# Acts 3:19 and John Wycliffe 1320-1384, Friend of Israel<sup>1</sup>

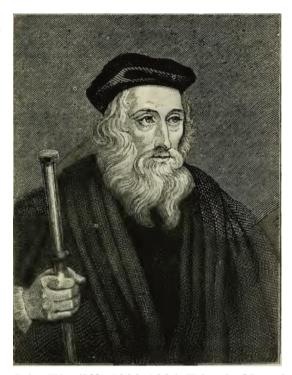
"Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" James 3:5 like a simple, single syllable conjunction

## Introduction – A Disbelieved Scripture

Acts 3:19 reads "Repent ye therefore, and <u>be converted</u>, <u>that your</u> <u>sins may be blotted out</u>, <u>when the</u> <u>times of refreshing shall come</u> from the presence of the Lord;"

Neither heretics; JB, NJB, NWT, Greek editors; Nestle's 21st Edition, Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text, Farstad-Hodges 'Majority' Text nor professing evangelical fundamentalists: 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs, NKJV believed the verse as it stands in the AV1611. They all changed it to read "that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs or similar. The NKJV has "so that." The professing evangelical fundamentalists no doubt perceived the AV1611 reading as contradicting the doctrine of assurance of salvation or eternal security.

# English Reformers Believed Acts 3:19



John Wycliffe 1320-1384, Friend of Israel Wycliffe was a Yorkshireman. IMHO such was the daunting nature of his task that God chose a Yorkshireman for the job.

The English Reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century English Protestant Reformation all believed Acts 3:19 because the Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Bishops', Geneva Bibles all read with the AV1611, *as does Wycliffe's 1385 Edition*. Note the following analysis.

#### John Wycliffe Believed Acts 3:19

John Wycliffe believed Acts 3:19. His belief is shown in his Bible and reveals that he was Israel's friend. Compare Wycliffe's circa 1385\* Edition to the circa 1395 Edition for Acts 3:19, published long after Wycliffe's death. \*Earliest date 1380. See *Appendix*.

Wycliffe's circa 1385 Edition reads, this writer's emphasis:

"Therfor be ye repentaunt, and be ye converted, that youre synnes be don awei, whanne the tymes of refresching schulen [shall] come from the siyt [sight] of the Lord."

### Catholic Meddling with Acts 3:19

Catholic meddling of Acts 3:19 started early, with Jerome<sup>2</sup>, with Jerome's Latin Vulgate, completed 405 A.D. See Acts 3:19-20, Jerome's Vulgate, with interlinear English, this writer's emphases.

"paenitemini igitur et convertimini ut deleantur vestra peccata

"Be penitent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.

"ut cum venerint tempora refrigerii a conspectu Domini et miserit eum qui praedicatus est vobis Iesum Christum

"That when the times of refreshment shall come from the presence of the Lord, and he shall send him who hath been preached unto you, Jesus Christ."

In turn Wycliffe's circa 1395\* Edition reads, this writer's emphases, \*earliest date 1388:

"Therfor be ye repentaunt, and be ye converted, that youre synnes be don awei, **that whanne** the tymes of refresching schulen [shall] come from the siyt [sight] of the Lord."

The circa 1395 reading corresponds to the 1582 Jesuit-Rheims and 1749-1752 Challoner's Revision Douay-Rheims readings, this writer's emphases. See below. All texts apart from Wycliffe's circa 1385, 1395 Editions and the 1582 Jesuit-Rheims New Testament are referenced here<sup>3</sup>. See **References**.

An actual archived reprint has been accessed for the 1582 Jesuit-Rheims reading <sup>4</sup>.

"Be Penitent therfore & conuert, that your sinnes may be put out. **that**, **vvhen** the times shal come of refreshing by the sight of our Lord, and he shal send him that hath been preached vnto you Iesvs Christ" Acts 3:19-20.

"Be penitent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. **That when** the times of refreshment shall come from the presence of the Lord, and he shall send him who hath been preached unto you, Jesus Christ" Acts 3:19-20.

The circa 1395 Wycliffe and 1582 Jesuit-Rheims, 1749-1752 Challoner's Revision Douay-Rheims readings show a progression from the wrongful insertion of the word "that" to decoupling "your sins may be blotted out" from the conditional word "when" as in the AV1611 and in all its faithful precursors of the 16<sup>th</sup> century English Protestant Reformation.

#### Fundamentalist Error in Acts 3:19

The next step appears to have been to remove the word "when" entirely from the text, 1881 RV, then re-couple the readings to give the modern wording to satisfy fundamentalist editors. They don't believe that Acts 3:19 refers to Israel's national salvation at the Second Advent. It does<sup>5</sup>. See the following verses.

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? shall a nation be brought forth at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children" Isaiah 66:8.

"For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; upon one stone are seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day" Zechariah 3:9.

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" Zechariah 12:10.

Those verses describe "the times of refreshing" for Israel as a nation. They and Acts 3:19 do not apply doctrinally to the Church.

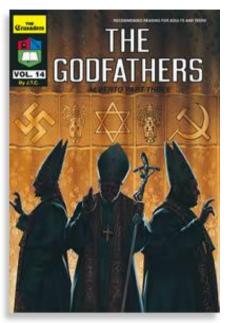
#### Israel's Worst Enemy

The circa 1395 insertion of "that" into Acts 3:19 would have been done by compliant editors i.e. John Purvey and Nicholas Hereford changing Wycliffe's text to suit Rome<sup>6</sup>.

Rome has always been Israel's worst enemy. She would resist any notion of particular "times of refreshing" for Israel and not hesitate to corrupt scripture 2 Corinthians 2:17 for that purpose<sup>7</sup>. The circa 1395 change to Acts 3:19 in Wycliffe's Bible was just one word but "A <u>little leaven leaveneth the whole lump</u>" Galatians 5:9. Wycliffe had sought to counter that leaven as his correct circa 1385 rendering of Acts 3:19 shows, though with the inevitable backlash, as the following extracts from David Fountain's work show<sup>8</sup>.

#### John Wycliffe on the Pope

"Anti-Christ, the proud, worldly priest of Rome and the most cursed of clippers and purse-kervers (bag snatchers)"



Israel's Worst Enemy

# John Wycliffe on the Scriptures<sup>9</sup>

My emphases with respect to IMHO Brother Wycliffe's barbed swipe at 'originals-onlyists' and Greekiolators.

"As the doctrines of our faith are in the Scriptures, believers should have the Scriptures in a language familiar to the people...It is impossible for any part of the Holy Scriptures to be wrong. In Holy Scripture is all the truth; one part of Scripture explains another...You say it is heresy to speak of the Holy Scriptures in English. You call me a heretic because I have translated the Bible into the common tongue of the people. Do you know whom you blaspheme? Did not the Holy Ghost give the Word of God at first in the mother-tongue of the nations to whom it was addressed?"

## John Wycliffe to the World



Catholics exhumed Wycliffe's body in 1415, burnt it and cast the ashes into the River Swift.

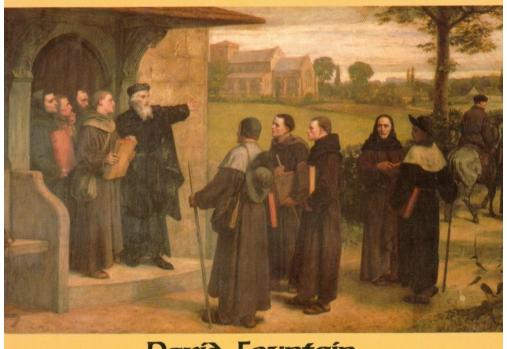
The little river conveyed Wycliffe's remains into the Avon, Avon into the Severn, Severn into the narrow seas, they into the main ocean. And thus the ashes of Wycliffe are the emblem of his doctrine, which is now dispensed all the world over.

"He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit" Isaiah 27:6.

Wycliffe helped. "Go, and do thou likewise" Luke 10:37.

# John wycliffe

The Dawn of the Reformation



David Fountain



"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

King James Sible Online org

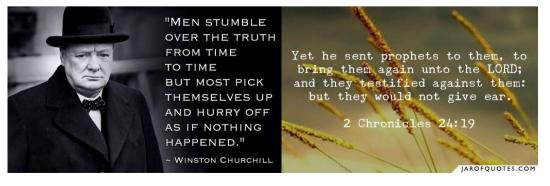
#### Summary Overview

The insertion of just one word can destroy a key Biblical witness to major doctrines. See Dr Ruckman's account<sup>11</sup> of an experience early in his ministry which revealed how the most minor but wilful alterations of the King James Text could result in corruption of major doctrines and in turn the burgeoning of prominent heresies such as British Israelism – *most* unfriendly to Israel, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Roman Catholicism and Seventh-Day Adventism.

This study has shown that insertion of the word *that* in Acts 3:19 subverts the following major doctrines:

- Friendship with the *political* nation of Israel, Romans 9-11
- Israel at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent
- The enemy's hatred of Israel, Revelation 12
- The enemy's subtlety, Genesis 3:1, insofar as what he substitutes for the correct doctrinal reading could be construed as *devotionally* sound
- The transitional nature of the early chapters of the Book of Acts
- The Catholic Church, Revelation 17, as the arch-corrupter of "the word of God" 2 Corinthians 2:17
- The ease with which the saints are deceived, who have set aside "the scripture of truth" Daniel 10:21 such that in turn church and nation wither, according in principle to Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

That is the saddest outcome of all, really, insofar as when did anyone last hear a message on the above?  $^{12}$ 



# Appendix Acts 3:19 Wycliffe's 1380 Unrevised Edition versus John Purvey's 1388 Alteration

The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, with the Apocryphal books, in the earliest English versions made from the Latin Vulgate by John Wycliffe and his followers; edited by the Rev. Josiah Forshall and Sir Frederic Madden<sup>13</sup>



CONTAINING

#### THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

WITH THE APOCRYPHAL BOOKS,

IN THE EARLIEST ENGLISH VERSIONS

MADE FROM THE LATIN VULGATE BY

#### JOHN WYCLIFFE AND HIS FOLLOWERS;

EDITED BY

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LATE FELLOW OF EXETER COLLEGE,

AND

SIR FREDERIC MADDEN, K.H. F.R.S. ETC.

KEEPER OF THE MSS. IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

VOLUME IV.

OXFORD,
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.
M.DCCC.L.



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This image is for a parallel New Testament, left to right, Wycliffe's Text, Purvey's Text<sup>14</sup>. See 3 lines from top of page, 2-3 lines from top of page.

DEEDS OF APOSTLES.

III. 19—IV. 6.

19 his Crist fora to suffre, fulfillideb so. Therfore bec 3e repentauntd, and be 3e conuert-20 id, that 30ure synnes be do awey, whanne the tymes! of kelynges, 'or refreischingeh, fro the sixt of the Lord schulen come, and he schal sende himi that is now prechid 21 to 30u, 'Jhesu Cristk. Whom sotheli it bihoueth heuene forl to resceyue, til into the tymem of restitucioun of alle thingis, then whiche the Lord spak by the mouth 22 of his hooli prophetis fro the world. Forsothe Moyses seide, For the Lord 3oure God schal reyse to 3ou a prophete, of 3oure britheren; as me, 3e schulen heere him vpo alle thep thingis, what euere he schal 23 speke to 3ou. Forsoth it schal be, euery souleq that schal not heere 'the ilker prophete, schal be distryed oft the peple. 24 And alle prophetis fro Samuel and aftir-25 ward, that spaken, tolden thes dayes. 3e forsothe ben the sones of prophetis, and of the testament, that God ordeynede to oure" fadris, seiynge" to Abraham, In thi seed alle the meynees of erthe schulen be 26 blessid. God reysingew his sone first to 30u, sente\* him blessinge 30u, that ech man conuert him fro his wickydnesse.

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#### CAP. IV.

1 Forsothe 'hem spekinge' to the peple, prestis and magistratis of the temple' 2 camen vpon, and Sadducees, sorwynge hat' thei 'schulden teche' the peple, and toolden into Jhesu agen rysinge fro deed 3 men'. And thei leyden' hondis into Jhem, and puttidenh hem into kepinge til into the morwe; sothli it was 'now euen'. 4 Forsoth manye of hem that hadden herd the word, bileuyden; and the noumbre of 5 hem is maad fyue thousendis. Forsothe in the morwe it is don, that the princes of hem, and eldere men and scribes 6 schulden be' gederid in Jerusalem; and

be 3e repentaunt, and be 3e conuertid, that 3oure synnes be don awei, that 20 whanne the tymes of refreschingo schulen come from the sizt of the Lord, and he schal sende thilke Jhesu Crist, that 21 is now prechid to 3ou. Whom it bihoueth heuene to resseyue, in to the tymes of restitucioun of alle thingis, which the Lord spak bi the mouth of hise hooli prophetis fro the world. For Moises 2 seide, For the Lord 3oure God schal reise to 30u a profete, of 30ure britheren; as me, 3e schulen here hym bi alle thingis, what euer he schal speke to 3ou. And it schal be, that every man that 23 schal not here the ilke profete, schal be distried fro the puple\*. And alle pro-24 phetis fro Samuel and aftirward, that spaken, telden these daies. But 3e ben 2 the sones of prophetis, and of the testament, that God ordevnede to oure fadris, and seide to Abraham, In thi seed alle the meynes of erthe schulen be blessid. God reiside his sone first to 30u, and 2 sente hym blessynge 30u, that ech man conuerte hym from his wickidnesse.

#### CAP. IV.

And while thei spaken to the puple, the preestis and magistratis of the temple, and the Saduceis camen vpon hem, and soreweden, that thei tausten the puple, and telden in Jhesu the asenrisyng fro deth. And thei leiden hondis on a demandation of the moreweit of the more that had the service of men was maad fyue thousyndis. And amorewe it was don, that the princis of hem tand eldre' men and scribis weren gadirid in Jerusalem; and of the service of men and scribis weren gadirid in Jerusalem; and of the service of

the felauschipe of scintis. sones of prophetis; that is, nurschild in the scripturis of hem. of testament; that is, of hi-hoest. reiside; that is, schewide. Lire here. ve.

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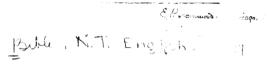
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That the 2<sup>nd</sup> Text above is Purvey's is confirmed as follows<sup>15</sup>.

The New Testament in English according to the version of John Wycliffe, about A. D. 1380/revised by John Purvey, about A. D. 1388. Formerly edited by the Rev. Josiah Forshall...and Sir Frederic Madden...and now reprinted



# THE NEW TESTAMENT

IN ENGLISH

ACCORDING TO THE VERSION BY

#### JOHN WYCLIFFE

ABOUT A.D. 1380

AND REVISED BY

#### IOHN PURVEY

ABOUT A.D. 1388

FORMERLY EDITED BY

THE REV. JOSIAH FORSHALL, F.R.S., ETC.

Late Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford

AND

SIR FREDERIC MADDEN, F.R.S., ETC.

Keeper of the MSS. in the British Museum

And now reprinted

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M DCCC LXXIX

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#### DEEDS OF APOSTLES, IV.

18 woot that bi vnwityng ae diden, as also soure princis. But God that bifor telde bi the mouth of alle profetis, that his 10 Crist schulde suffre, hath fillid so. Therfor be 3e repentaunt, 20 and be ze convertid, that zoure synnes be don awei, that whanne the tymes of refresching schulen come from the sixt 21 of the Lord, and he schal sende thilke Ihesu Crist, that is now prechid to 30u. Whom it bihoueth heuene to resseyue, in to the tymes of restitucioun of alle thingis, which the Lord spak bi the mouth of hise hooli prophetis fro the world. 22 For Moises seide, For the Lord soure God schal reise to 30u a profete, of zoure britheren; as me, ze schulen here hym bi 23 alle thingis, what euer he schal speke to 30u. And it schal be, that every man that schal not here the ilke profete, schal 24 be distried fro the puple. And alle prophetis fro Samuel and 25 aftirward, that spaken, telden these daies. But 3e ben the sones of prophetis, and of the testament, that God ordeynede to oure fadris, and seide to Abraham, In thi seed alle the 26 meynes of erthe schulen be blessid. God reiside his sone first to 30u, and sente hym blessynge 30u, that ech man conuerte hym from his wickidnesse.

#### CAP. IV.

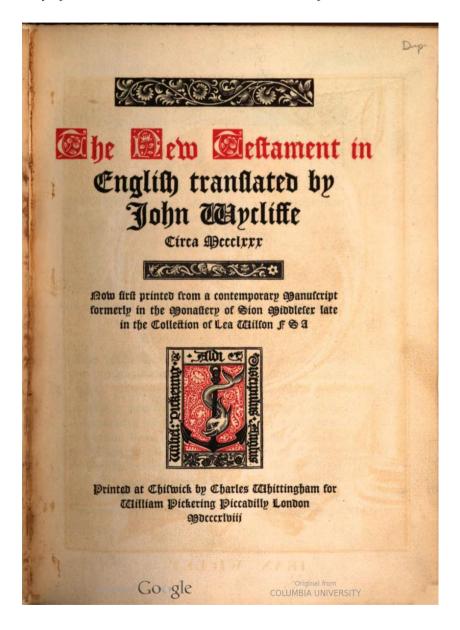
And while thei spaken to the puple, the preestis and magistratis of the temple, and the Saduceis camen vpon hem, and 2 soreweden, that thei tausten the puple, and telden in Jhesu 3 the azenrisyng fro deth. And thei leiden hondis on hem, and puttiden hem in to warde in to the morewe; for it was thanne 4 euentid. But manye of hem that hadden herd the word, bileueden; and the noumbre of men was maad fyue thousyndis. And amorewe it was don, that the princis of hem, 6 and eldre men and scribis weren gadirid in Jerusalem; and Annas, prince of preestis, and Caifas, and Joon, and Ali-

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A further witness of Wycliffe's correct reading is here<sup>16</sup>, publication date 1858.

The New Testament in English translated by John Wycliffe circa MCCCLXXX [1380]; now first printed from a contemporary manuscript formerly in the monastery of Sion Middlesex, late in the collection of Lea Wilson



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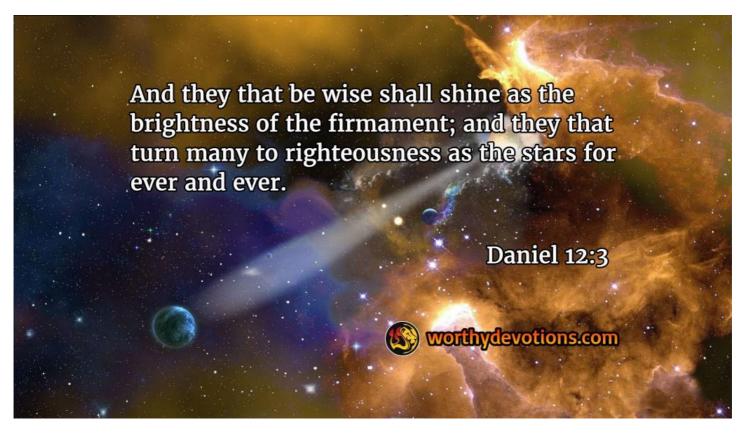
#### pe aplis

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# Finally<sup>17</sup>:



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