

*Why
is it
Empty?*



¹⁵So be careful how you live.

Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.

*¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity
in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly,
but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*

Ephesians 5:13-15 ^{NLT}

¹²Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. “People of Israel,” he said, “what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? ¹³For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this.

Acts 3:12, 13a ^{NLT}

This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. ¹⁴You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer.

¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! ¹⁶

“Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before.

Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your

very eyes. Acts 3:13b-16 ^{NLT}

17 “Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance.

*18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—
that he must suffer these things.*

*19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God,
so that your sins may be wiped away.*

Acts 3:17-19 ^{NLT}

²⁰Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah.

²¹For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²²Moses said, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything he tells you.'

Acts 3:20-22 ^{NLT}

²³Then Moses said,

‘Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God’s people.’

²⁴“Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today. ²⁵You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors.

Acts 3:23-25a ^{NLT}

*For God said to Abraham,
‘Through your descendants all the families on
earth will be blessed.’²⁶ When God raised up his
servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people
of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you
back from your sinful ways.”*

Acts 3:25b, 26^{NLT}

Why Did God Make Us?

To Make a _____ Out of _____?

To Bring Three _____ Through a _____?

To Show That God's _____ Isn't _____ Me!

²⁶Then God said,

*“Let us make human beings in our image,
to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish
in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the
wild animals on the earth, and the small animals
that scurry along the ground.”*

Genesis 1:26^{NLT}

27 So God created human beings in his own image.

*In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

28 Then God blessed them and said,

*“Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and
govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds
in the sky, and all the animals that scurry
along the ground.”*

Genesis 1:27, 28^{NLT}



— *Amal* —

Why Did God Make Us?

To Make a Nation Out of One?

To Bring Three _____ Through a _____?

To Show That God's _____ Isn't _____ Me!

*¹The LORD had said to Abram,
"Leave your country, your people and your father's
household and go to the land I will show you.
²"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless
you; I will make your name great, and you will be
a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and
whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples
on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 12:1-3 ^{NIV}



Why Did God Make Us?

To Make a Nation Out of One?

To Bring Three Boys Through a Fire?

To Show That God's _____ Isn't _____ Me!

*²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said,
"Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach
and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued
his servants! They trusted in him and defied the
king's command and were willing to give up their
lives rather than serve or worship any god
except their own God.*

Daniel 3:28 ^{NIV}

*²⁹Therefore I decree
that the people of any nation or language who
say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach
and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses
be turned into piles of rubble,
for no other god can save in this way."*

Daniel 3:29 ^{NIV}



Why Did God Make Us?

To Make a Nation Out of One?

To Bring Three Boys Through a Fire?

To Show That God's Mercy Isn't About Me!

*²²"Therefore, tell Israel, 'Message of GOD,
the Master: I'm not doing this for you, Israel.
I'm doing it for me, to save my character, my holy
name, which you've blackened in every country
where you've gone. ²³I'm going to put my great and
holy name on display, the name that has been ruined
in so many countries, the name that you blackened
wherever you went. Then the nations will realize
who I really am, that I am GOD, when I show my
holiness through you so that they can see it with their
own eyes. Ezekiel 36:22, 23 MSG*

24" 'For here's what I'm going to do: I'm going to take you out of these countries, gather you from all over, and bring you back to your own land. 25I'll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean. 26I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed. 27I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands. 28You'll once again live in the land I gave your ancestors. You'll be my people! I'll be your God!

Ezekiel 36:24-28 MSG