

Foothills Christian Assembly Sermon April 3, 2022
Acts 2: 14 – 41 “Peter’s Sermon at Pentecost” – Part 2

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the

promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

I. Introduction Peter's Sermon at Pentecost Acts 2:14-41

a. Acts 2:14-21 "Peter's Sermon at Pentecost – Part 1" – April 3rd

- i. Setting v14,15
- ii. Joel predicted this Pentecost Day v16
- iii. In the Last Days v17a
- iv. Pentecost AD 30: God pours out His Spirit on all flesh v17b – 18
- v. AD30 – AD70: God shows heavenly wonders and earthly signs v19,20a
- vi. AD70: The Great and Awesome Day of the Lord v20b
- vii. Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved v21
- viii. Questions to know, love and obey God

b. Acts 2:22-36 "Peter's Sermon at Pentecost - Part 2" - today

- i. Christ's Life v22
- ii. Christ's Death v23
- iii. Christ's Resurrection v24-32
- iv. Christ's Exaltation v33-35
- v. Jesus is Lord and Christ v36
- vi. Questions to know, love and obey God

c. Acts 2:37-41 "Peter's sermon at Pentecost – Part 3"

- i. The people are cut to the heart and repent and are baptized
- ii. About 3000 souls added to the Kingdom

II. Christ's Life v22

- a. 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—"
- b. Note how Peter summarizes Christ's earthly ministry. What Jesus did. How God attested to Jesus the Man via these great works, and how God used all these great works to make Jesus of Nazareth known through all the land.
- c. Men of Israel, hear these words
 - i. Transitioning from his first points that he made from Joel, Peter takes his hearers into preaching Christ.

- ii. Peter has informed them that what they are observing is the fulfillment of Joel 2. The Holy Spirit is being poured out upon all types of people unto the proclamation of God's Word by all types of people. And, there will be celestial and earthly wonders and signs leading up to the great and awesome day of the Lord, just like Jesus taught them in Luke 21. Peter informs them that they are living in the last days of the old covenant dispensation and that they can be saved from the wrath of the coming great and awesome day of the Lord. Peter tells them that all who call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved. But, now, Peter transitions from these points to preach Christ to them, to show them the only way of salvation. All preaching of salvation must center upon Christ Himself: His Person, Teaching and Works. Peter points his audience to Jesus, not just a set of ethics, ideas or rules. Our faith is in Christ, so we fix our attention upon Him.
 - iii. Note, again, Peter's boldness: "hear these words"
 - d. Jesus of Nazareth
 - i. Nazareth was known as a poor and ignorant region, and yet Peter calls Jesus by the description that would quickly clarify His identity. Peter is not ashamed to be associated with any detail of the life of Christ.
 - 1. Poole "for so Pilate had called our Saviour through contempt, in his superscription on the cross: and that they might certainly know of whom he spake, and that he was not now (as formerly) ashamed to own him, he mentions our Saviour under that name here."¹
 - e. A Man
 - i. Jesus Christ was not a specter somehow giving only the appearance of a man. Jesus was a man. He came in the flesh. In fact, to deny the full humanity of Jesus Christ is the hallmark of the spirit of antichrist.
 - 1. 1 Jn 4:1-3 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."
 - f. A Man Attested by God to you by
 - i. Attested: God proved to the people that He approved of Jesus. God provided this proof via the great works that Jesus did.

¹ Matthew Poole, [*Annotations upon the Holy Bible*](#), vol. 3 (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1853), 389.

1. Henry “censured and condemned by men, but approved of God: God testified his approbation of his doctrine by the power he gave him to work miracles”²
- ii. Miracles - δύναμις
 1. Strength, powers, abilities
- iii. Wonders - τέρας
 1. a prodigy, portent, miracle
- iv. Signs - σημεῖον
 1. a sign, prodigy, portent, i.e. an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature
 2. of signs portending remarkable events soon to happen
 3. of miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by him, or by which men prove that the cause they are pleading is God's
- v. Calvin “He calleth miracles by these three names. And because God doth show forth his power in them after a new and unwonted sort, or doth, at least, procure greater admiration, they are, for good causes, called *great works*. For we are commonly more moved when any extraordinary thing doth happen. In which respect they are also called *wonders*, because they make us astonished. And for this cause are they called *signs*, because the Lord will not have men’s minds to stay there, but to be lifted up higher; as they are referred unto another end. He put in three words, to the end he might the more extol Christ’s miracles, and enforce the people, by his heaping and laying of words together, to consider the same.”³
- g. God did these great things through Christ
 - i. Note the source of Divine Power in Christ’s miracles, wonders and signs. God in Heaven worked through Christ, the perfect Man, to do these great works on earth during Christ’s Life on earth.
- h. In your midst, as you yourselves know
 - i. Jesus didn’t hide away. He was attested by God before the people of Israel, in their midst, throughout their land. Peter is not giving these people new information. They already knew about Jesus of Nazareth. He was famous.
 1. Bock “The audience well knows that such a display took place. The reputation of Jesus performing miraculous works is something Josephus mentions later in the century in his famous remarks about Jesus...where he says that Jesus “was a doer of remarkable/strange [παραδόξων, *paradoxōn*] works.” ...The Jewish tradition’s belief that Jesus was a “magician” of sorts also

² Matthew Henry, [*Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2068.

³ John Calvin and Henry Beveridge, [*Commentary upon the Acts of the Apostles*](#), vol. 1 (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2010), 94.

attests to this understanding, while viewing the source of Jesus's power differently."⁴

- i. So, Peter now has their attention focused upon Jesus of Nazareth. Yet, Peter has stepped back and pointed to what God has done through Jesus and how Jesus has become famous. Peter has not actually spoken of anything done BY Christ yet, but rather done by the Father through Christ. This Jesus of Nazareth is now held up before their eyes. The Man attested by God via great works is before their attention now.

III. Christ's Death v23

- a. 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;
- b. Him: Peter continues the focus upon Jesus of Nazareth, the Man approved by God.
- c. An Act of God: "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God"
 - i. Jesus of Nazareth was delivered to death by God, the same One Who approved of Jesus, the same One Who worked great works through Jesus. God's determined purpose and foreknowledge authored Jesus being delivered unto death, and not just any death, but a lawless crucifixion.
 - ii. Henry "*He delivered him to death; not only permitted him to be put to death, but gave him up, devoted him: this is explained Rom. 8:32, He delivered him up for us all. And yet he was approved of God, and there was nothing in this that signified the disapproving of him; for it was done by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, in infinite wisdom, and for holy ends, which Christ himself concurred in, and in the means leading to them. Thus divine justice must be satisfied, sinners saved, God and man brought together again, and Christ himself glorified.*"⁵
 - iii. The most wicked act of history was foreordained by God's plan. All things are foreordained by God, without exception. And, God is righteous and pure and good in all His thoughts, plans and works.
- d. An act of men: "Him...you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death"
 - i. The sinful acts of men are not excused by of the all-encompassing sovereignty of God.
 - ii. Peter emphasizes both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of the lawless murderers.
 - iii. Lawless hands: both the Jews and Romans are indicted here by Peter, but the emphasis is upon "you". Peter is speaking to the assembled Men of

⁴ Darrell L. Bock, [Acts](#), Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 120.

⁵ Matthew Henry, [Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2069.

Israel, and he tells them, “you” did this to Jesus of Nazareth. You have taken Jesus by lawless hands. You had Him crucified. You had Him put to death. You, Men of Israel, did this to Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved by God to you, in your midst, by miracles, signs and wonders.

- iv. Henry “in them it was an act of prodigious sin and folly; it was fighting against God to persecute one whom he approved as the darling of heaven; and fighting against their own mercies to persecute one that was the greatest blessing of this earth. Neither God’s designing it from eternity, nor his bringing good out of it to eternity, would in the least excuse their sin; for it was their voluntary act and deed, from a principle morally evil, and therefore “they were *wicked hands with which you have crucified and slain him.*” It is probable that some of those were here present who had cried, *Crucify him, crucify him,* or had been otherwise aiding and abetting in the murder; and Peter knew it. However, it was justly looked upon as a national act, because done both by the vote of the great council and by the voice of the great crowd. It is a rule, ...*That which is done publicly by the greater part we attribute to all.* He charges it particularly on them as parts of the nation on which it would be visited, the more effectually to bring them to faith and repentance, because that was the only way to distinguish themselves from the guilty and discharge themselves from the guilt.”⁶
- e. So, Peter has now set before their attention, Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved by God. And, Peter has indicted them: YOU murdered this same Jesus by lawlessness. Note, again, Jesus, thus far in Peter’s sermon, is being acted upon or through. God acted through Jesus. God approved Jesus. The Jews murdered Jesus with the help of the Romans.
- f. And, this idea that the Messiah would die was very strange to the Jews. It was the idea the apostles did not understand until after Jesus rose from the dead. Peter is laying out the reality of their Messiah before the Jews.

IV. Christ’s Resurrection v24-32

- a. “whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ 29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his

⁶ Matthew Henry, [*Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2069.

throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”

- b. Peter does not stop with his indictment against the Jews and Romans. Peter keeps going, taking their attention to more work of God in Heaven, work done in Jesus of Nazareth by God in Heaven. Still, Peter point to an act upon Jesus by God.
- c. “Whom God raised up”
 - i. God resurrected Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, distinguishing Jesus from every other great prophet in Jewish history. Every other prophet had died. But, no other prophet had been resurrected. Other prophets had been given power to raise the dead, but no other prophets had ever been raised up from the dead.
 - ii. Henry “*Whom God raised up*; the same that delivered him *to death* delivers him *from death*, and thereby gave a higher approbation of him than he had done by any other of *the signs and wonders wrought by him*, or by all put together. This therefore he insists most largely upon.”⁷
- d. God “loosed the pains of death” from Jesus of Nazareth when He raised Him up from the dead. Jesus’ body was dead, and then God the Father revived His dead body.
- e. “because it was not possible that He should be held by it”
 - i. Death was defeated, so death by no means could hold on to Jesus.
 - ii. Bock “The Abyss can no more hold the Redeemer than a pregnant woman can hold the child in her body”⁸
- f. This aspect of Messiah’s identity, as the One Who would be raised up from the dead by God, was completely foreign to the mainstream Jewish mind. Peter describes to them the reality of what has happened with Jesus, and so far Peter has not claimed that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. Peter is just telling them about Jesus. He’s describing Jesus’ life, death and resurrection to them. But, now, as Peter goes to OT Scripture to justify the idea of resurrection, Peter begins to reveal to the Jews that he believes Jesus is the Messiah.
- g. “For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to

⁷ Matthew Henry, [*Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2069.

⁸ Darrell L. Bock, [*Acts*](#), Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 122.

this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."

- i. Peter makes it clear that Psalm 16 is not primarily about David, who is dead and buried in his tomb. The Jews could go and visit David's tomb.
- ii. Peter calls David a prophet who knew that the Messiah would be resurrected, because David knew that "God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne" – Here Peter calls Jesus "the Christ"

1. 2 Samuel 7:11-16 "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever.' "

- iii. Peter goes on to make clear: David was prophesying about this Jesus of Nazareth. Peter tells the Jews that Jesus is their Messiah. They murdered their Messiah, but God raised Him up according to His Word.

- h. Still, Jesus, the Christ, is being acted upon. Peter has yet to point to actions done by Christ, with Christ as the subject of the sentence.

V. Christ's Exaltation v33-35

- a. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." '
- b. Now, Peter, having equated Jesus with the Christ, goes on to declare Christ's ascension and exaltation, and the action of Christ the Messiah at the Father's right hand. Peter ties it all together. What they are observing is the work of Jesus of Nazareth, from Heaven, their Messiah at work in their midst. What is the work of the Messiah from Heaven?
- c. First, the Messiah "received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit" after He was exalted to God's right hand. The Father and the Son had an agreement.

The moment had arrived. The Father gave the Holy Spirit to the God-Man, Jesus of Nazareth, Who then poured out the Spirit upon them.

- d. "He poured out this which you now see and hear."
 - i. This whole sermon was meant to answer the question in their minds, "Whatever could this mean?" v12 And, now, Peter gives them the answer. What they are seeing and hearing, the miraculous gift of many suddenly speaking another language, and the wondrous works of God being described to them, and the tongues of fire, all of it, is the work of Jesus of Nazareth, the Man attested to them by God, the Man they murdered, the Man raised up from the dead, and ascended to God's right hand, this Man is pouring out the Holy Spirit upon all these people.
- e. Peter goes on to point to Psalm 110 as another prophecy from David being fulfilled in this moment.
 - i. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." '
 - ii. The exaltation of Jesus was described by David, when he heard the Father say to the Son: "Sit at My right hand"
 - iii. And, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is equated with "till I make Your enemies Your footstool"
 - 1. The work of the Holy Spirit before their eyes and ears is the work of the Father and the Son in their midst, beginning the process of putting all of Christ's enemies under His feet.

VI. Jesus is Lord and Christ v36

- a. 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
- b. So, Peter sums it up with simple clarity:
 - i. All the house of Israel: every Jew should believe this, based upon Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension and exaltation, and the fulfillment of OT Scripture about their Messiah.
 - ii. God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ. Jesus is their Messiah. Jesus is their King. God did this.
 - iii. You Jews crucified your Messiah Who is now exalted above all as Messiah and King.
- c. The unspoken question to the Jews: what happens next?

VII. Questions to know, love and obey God