezr 3:3 So they set the slaughter-place on its stands, being afraid of the peoples of the lands. And they offered ascending offerings on it to יהוה, both the morning and evening ascending offerings.
- Ezr 3:4 And they performed the Festival of Sukkot,^a as it is written, and the daily ascending offerings by number, according to the right-ruling for each day, Footnote:

 aBooths
- Ezr 3:5 and afterward the continual ascending offering, and those for new *moons* and for all the appointed times of יהוה that were set-apart, also for everyone who

volunteered a voluntary offering to יהוה.

Ezr 3:6 From the first day of the seventh new *moon* they began to offer ascending offerings to יהוה. But the foundation of the Hěkal of יהוה had not been laid.

Ezr 3:7 And they gave silver to the stonemasons and the carpenters, and food, and drink, and oil to the people of Tsidon and Tsor to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to the sea at Yapho, according to the permission which they had from Koresh sovereign of Persia.

Rebuilding the Temple

Ezr 3:8 And in the second new *moon* of the second year of their coming to the House of Elohim, to Yerushalayim, Zerubbabel son of She'alti'ěl, and Yěshua son of Yotsadaq, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Lěwites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Yerushalayim, began, and they appointed the Lěwites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the House of יהוה.

Ezr 3:9 And Yěshua stood up, his sons and his brothers, Qadmi'ěl with his sons, the sons of Yehudah together, to oversee those working on the House of Elohim: the sons of Hěnadad with their sons and their brothers the Lěwites.

Ezr 3:10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the Hegal of יהוה, they appointed the priests in their robes, with trumpets, and the Lewites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise יהוה, after the order of Dawid sovereign of Yisra'el.

Ezr 3:11 And they responded by praising and giving thanks to יהוה, "For He is good, for His loving-commitment towards Yisra'ěl is forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised יהוה, because the foundation of the House of יהוה was laid.

Ezr 3:12 And many of the priests and Lewites and heads of the fathers' *houses*, the old men who had seen the first House, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this House was laid before their eyes, and many shouted aloud for joy,

Ezr 3:13 and the people could not distinguish the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away.

Acts 3

The Lame Beggar Healed

Act 3:1 And Kěpha and <u>Yohanan were going up to the Set-apart Place at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.</u>

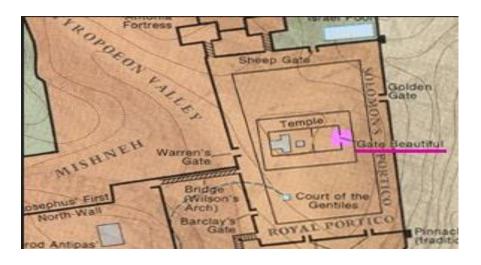
The 9th hour equates to 3-4 p.m. Under the <u>Aaronic Levitical priesthood</u>, this had also been the time that the second Tamid lamb is sacrificed [*Antiquíties of the Jews* 14.4.3 (14:65); Philo *Special Laws* I, XXXV (169)].

Now we will see Peter and John teaching <u>about the shift</u> from the way things had been done under the <u>Aaronic Levitical priesthood</u>; to how things should now be done under <u>Yahusha</u>, the <u>High Priest of the Melchizedek Order</u>. Yahusha had ushered in the Melchizedek priesthood <u>back to its reigning position</u>; and like a big ship making a <u>major 'change in course'</u>, it takes a while for the rudder to completely change the ship's direction; especially in stormy conditions.

We know that the Melchizedek Priesthood predated the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood; and we saw how long it took to get everything in place in order to administer the Book of the Law. Now, the REIGNING priesthood is **shifting back to the Melchizedek Order**; and with this change comes a change in law to Covenant Torah. This would require much time, energy, risk, and love to administer this change through His kingdom of priests.

All believers that had enter the New Covenant by faith in Yahusha HaMashiach, would be sharing the Good News, line upon line, here a little and there a little as it is to this day. We are still living out the Book of Acts.

Act 3:2 And <u>a certain man, lame from his birth</u>, was carried, whom they laid <u>daily at</u> the gate of the Set-apart Place which is called <u>Yaphah</u>, a to <u>ask alms</u> from those entering into the Set-apart Place, Footnote: <u>aBeautiful or Lovely</u>.



[Excerpt] This gate of Herod's temple is mentioned in the narrative of the healing of the lame man by Peter and John in Acts 3:2,10. Little dispute exists as to the identification of the Beautiful Gate with the splendid "gate of Nicanor" of the Mishna (Mid., i.4), and "Corinthian Gate" of Josephus (BJ, V, v, 3), but authorities are divided as to whether this gate was situated at the entrance to the women's court on the East, or was the gate reached by 15 steps, dividing that court from the court of the men. The balance of recent opinion inclines strongly to the former view (compare Kennedy, "Problems of Herod's Temple," The Expositor Times, XX, 170); others take the

opposite view (Waterhouse, in Sacred Sites of the Gospels, 110), or leave the question open (thus G. A. Smith, Jerusalem, II, 212). See TEMPLE, HEROD'S.

The gate itself was of unusual size and splendor. It received the name "Nicanor" from its being the work, or having been constructed at the expense, of an Alexandrian Jew of this name. Lately an ossuary was discovered on Mt. Olivet bearing the Greek inscription:

"The bones of Nicanor the Alexandrian, who made the doors."

Its other name, "Corinthian," refers to the costly material of which it was constructed-- Corinthian bronze. Josephus gives many interesting particulars about this gate, which, he tells us, greatly excelled in workmanship and value all the others (BJ, V, v, 3). These were plated with gold and silver, but this still more richly and thickly. It was larger than the other gates; was 50 cubits in height (the others 40); its weight was so great that it took 20 men to move it (BJ, VI, vi, 3). Its massiveness and magnificence, therefore, well earned for it the name "Beautiful."

- W. Shaw Caldecott https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/gate-the-beautiful/
- Act 3:3 who, seeing Kěpha and Yohanan about to go into the Set-apart Place, asked for alms.
- Act 3:4 And Kěpha, with Yoḥanan, looking steadfastly at him, said, "Look at us."
- Act 3:5 And he gave heed to them, expecting to receive whatever from them.
- Act 3:6 But Kěpha said, "I do not have silver and gold, but what I do possess, this I give you: In the Name of יהושע Messiah of Natsareth, rise up and walk."
- Act 3:7 And taking him by the right hand he lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones were made firm.
- Act 3:8 And leaping up, he stood and walked, and went in with them into the Setapart Place, walking and leaping and praising Elohim.
- Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising Elohim.
- Act 3:10 And they recognized him, that it was he who sat begging alms at the Lovely Gate of the Set-apart Place. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what befell him.

Lame how long? From birth, over 40 years [Acts 4:22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been done.]

Lame man's daily routine: Friends would lay him at the 'Beautiful Gate; entry location to the Set-apart Place; time 9th hour; Asked for alms.

Request by Peter & John – <u>"Look at us."</u> Thus, implying he probably didn't look up too often. He obeyed and gave heed in expectation. <u>The eye is a lamp to the body</u> (Matt 6:22). The lame man may have been deflated at first hearing they had no silver or gold; but instead, he receives something 'life changing'; a miracle, in more ways than one!

When anyone encounters the Living Savior, their life experiences a <u>major shift!</u> Whether a miraculous healing and/or a spiritual shift from death to eternal life, an encounter with Yahusha is priceless and unforgettable!

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

- Act 3:11 And as the lame man who was <u>healed was clinging to Kěpha and Yohanan</u>, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Shelomoh's, greatly amazed.
- Act 3:12 And seeing it, Kěpha responded to the people, "Men of Yisra'ěl, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, <u>as though by our own power or reverence</u> we have made him walk?
- Act 3:13 "The Elohim of Abraham, and of Yitsḥaq, and of Ya'aqob, the Elohim of our fathers, Exo_3:6, Exo_3:13, Exo_3:15 esteemed His Servant יהושע, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.
- Act 3:14 "But you denied the Set-apart and Righteous One, and asked that a man, a murderer, be granted you.
- Act 3:15 "But you killed the <u>Princeb of life</u>, whom Elohim raised from the dead, <u>of which we are witnesses.</u> Footnote: bSee Act_5:31.
- Act 3:16 "And by the belief in His Name, this one whom you see and know, His Name made strong, and the belief which comes through Him has given him this perfect healing before all of you.

Peter pointed all the esteem and glory for the healing of the lame beggar <u>back to</u>

<u>Yahusha HaMashiach.</u> The lame man was healed <u>by his faith</u> in Yahusha and by <u>the Name</u> of Yahusha.

We too were once lame, blind, deaf, and dead in trespasses. We too were saved by grace through faith in Yahusha HaMashiach.

- Act 3:17 "And now, brothers, I know that you did it in ignorance, as your rulers did too.
- Act 3:18 "But this is how Elohim has filled what He had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that His Messiah was to suffer.
- Act 3:19 "Repent therefore and turn back, for the blotting out of your sins, in order that times of refreshing might come from the presence of the Master,
- Act 3:20 and that He sends יהושע Messiah, pre-appointed for you,
- Act 3:21 whom heaven needs to receive until the times of restoration of all *matters*, of which Elohim spoke through the mouth of all His set-apart prophets since of old.

Peter said not to focus on them but on Yahusha, the Set-apart and Righteous One. What the people had done in ignorance was behind them, and Peter encourages them to:

Repent! He shares with them that all that had occurred was prophesied by the prophets foretelling the suffering of Messiah. Peter implores them to turn back to Him for forgiveness and blotting out of sins. Yahusha lives and He reigns from heaven!

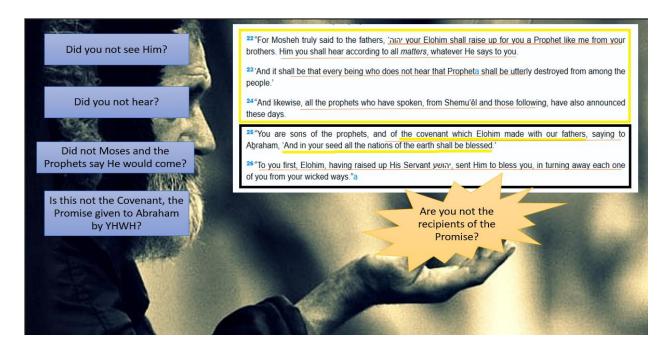
Act 3:22 "For Mosheh truly said to the fathers, יהוה' your Elohim shall raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brothers. Him you shall hear according to all matters, whatever He says to you.

Act 3:23 'And it shall be that every being who does not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' Deu_18:15-19.

Act 3:24 "And <u>likewise</u>, all the prophets who have spoken, from Shemu'ěl and those following, have also announced these days.

Act 3:25 "You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which Elohim made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.' Gen_12:3, Gen_22:18, Gen_26:4.

Act 3:26 "To you first, Elohim, having raised up His Servant יהושע, sent Him to bless you, in turning away each one of you from your wicked ways."^C Footnote: ^CAlso see Act 2:38.



~ Shalom ~ Libby

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