



Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 2:14- 47

Pentecost and Peter's Speech

The First recorded sermon for
the Christian Community

Last week

- ▶ A dedication to Theophilus
- ▶ Post resurrection Instructions to stay in Jerusalem until the disciples receive power from above.
- ▶ The appointment of Matthias as an Apostle to replace Judas.
- ▶ The Ascension of the Lord.
- ▶ Pentecost

LOOKING
BACK...



Ascension in Luke and Acts

- ▶ **Luke 24: 50-53** (after telling them to wait in Jerusalem)
- ▶ ⁵⁰ Then he led them [out] as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. ⁵¹ As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. ⁵² They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple praising God.
- ▶ **Acts 1** ⁹ When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. ¹⁰ While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven ***will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.***” ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.

Ascension in Mark 16:19-20

- ▶ ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ ***And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.***
- ▶ The Ascension is celebrated by the Church forty days after the Resurrection and ten days before the Pentecost



Fast forward to Peter's Sermon at Pentecost. It is the first recorded speech of the Christian "Church"

- ▶ **The setting: The city of Jerusalem is filled with pilgrims from all over the diaspora. They are in Jerusalem to celebrate the harvest and the giving of the Word of God to Moses.**
- ▶ **Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus begin ecstatically declaring the greatness of God. Men from all over the world heard the words in their own language. Some thought the disciples had been drinking!**

Peter speaks

- ▶ **His first point:** These people are not drunk! It is only 9 O'clock in the morning! (humor)
- ▶ Next, he uses the words of the prophet Joel to explain what has happened on this day:
- ▶ **Acts 2:17-19** It will come to pass in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. **Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.**
¹⁸ Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy.

Peter explains the affects of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit is not exclusive to Judah.

It will be poured out on *all flesh in the end days!* (Acts 2:17)

Sons, daughters, young old, servants and handmaidens will be filled with the Holy Spirit!

The HS will bring visions, dreams and prophecy.

The Prophet Joel is believed to have prophesied in the 9th Century BC.

“The Day of the Lord” the “Last Days” or “On that Day”?

In the Old Testament the expression "day of the Lord" occurs eighteen times in prophetic literature. Similar language appears another 208 times.

In the New Testament, "Day of the Lord" appears in 2 Thessalonians 2:2. The Day of the Lord or “on that day” or “last days” often refers to future events. It suggests the time when God will intervene decisively for judgment and/or salvation. Last Days is also used in 2Tim 3:1, and James 5:3.

God will make visible his Kingdom and His rule of righteousness by calling for a judgment of the nations as well as individuals, dispensing punishment for some and ushering in salvation for others.

Last Days in Timothy and James

2 Timothy 3:1-4

¹ But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the **last days**. ² People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious, ³ callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, ⁴ traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

James 5:3 ³ your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days.

The Age of the Church has begun

- ▶ The Jesus events and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is the inauguration of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is present, but not yet complete or fully realized.
- ▶ The “last days” or the “Day of the Lord” refer to the time when the Kingdom of God reigns over all. It is what will happen before the Second Coming of Christ and judgment day. At the Ascension Jesus spoke of His return.



Joel's Prophecy continues..

Acts 2: 19-21 And I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and splendid **day of the Lord**, ²¹ and it shall be that **everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.**'

The Cosmos themselves warn of the coming of the "Day of the Lord." Luke uses the description of events that come before the end to also describe the affects of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Fire and smoke are symbolic of the presence of God to Moses and the Israelites in the Exodus, and for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Fire as symbol of the presence of God. “And I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: *blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke.*”



Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people. Ex 13:22



The Burning Bush
Exodus 3:1-5



Other signs: Have they already occurred or yet to come?



Revelation 6:12 Then I watched while he broke open the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; the sun turned as black as dark sackcloth and the whole moon became like blood.

Exodus 7:20 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood.

They could be “signs of the times.”
Are we in the “end times” now?

- ▶ **Luke 21:25-28** “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ **But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.**”



Everyone shall be saved?

...for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved...”

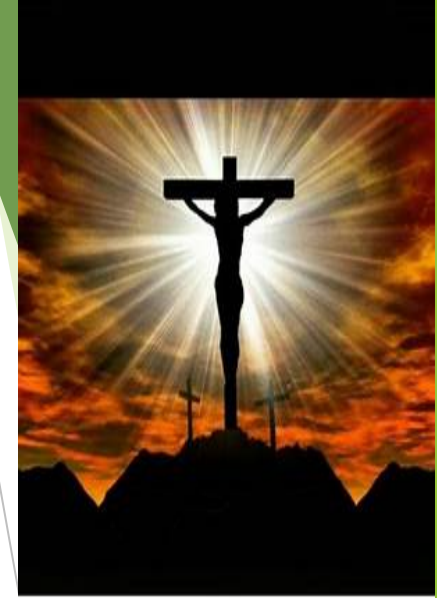
Romans 10:13

- ▶ Acts 2:21 and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.’
- ▶ Luke, still using the words of Joel here, does not want to limit the ability to call on the name of the Lord to those who are in Jerusalem alone.
- ▶ All human beings may call on the name of the Lord for salvation.
- ▶ This is a universal call for *conversion*.

Acts 2:22-25 Peter continues with a brief summary of the life, death, and resurrection.

“You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.

²³ This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. ²⁴ But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.




Peter speaks of the death and resurrection of Jesus



- ▶ Peter declared that the crucifixion of Jesus was part of God's plan all along. The miracles and mighty deeds of Jesus were widely known and many in Jerusalem on this day may have witnessed them. These acts were evidence of God's divine will.
- ▶ The "lawless ones" that Peter declares carried out the crucifixion or "killing" of Christ are the Romans who did not live by the **Law or Torah**.
- ▶ Yet, God raised him up! From death to life, **Jesus is the Risen Lord!**

Peter recites from David's Psalm 16:8-9 (Acts 2:25-28)

- ▶ I keep the LORD always before me;
with him at my right hand, I shall never be shaken.
9 Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my
body also dwells secure,
- ▶ 10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor let
your devout one see the pit.
11 You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in
your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.



Peter sees new meaning in this ancient Psalm. He sees this as a prophecy for the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus was not corrupted by the pit or the abode of the dead and Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (A prophecy of David)

Peter compares David and Jesus

David

Chosen by God to be King

Called to unite Israel,
saving it from attacks of
enemies and tribal feuds

Promised that a messiah,
would come from Davidic
bloodlines, that a king from
his house would sit on the
throne again.

Died and was buried.

Mortal.

Jesus

Son of God, God incarnated

Called to save humanity from sin and
death

Jesus is the Messiah

Jesus is King

Crucified, died and buried, Resurrected,
and returned to his disciples.

Ascended into heaven.

Eternal


Peter and Jesus both quoted Psalm 110 It seems to suggest that David had a prophecy about Jesus, the Messiah-



Matthew 22:41-45 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, ⁴² saying, “What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They replied, “David’s.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How, then, does *David, inspired by the Spirit*, call him ‘lord,’ saying:

⁴⁴ ‘*The Lord said to my lord,
“Sit at my right hand
until I place your enemies under your feet”*’?

⁴⁵ If David calls him ‘lord,’ how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.



The Lord
(God) says
to the
Messiah,
sit at my
right
hand.

Acts 2:36-37

An “AHA” moment! A light goes on-



³⁶ Therefore let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?”

So, what do **we** do now?

Peter has a 4 point answer

1. Reform your lives
2. Be baptized
3. Have your sins forgiven
4. Receive the holy Spirit!

God made this promise to these Jews AND their children. To those present and those still “far off”

He calls them to “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”



Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church!

- ▶ Peter so inspired the people that
- ▶ “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about *three thousand persons were added that day.*”



A Community transformed by the Holy Spirit, in what ways?



1. They adhered to the teaching of the Apostles; the proclamation of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the significance of Christ.
2. Awe came upon everyone.
3. They developed a communal way of life.
4. Breaking of the bread - Eucharist in their homes.
5. Prayers- meeting in the Temple each day.
6. Holding all things in common so no one was ever in need.



Acts 2:46-47

- ▶ They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Let us Pray

- ▶ Lord, thank you that we are united in Christ. Help us to share your love with everyone that we encounter this week. May we lavish Christ's abounding goodness upon our families, friends and colleagues.
- ▶ Holy Spirit, come and equip us in our workplace, guide us in our school life, and inspire us in our neighborhood. May we be your hands and feet to the needy, your words of affirmation to the oppressed and your arms of comfort to the lonely. Thank you for the blessing of your Word.
- ▶ Amen.