

The Acts of the Apostles

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Title: **“Let This Be Known to You”**

Acts 2:13-41

¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

¹⁴ 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.

Peter's sermon recorded here in Acts 2 has been called "The First Christian Message." There is a sense in which that is a true statement as long as you understand that the Gospel is not anything new nor it was untold before the Day of Pentecost.

How did Paul open the letter to the church in Rome?

Rom 1:1-7

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ *and* declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵ Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

⁷ To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel first began to be preached in the Garden of Eden when the Lord told Satan that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the seed of the serpent although the heel of the seed of the woman would be bruised. The humanity of Jesus would suffer but the deity of the Christ would defeat the seed of the serpent through weakness.

The rest of the Bible unfolds the history of how the devil tries again and again to destroy the promised Seed but the victory was in the cross and the resurrection.

The Gospel continues unchanged and will never be changed because there is only one way to be just before God and that is to repent and receive by grace through faith alone the Gospel of God; even the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!

The Gospel is Jesus Christ and that is what Peter preached “when the Day of Pentecost was fully come.”

The error of the cults such as the Jehovah’s Witness and the Mormons and the error of mainline religions such as Islam and Judaism is that they do not know Jesus of Nazareth. To them He is a “good” man or even a “prophet” but to them Jesus Christ is not the end of righteousness; the final Word from God. They all try to add something to the finished work of Jesus Christ.

If you hold to the authority and sufficiency of this Bible; not mangled by false translations such as The New World Translation, for Jehovah’s Witness, or superseded by some other “holy” book such as The Book of Mormon, or the Koran, then you believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Word become flesh.

Jesus of Nazareth is God, the second person of the eternal trinity who took on Himself a human body and came into the world to save His people from their sin.

The message of Peter and the other apostles and those who came after them is that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah of the Scriptures who came and perfectly fulfilled what the prophets had to say.

When the “Day of Pentecost was fully come” and at about the time of day when the sacrificial lambs and loaves of leavened bread were being offered in the temple, there came the sound of a mighty wind sweeping through the Upper Room.

With the mighty wind roaring there appeared divided tongues of fire over everyone and they began to speak in languages they had never learned. They were filled with the Holy Spirit just as Jesus had promised, {see John 16}.

Acts 2:6-13

Can you imagine how you would react if you had been present in that room?

There was confusion {6}.

There was amazement {7-12}.

There was perplexity and doubt {12}.

And other mocked {13}.

Now I don't believe we would have understood what was happening any better than those who were actually there at the time. That's when Peter standing up with the eleven preached the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:14-15

“Let this be known to you....”

Peter gets criticized for his brashness and sometime he speaks before thinking about what he is going to say.

On the Mount of Transfiguration when Moses and Elijah appeared to talk with Jesus about His death to be accomplished at Jerusalem Peter blurts out:

Luke 9:33

Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, *that* Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" – not knowing what he said.

But here on the Day of Pentecost Peter gets it exactly right. Peter, the one-time coward, who had denied that he even knew Jesus, now boldly speaks with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peter says let's get something straight; it's too early in the day for anyone to be getting drunk; it's only the third hour {9 am by our reckoning of time} of the day.

Peter had not attended a seminary or a Bible college but he knew how to preach.

The job of any preacher is to explain the word of God; to give Jesus Christ the preeminence; to warn you about the wrath of God; to tell you that the sufficient sacrifice of Jesus' blood is the only hope for a guilty sinner.

If you add anything to the sufficiency of Christ or subtract anything from what Jesus did for sinners and trust in that you will go to hell for all your trouble.

What is the Scriptural model for the preacher?

Back is Ezra's day when they found the Scriptures in the temple and Ezra read it to the people:

Neh 8:8

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

Paul addressed the abuse of “tongues”:

1 Cor 14:1-25

Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. ² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

The OT model is to read distinctly from the Book; give the sense of what is read; and help the hearers to understand. The NT model is the same; edify [build up]; exhort [encourage]; and comfort [there is nothing that comforts a believer more than the Gospel].

That is what Peter is doing and that is what my job is; to make plain the facts of the Gospel in a way that even the small children can understand it.

The problem with an unbeliever is not that he does not understand the Gospel; the problem is that he loves his sin more than he loves the Savior of Sinners.

Many years ago I sat under a masterful pulpiteer who could ring the rafters with his oratory. Often people would say how “deep” his sermons were. I suppose that meant that those who made such comments were advanced in Christian maturity and they could understand him but less knowledgeable folk could not. I was not impressed.

Neither is preaching what my mother once described as a man drawing a circle on the floor and having a fit in it.

E.g. some many years ago I attended a meeting where the habit of the preachers was to get into a sing-song of panting and gasping and what they said was mostly unintelligible. After the meeting a dear soul said to me, “Wasn’t that good preaching?” Gently I asked, “What did he say?”

The point that I am stressing is that preaching is based on the facts of the Bible presented sanely so that anyone can understand the message. That said; the Holy Spirit must move the message from the ears to the heart.

There are many men who can preach much better than I can; but they don’t preach a better Gospel.

Acts 2:16-21

“This is what the prophet Joel said would happen!”

“In the Old Testament God meant what He said; in the New Testament God says what He meant.” John Wilmot

Joel 2:28-32

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward

That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

³² And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,
As the LORD has said,
Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Here is an important rule of interpretation [at least it is one of my rules of interpretation]; when an inspired NT apostle says this is what an OT prophet meant then that settles it.

We are in the “last days” according to Peter’s interpretation of Joel’s prophecy. Whatever else is included in Joel’s prophecy the main point is that the Holy Spirit was poured out as promised.

We do know that the sun was darkened while Jesus hung on the cross and that the earth shook at His resurrection.

Salvation is not for the Jews only but for “whoever calls on the name of the Lord!” Who will call on the name of the Lord? Answer: “The remnant whom the Lord calls.”

John 6:35-45

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

⁴¹ The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." ⁴² And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven?'"

⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, '*And they shall all be taught by God.*'"

That is what Peter is doing. Peter is calling out those given to Christ before the world began and who in time will hear the Gospel and they will repent and they will come in faith to Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:17-21

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

And so Peter is going to interpret the prophecy of Joel.

I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 19:10

Joel warned the people of the “Day of the Lord.” The “Day of the Lord” is an often used phrase by other prophets: viz. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The “Day of the Lord” was a visitation of judgment from our sovereign God who controls plagues of locusts and armies of men. Throughout history there have been many times when the Day of the Lord was visited on those who refused to repent.

One may read Joel and conclude that God intends to send Judgment on a stubborn and stiffnecked people who after repeated warnings by several prophets refuse to repent. An invading army will come and will make the ravages of a locust plague seem insignificant by comparison with the destruction that will come. Yet God will mercifully restore His people to the land in a future millennial age.

Or, one may read Joel and then read in the Acts of the Apostles and conclude that what Joel prophesied about is a restoration of material goods and land had already happened in the literal sense when the exiles returned from captivity in Babylon; but that Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit proclaimed that the true and final meaning of what Joel prophesied was fulfilled at Pentecost.

“This is What was Spoken by the Prophet Joel” Acts 2:16

Joel 2:28-32 is what Peter quoted and he said it is about the Day of Pentecost after the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

* * *

The interpretation of OT prophecy may take diverse paths.

In the case of Joel 2:28-32 everyone is forced to agree that Peter in Acts 2:16 specifically states that what is happening in Jerusalem is the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy, but then their eschatology kicks in and they qualify that by saying that it is not the final fulfillment. Their argument is that all of the events of verses 30 and 31 have not been literally experienced. So they say the final fulfillment is reserved for the coming of Christ immediately before a “millennial” reign of Christ on earth.

³⁰ **“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:**

Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

³¹ **The sun shall be turned into darkness,**

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

In my understanding Peter closed the door on any future fulfillment:

“This is What was Spoken by the Prophet Joel”

If you insist on future literal changes to the sun and the moon you will not agree with the following. However, all I can do is point you to what the Bible gives to us.

In the words of the OT prophets the description of the sun and the moon undergoing such radical changes is typically a reference to the overthrow of empires and kingdoms.

Isaiah prophesies against Babylon:

Isaiah 13:1-10

The burden against Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

² "Lift up a banner on the high mountain,
Raise your voice to them;
Wave your hand, that they may enter the gates of the nobles.

³ I have commanded My sanctified ones;
I have also called My mighty ones for My anger —
Those who rejoice in My exaltation."

⁴ The noise of a multitude in the mountains,
Like that of many people!
A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together!
The LORD of hosts musters
The army for battle.

⁵ They come from a far country,
From the end of heaven —
The LORD and His weapons of indignation,
To destroy the whole land.

⁶ Wail, for the day of the LORD *is* at hand!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

⁷ Therefore all hands will be limp,
Every man's heart will melt,

⁸ And they will be afraid.
Pangs and sorrows will take hold of *them*;
They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;
They will be amazed at one another;
Their faces *will be like* flames.

⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes,
Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
To lay the land desolate;
And He will destroy its sinners from it.

**¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations
Will not give their light;
The sun will be darkened in its going forth,
And the moon will not cause its light to shine.**

Barnes' Notes on Isaiah 13:10

For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

[For the stars of heaven] This verse cannot be understood literally, but is a metaphorical representation of the calamities that were coming upon Babylon. The meaning of the figure evidently is, that those calamities would be such as would be appropriately denoted by the sudden extinguishment of the stars, the sun, and the moon. As nothing would tend more to anarchy, distress, and ruin, than thus to have all the lights of heaven suddenly and forever quenched, this was an apt and forcible representation of the awful calamities that were coming upon the people. Darkness and night, in the Scriptures, are often the emblem of calamity and distress ... The revolutions and destructions of kingdoms and nations are often represented in the Scriptures under this image. So respecting the destruction of Idumea ([Isa 34:4](#)):

*And all the hosts of heaven shall be dissolved,
And the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll;
And all their host shall fall down,
As the leaf falleth from off the vine,
And as a falling fig from the fig-tree.*

Thus in Amos 8:9:

*I will cause the sun to go down at noon,
And I will darken the earth in a clear day.*

See also Revelation 6:12-14:

*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and lo,
The sun became black as sackcloth of hair,
And the moon became as blood;
And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth,
Even as a fig-tree casteth her untimely figs
When she is shaken of a mighty wind:
And the heaven deputed as a scroll when it is rolled together.*

Many have supposed that these expressions respecting the sun, moon, and stars, refer to kings, and princes, and magistrates, as the "lights" of the state; and that the sense is, that their power and glory should cease. But it is rather a figurative representation, denoting calamity "in general," and describing a state of extreme distress, such as would be if all the lights of heaven should suddenly become extinct.

Ezekiel prophesies against Egypt:

Ezekiel 32:1-8

And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²“Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him:

‘You are like a young lion among the nations,
And you *are* like a monster in the seas,
Bursting forth in your rivers,
Troubling the waters with your feet,
And fouling their rivers.’

³“Thus says the Lord GOD:

‘I will therefore spread My net over you with a company of many people,
And they will draw you up in My net.

⁴Then I will leave you on the land;
I will cast you out on the open fields,
And cause to settle on you all the birds of the heavens.
And with you I will fill the beasts of the whole earth.

⁵I will lay your flesh on the mountains,
And fill the valleys with your carcass.

⁶I will also water the land with the flow of your blood,
Even to the mountains;
And the riverbeds will be full of you.

⁷**When I put out your light,
I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark;
I will cover the sun with a cloud,
And the moon shall not give her light.**

⁸**All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you,
And bring darkness upon your land,’
Says the Lord GOD.**

So this is my understanding as to the correct interpretation of Joel when he said,
“the sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood,” Joel 2:31

Did what Isaiah say about the sun and the moon literally happen?
Or as Isaiah indicates it was the overthrow of Babylon?

Did what Ezekiel say about the sun and the moon literally happen?
Or as Ezekiel indicates it was the overthrow of Egypt?

Since Isaiah and Ezekiel are clearly references to kingdoms being overthrown why must what Joel says be literal? Joel, like Isaiah and Ezekiel is referring to an overthrow of a kingdom. What kingdom? **The kingdom of Satan!**

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: Acts 2:16

In Acts 2, Peter says that the Day of Pentecost had “fully come.”

It had fully come because what was typical in the OT is realized in the NT.

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.

In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Day of Pentecost fifty days after the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ who is our Passover. The Law given at Sinai has been fulfilled in every point for those whom Christ shed His precious blood.

This was the institution of the Christian church as a visible and corporate body.

The visible church is a body of those who profess to have faith in Jesus Christ. But in that visible body there may be those who are deceived and still lost and condemned.

Listen carefully. The Church did not begin at Pentecost. The Church is made up of every person who has been born again by the Holy Spirit.

Don't confuse the visible local church with the invisible Church.

We can know those who make a profession of faith.

We cannot know if that profession is based on genuine repentance and faith.

Now let's see **what was spoken by the prophet Joel.**

What Joel prophesied was the Gospel and the overthrow of Satan's kingdom.

Sometimes OT prophecy is obscure and difficult to understand. But not so with Joel. When Peter quotes Joel and declares its interpretation to be the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ that satisfies me well enough. Whatever else Joel may have meant, it means exactly what Peter said it meant.

Satan has been bound by the strong man. The Holy Spirit is poured out in a new way. The Gospel is preached. **And whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.** The kingdom of Satan has been overthrown.

Was Joel's prophecy a promise from God?

For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:20

What was the message of the prophets?

Jesus said:

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:25-27

Look at an example of how the Apostle Paul applies the OT Scriptures.

In one short passage in Romans 10 Paul takes his thoughts from Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joel, and Isaiah.

Romans 10:1-15

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "*The man who does those things shall live by them.*" [Lev 18:5] ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "*Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'*" (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*) ⁷ or, "*Who will descend into the abyss?'*" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [Deut. 30:12-14] ⁸ But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*" [Isa 28:16] ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

¹³ For "*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*" [Joel 2:32]

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*" [Isa 52:7]

My argument is that an apostle can take a few words from an OT prophet and make the NT application without having to strain at being literal at every point.

Another thing to note is that Jesus Christ is the subject of Peter's sermon and not the Pentecostal "experience" of "tongues."

Acts 2:22-24

"Hear these words!"

Peter has explained that the extraordinary things of a mighty wind and tongues of fire and speaking in other languages were a direct fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

Now Peter gets to the heart of the matter. None of the signs has any purpose apart from showing the world Jesus Christ!

When you hear some preacher tell you that the gift of the Holy Spirit is "going beyond the Gospel," or that there is a "Full Gospel," thus saying that you don't have a sufficient Gospel, or that he has a "word from God" meaning that God has given him some new revelation not already in the Bible, you can know he is a false prophet.

Don't walk; run away from him!

Peter tells his hearers some things that they already know [22].

Signs:

John 3:1-2

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

John 7:30-31

³¹ And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this *Man* has done?"

Peter is saying that the signs that Jesus did prove that He is Messiah.

Not only that, the crucifixion was not a surprise to God.

Brother Gables quotes E.W. Johnson: "The cross was not an ambulance sent to the scene of an accident that happened in the Garden of Eden."

If you study your Bible you will learn that God uses the wickedness of men to accomplish His purpose.

The Jewish rulers and Pilate put Jesus on a cruel cross but every detail of what happened was in the "determined counsel and foreknowledge of God."

God raised Him up! The grave cannot hold Him! He is alive!

Acts 2:25-36

"This Jesus!"

Jesus is Messiah.

Peter quotes Psalm 16:

Ps 16

Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

² O my soul, you have said to the LORD,

"You are my Lord,

My goodness is nothing apart from You."

³ As for the saints who are on the earth,

"They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

⁴ Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten *after* another god;

Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,

Nor take up their names on my lips.

⁵ O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;

You maintain my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*;

Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;

My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;

Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.
¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Here is Peter's argument. David wrote the Psalm that Peter quotes and David says that he will not be left in the grave, nor will his body undergo decay.

Since David is still in the grave, obviously he could not have been referring to himself. So who was David talking about? Peter says that it was Jesus of Nazareth who fulfills David's prophecy by rising from the dead.

“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Rev 19:10

The resurrection of Jesus is the essence of the Gospel and that message is the theme of every sermon in the Book of Acts.

Where is Jesus now? Jesus is on His throne in heaven ruling over His kingdom!
Jesus is at the “right hand of God.” That means the power of God.

Jesus is Lord!

Some well-meaning people go around saying, “Make Jesus your Lord.”

Jesus is already your Lord whether you ever bow to Him in submission while you still live or not.

Peter quotes another Psalm of David.

Ps 110:1
The LORD said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

If David was talking about himself it would mean that David ascended into heaven. But it was Jesus of Nazareth that they saw ascend into heaven and the conclusion of the matter is: “Therefore let all the house of Israel assuredly know....”

Acts 2:37-41

“What shall we do?”

Try to imagine that you are a God-fearing Jew and you just heard an uneducated fisherman proclaim that the Man you shouted out to be crucified a few days ago, and His name is Jesus, this same Jesus is not dead!

There are many infallible proofs that He was seen alive!

That same Jesus is both Lord and Christ!

How could our leaders; the scribes and the priests have been so blind?

The most monstrous crime in the history of the world has been committed and we were among those who cried out, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

The Holy Spirit is at work! Just as Jesus promised:

John 16:5-11

⁵ "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

What happens when the Holy Spirit does His convicting work?

Many if not all of them were “cut to the heart.” NKJV

Acts 2:37

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, KJV

Acts 2:37

Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, NASB

Acts 2:37

[They were pricked in their heart] The word translated were "pricked," *katenugeesan*, is not used elsewhere in the New Testament. It properly denotes "to pierce or penetrate with a needle, lancet, or sharp instrument"; and then "to pierce with grief, or acute pain of any kind." It corresponds precisely to our word "compunction." It implies also the idea of sudden as well as acute grief. In this case it means that they were suddenly and deeply affected with anguish and alarm at what Peter had said.

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While it is true that you cannot bring a person to true conviction of sin and repentance by logic that doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit does not use logical arguments.

Peter, with the Holy Spirit giving unction to his words, drives the message of Christ crucified deep into those Jewish hearts.

What does a person do when they are convicted of sin and guilt?

"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Have you ever been at that point of desperation?

Well, I have and I was ready to die and go to hell if that was what God meant to do to me. But I too cried out for mercy! What shall we do?

Peter is an expositional preacher. Peter stays with his text of Joel 2:14-14:

Joel 2:12-14

¹² "Now, therefore," says the LORD,
"Turn to Me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the LORD your God,
For He *is* gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.

¹⁴ Who knows *if* He will turn and relent,
And leave a blessing behind Him —
A grain offering and a drink offering
For the LORD your God?

Joel's prophecy calls for repentance and offers the hope that God may give forgiveness of sin.

God surely can grant repentance but He is not obligated to do so.

If God ever saves a person it will be on God's terms and not because of anything the sinner can do or say.

Recall what Brother Henry Mahan said was the marks of a Gospel sermon:

Man the sinner; Judgment is certain;
Christ is the Savior; and Jesus is not a beggar.

Peter then lists four things in verse 38 that must happen:

Acts 2:38

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.

1. Repent;
2. Be baptized;
3. Remission of sins;
4. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All four of these things are necessary and not one of them is in your power to do!

Verse 38 is a battleground for the glory of God or the glory of man.

Is God sovereign or is man sovereign?

Let me make this as simple as I possibly can. In the matter of a person being saved does the Holy Spirit quicken [make alive] a dead sinner or does an "injured" but not really dead sinner allow God to save him?

1. Repent

Repentance is a gift:

Acts 5:31

Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior,
to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Repentance means to make a complete about face; a complete turn from going in one direction to go in the opposite direction.

Repentance is a change of mind about whom you are and who God is.

2. Be baptized;

Over 35 years ago I was engaged in a series of discussions [about five or six sessions that lasted a couple of hours] with a minister whose theology required that you could not be saved unless you were baptized [water baptism].

Verse 38 was all the proof he needed to make his case.

The crux of the matter was that in his theology the Holy Spirit is not active in regeneration. According to this view the Holy Spirit gave us the Bible and all a person has to do to be saved is “obey the gospel.” You have the power to obey and when you do God will save you.

What does verse 38 say?

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.

“for the remission of sins;”

Does “for” means “in order to” or “in regard to”?

Is baptism “in order” to receive the remission of sins; or is baptism “in regard to” the remission of sins?

Do you receive the remission of sins before or after you are baptized?

Do you place your trust in your baptism or in what Christ has already done for you?

Consider this: take the same Greek word translated “for” in another place and replace “for” with “in order to”.

1 Cor 15:3

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Did Christ die “in order to” make us sinners, or did Christ die “in regard to” our sins?

When I make this argument I am in exactly the same position that Peter was in as he stood before his Jewish audience. If the Holy Spirit doesn’t convince you that baptism is not what saves you then my “logic” won’t convince you.

A few years before this encounter I attended a “Gospel Meeting” at a church of the same theological persuasion. Almost the entire sermon was on the necessity to be baptized in order to be saved.

The minister went so far as to make the following offer.

If you come forward tonight and get baptized then you can know for sure that you are saved; and even if we are wrong it will only take you about ten minutes.

May the Lord preserve us from such error!

As a Baptist I will tell you that baptism does not save but it is a command of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you know in your heart that you need to be baptized as a believer AND you refuse to obey then you need to question just how serious is your commitment to Jesus Christ.

If you will study every occurrence of baptism in the book of Acts you will learn that the baptism took place immediately after repentance and confession of sin.

The new believer wanted to be baptized!

We will reserve extended comment on Acts 8:35 ff, and put it in proper context when we get to it in our exposition, but at least this much today.

Acts 8:35-38

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, *here is water*. What hinders me from being baptized?"

³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

3. Remission of sins;

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matt 26:28

The best news a sinner can have is that his sins have been sent away. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper he said that His blood is shed for the remission of sins. Jesus shed His blood "in regard to" the remission of sins.

The image that the Lord Jesus brings forth in the remission of sins is from the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement.

ATONEMENT, DAY OF

3. The scapegoat. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews, [Heb 9:7-25](#), teaches us to apply the first two particulars. The high priest himself, with his person cleansed and dressed in white garments, was the best outward type which a living man could present in his own person of that pure and holy One who was to purify his people and to cleanse them from their sins. But respecting the meaning of the scapegoat we have no such light to guide us, and the subject is one of great doubt and difficulty. It has been generally considered that it was dismissed to signify the carrying away of the sins of the people, as it were, out of the sight of Jehovah. If we keep in view that the two goats are spoken of as parts of one and the same sin offering, we shall not have much difficulty in seeing that they form together but one symbolical expression; the slain goat setting forth the act of sacrifice, in giving up its own life for others "to Jehovah;" and the goat which carried off its load of sin "for complete removal" signifying the cleansing influence of faith in that sacrifice.

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4. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the singular work of Holy Spirit regeneration there is the granting of repentance; a willingness to obey; the remission of sins; and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is not a “second blessing” that some special believers can experience and manifest by “speaking in tongues.”

Every true believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

And there is the effectual call of God.

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."

Rom 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

About three thousand souls were effectually called that day and they gladly received his word. Peter preached Jesus Christ; Peter called for repentance; Peter quoted Joel's promise that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Holy Spirit took the words of one sinner and He applied those words to the hearts of 3000 other sinners.

That is all any true preacher of the Gospel can ask for; repent and believe in the Gospel!

It might be possible for me to get you to bow your head and pray; but that won't save you.

It might be possible for me to get you to walk up to the front and shake my hand; but that won't save you.

It might be possible for me to talk you into being baptized; but that won't save you.

“What shall we do, they cried out?”

What shall you do?

Repent and believe in the Gospel!