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WALKING, LEAPING AND PRAISING GOD

“But Peter said, ‘I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – walk!’ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him,” Acts 3:6-10. As amazing as this miracle was, this was not the complete focus of Peter merely upon the excited joy of the lame man who was able to walk again. Peter actually turns the

focus back onto the power of Christ which was the source of the man’s astounding healing. “And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all,” Acts 3:16. It was the power of Christ which caused this man to walk, leap and praise God in excited joy. Peter draws the focus and attention on that amazing power of Christ to reveal that even though many of those present were able to physically walk, the same power of Christ was available to raise them up in a newness of life which had the same powerful ability give them the ability to walk, leap and praise God in a renewed spiritual life which would truly refresh and renew their entire lives.

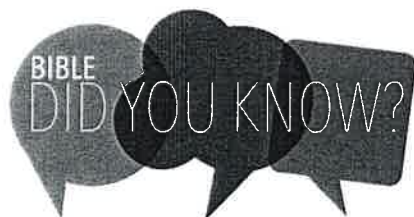
“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” Acts 3:19. Peter used the restored life of the lame man to illustrate Jesus has just as much power to transform and change us to cause us to walk, leap and praise God as well. **Walking.** The power of Christ is able to allow us to walk with God, in peace, in love, and in joy. No longer in a state of worry or fear, we can be at peace knowing we are at peace with God when we turn to the power of Christ to restore us. “But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace...And He came and preached peace to those who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,” Ephesians 2:13-14,17-19. Knowing we have God as a protecting, loving, guiding Father, we may walk through this life in peace and full of love. “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and

gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma,” Ephesians 5:1-2. **Leaping.** Walking in peace and unity with God our Father through Christ, we are not only able to walk but have also been given the ability to leap as well. The God who assures us that nothing is impossible for Him, gives us the ability through faith to overcome the impossible in our lives. “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you,” Matthew 17:20. We are able by faith in His power to “leap” as David put it. “For by You I can run upon a troop; and by my God I can leap over a wall,” Psalm 18:29. The wonderful thing about the power of Christ is that by faith we don’t need to leap over the walls in front of us, but will be actually able to move the mountains of obstructions blocking our progress, causing us to leap for joy rather than needing to leap over it. Are there mountains of temptations lurking over and intimidating and discouraging you? Notice how Jesus shows us His ability to actually move those mountains to clear the way. “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan!’” Matthew 4:10. “But He turned and said to Peter,

‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me,’” Matthew 16:23. Jesus literally told Satan to get out of the way, to be moved to be free from the temptations he was bringing. We have been given the ability to exercise our faith in the Lord as we walk with Him and move mountains of doubt, fear, temptation and any mountain of obstruction standing in our way. “But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. Since you are precious in My sight, since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you,” Isaiah 43:1-5. **Praising God.** We have every reason to leap for joy as children of God, and be excited to rejoice and praise the mercy and love of our God, knowing we can appeal to Him at any time seeking His strength

to support us and His power to remove all doubts and fears from among us. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 4:1-7.

– Daniel Ruegg



“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth.”
Isaiah 11:1-4

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



Isis Accidentally Corroborates the Bible

When fighters for the terrorist organization ISIS destroyed numerous biblical archaeological sites in Iraq, they unknowingly unearthed evidence supporting Old Testament accounts. Previously archaeological teams stopped digging under certain sites in Iraq, such as the traditional tomb of Jonah the prophet, for fear of destroying them. When ISIS fighters took over Mosul and other Iraqi areas in 2014, they had no such qualms. They demolished the tomb of Jonah and dug tunnels looking for buried treasure or artifacts they could sell to finance their terrorist operations, according to the UK Telegraph. Once the Iraqi army rooted out ISIS earlier this year, archaeologists began checking the historic sites to see how much damage had been done. They made some startling discoveries. Tunnels dug by the terrorist group revealed a previously untouched Assyrian palace in the ancient city of Nineveh and several inscriptions that corroborate biblical accounts. An article in Iraq magazine, an archaeology journal published by Cambridge University, examines previously discovered artifacts from the site and those unearthed by ISIS. Inscriptions found in the old city of Nineveh give an order of Assyrian kings that matches perfectly with the biblical order.

- Sargon II (Sargon in Scripture): Isaiah 20:1
- Sennacherib: 2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 32, Is. 36-37
- Esarhaddon: 2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38
- Ashurbanipal (also known as Asnappar, Osnapper or Asenaphar): Ezra 4:10



Other inscriptions confirm biblical references to the city of Calah (Genesis 10:11-12) and the methodology of resettlement used by the Assyrians (Ezra 4:10).