

## The God Of Abraham

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After the observance of Pentecost in Acts 2, a man who had been lame from birth asked for alms from Peter and John as they approached the temple. Peter's response was **“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk”** (Acts 3:6). Peter then took the man's hand and he stood up and walked and entered the temple, leaping and praising God to the astonishment of all who were there.

Peter used the occasion to glorify both God and Jesus and to point out to the crowd their sins and God's willingness to grant them repentance and forgiveness. He said **“Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why do you look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name, through faith in his name, has made this man strong”** (Acts 3:12-16). Peter then continued with **“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”** (verses 19-21). Peter confirmed what they believed, that God was the God of their fathers, and then addressed what they still needed to understand, that salvation had come through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Stephen, when he was called before the council of the Jews and accused of blasphemy, declared **“The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran”** (Acts 7:2). The God of glory is the One who gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision and who was the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob and the God of Jacob's children (verse 8). That God is the one who declared to Moses **“I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”** (verse 32). There is no conflict in the record of scripture. Stephen went on to quote a prophecy of Moses **“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear”** (verse 37). And for openly declaring that Prophet to the Jews, Stephen was killed.

The God of Abraham and the God of Moses and the God of David is the same. It was for that God that Solomon built a house (Acts 7:45-47). Jesus referred to that dwelling, in His day, as His Father's house (John 2:16; 14:2). David, in preparing for his son Solomon to build the original temple, declared **“The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God”** (1 Chronicles 17:24).

Paul understood these same things. When he spoke in his own defense before Felix he stated **“I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets”** (Acts 24:14). Paul clearly knew who the God of their fathers was, as did the rest of the apostles, as did also the brethren. They all knew the record of scripture. The book of Hebrews affirms this with **“God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son”** (1:1-2).

The God of Abraham is the Father of Jesus Christ.