

Acts 2b

Acts 2:22-41

22 Peter declared that God's accreditation of Jesus was the miracles He worked through Jesus. (John 5:36) This was because of the miracles worked through Moses, their law giver. To the Jews, signs were God's way of confirming a work was ordained of God. (John 3:2) Many of their prophets had been used of God to perform the miraculous. They stopped armies, raised the dead, called down plagues, stopped the mouths of lions, healed the sick and fed multitudes. Jesus did some of these things, but he also healed in afflictions they had never seen healed such as the man blind from birth. The prophets had predicted the Messiah would make the lame to walk and the blind to see. (Matthew 11:3-5) The Holy Spirit was telling them they had all the proof they needed to believe He is the Messiah. (John 7:31) What was happening at that moment was a continuation of Jesus' miracles, another sign, the pouring out of the Spirit.

23 God had preplanned the whole thing. (Acts 3:18) God could have kept Jesus from being captured, but the cross was God's plan from the beginning. 1Peter 1:20 YOU – Pete makes it personal. It was for my sins that He went to the cross. Though they may have not all taken part in condemning Jesus, some of them were surely there. The "you" may also refer generally to the Jewish people. "With the help of wicked men" is in Greek "the help of those without the Law" referring to the Romans.

24 How could death contain Life? (John 10:18; 1Corinthians 6:14)

25-28 Psalm 16:8-11 is quoted to show that God always intended to raise the Messiah before His body could decay.

29 -31 The Holy Spirit is addressing any who question that the Psalm was merely about David. The fact that he did not fulfill it shows that it is about the Messiah, the Son of David. He prophetically foresaw this truth about the Messiah's resurrection.

32 They declared that they had seen the fulfillment of the prophecy. This was the chief witness of the Apostles, to declare that the Messiah had conquered death. (Acts 1:22) Why was that so important? (Acts 17:31)

33 The right hand of God is the place of power and authority. (Psalm 118:16; Matthew 28:18) Jesus could now pour out the promised Holy Spirit because His death in our place makes us sanctified vessels for the Spirit. (Luke 24:49; John 14:16)

34,35 The Spirit again uses a Messianic psalm and shows how it could not be fulfilled by David and therefore had to be about Jesus. He quoted Psalm 110:1. Jesus applied this Psalm to Himself when interrogated by the Sanhedrin.

36 This is the conclusion or sermon hook. A good sermon ends in a summary that challenges one to change. All Israel was to know that God made Jesus both Master and Messiah.

37 "Cut to the heart" is paraphrase of the Greek "stabbed with a knife". This is the response every witness hopes to hear, "What shall we do?" We preach and share that the Holy Spirit might convict hearts of their need to repent. Part of the problem in our postmodern culture is that very few can see the need to repent. They believe that their sin against God is "right" for them. After all, they are god, and how can they sin against their own nature? But the truth is like a double edged sword that penetrates and divides the reality from delusion.

38-39 This is the Old Time Religion. Recognize your need to repent (*metanoia*), a radical change in a person's central affections, convictions, and life direction. Be baptized, showing your life is no longer your own. "in the name of Jesus Christ" means to be baptized into Him as His servant under His authority. It is identification with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3,4). Your sins will be forgiven and you will receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is present in everyone that believes. You can't be saved and not possess the Spirit within you. Titus 3:5 "For all who are far off" see Isaiah 57:19

40-41 Repentance means to not only be sorry but to make a change. Save yourselves from that corrupt generation. Salvation enables us to be saved from the culture we are in. Galatians 1:4 God changes our heart and that means we want to live a new life. The destructive old life we lived is no longer appealing to us. We see it as it truly is. Repentance involves a change in thinking and living.

Than day 3000 were added to the church. Imagine that! It can happen again today. It does in many third world countries. The Spirit of God convicts a crowd of their sin against God and thousands come to Jesus for forgiveness.