

A Study in Acts

Lesson 3: Acts Chapter 2

Introduction

While I would never profess that any part of Gods Word is more important than any other. But Acts Chapter 2 is one that every Christian should memorize. In this one chapter are

_____ , _____ , _____ .

The Day of Pentecost

Act 2:1-4 KJV

The day of Pentecost is a Jewish feast that occurs ____ days after Passover.

This is the “_____” that John the Baptist referred to. Only the twelve received this baptism, which endowed the Apostles with the miraculous abilities to _____ , _____ , _____ , and so forth.

Act 2:5-13 KJV

We get some sense here of the size of the inhabited world since these people represented people from _____. We also get an indication here of why the Apostles were given these capabilities. It caused others to take notice of them and ask about them; which presented the Apostles with the opportunity to _____ .

The First Gospel Sermon

Act 2:14-21 KJV

In Acts 1:26, Luke said that Matthias was "numbered with the eleven," meaning that Matthias was the twelfth man. In the same way, Peter's standing up "with the eleven," as here, means that Peter was the twelfth man. Thus the Twelve participated in the events of this day.

Given by _____ and directed primarily at _____ .

Peter's taking the lead here was within full harmony with the Lord's promise that he should have "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19); and, accordingly, Peter flung wide the gates of the kingdom, preaching the first sermon of the gospel age.

Misconception Cleared

First, Peter let the people know that the Apostles were not _____ .

Prophecy Fulfilled

Note that Peter indicates that God spoke through _____. This is yet another claim within the pages of the bible that it is the Word of God. The “_____” refers to the Christian dispensation then beginning. It is a gross error to suppose that the apostles all thought that the end of the world was at hand

The passage Peter here quoted from Joel is 2:28ff.

The awful events prophesied by Joel and here announced by Peter as fulfilled (that is, beginning to be fulfilled) were omens of fearful judgments about to fall upon the chosen people; but in concert with this, Peter also extended the hope of grace and forgiveness, basing his whole sermon on the climactic final sentence concluding the passage from Joel, that it will come to pass that everyone that calls on his name shall be saved.

In Remembrance of Jesus

[Act 2:22-24 KJV](#)

In these verses and the one preceding them, there are four statements, two of which required no proof:

- 1.
- 2.

The "lawless men," were not merely the _____, but the religious leaders of Israel who violated every conceivable kind of law in their ruthless determination to accomplish the death of Jesus.

The other two of the four statements required proof:

- 3.
- 4.

In the next verses, Peter presents formal, dogmatic and conclusive proof of both of these. That it was God's purpose and with his permission that Jesus suffered, he proves _____; and that God had indeed raised Jesus from the dead, he proves by appealing to the _____ of it, as well as by pointing out the clear prophecy of it..

Peter Offers Proofs of His Statements

[Act 2:25-32 KJV](#)

These words are from Psalms. 16:8ff. It is absolutely certain that this passage from the Old Testament prophesies a _____ of someone, for it is only by a resurrection that one could descend into the grave (Hades) and not see corruption. The inspired Peter correctly applied it to the resurrection of _____, The proof absolute that this Psalm cannot refer to David was present for all to see right there in Jerusalem in the tomb of David which still enshrined his dust.

The significance of "the Christ" should not be overlooked. Jesus was not A Christ, or A Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth is THE Messiah, THE Christ of God!

Peter's Conclusion

[Act 2:33-36 KJV](#)

Peter affirmed that the baptism of the apostles in the Holy Spirit, as audibly and visually evidenced by the miraculous demonstration somewhat earlier, had indeed come to pass as Jesus promised.

The quotation from Psa. 110:1 that Peter makes, indicates:

1. That the Son of David would also be the Lord of David (Matthew 22:43ff).

2. That the Son of David would sit on the right hand of God, an idiomatic promise of the ascension into heaven.

Peter did not have to prove that David himself had not ascended to heaven, for his grave was still in Jerusalem.

Clearly these words as being addressed not to the dwellers in all those countries mentioned by Luke (Acts 2:8-12), but to the Jews of the Holy City itself. This justifies the conclusion that the "speaking" of all the Twelve in languages they had never learned, earlier that morning, was not in any sense a preview of this sermon. This sermon was the first of the gospel age, quite properly delivered "_____ " as God had ordained; and, therefore, it may be concluded, that those earlier "speaking" were concerned with gathering an audience for Peter's message, the same purpose being evident in the rushing sound and other divine manifestations of that hour.

Having thus established a number of the most important truths regarding Christianity, especially the _____, _____, _____, and _____, and the fact of Christ's having poured forth the Holy Spirit in such a divine demonstration as the multitude had witnessed, Peter then announced his conclusion: _____.

The Response of the Jews

[Act 2:37-41 KJV](#)

Belief

Imagine suddenly realizing, or accepting the truth, that you were among those that actually called for Jesus' crucifixion. That you, literally, killed him. Once these people believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, they cried out "_____"? How can we be saved from this horrible thing we have done?

Repent and be Baptized

Peter then gives them the terms of their salvation. The terms of the salvation of those believers in Christ were immediately announced by that apostle to whom Jesus had promised that whatever he bound on earth would be bound in heaven (Matthew 16:13ff). There was no ambiguity in the announcement. The answer to the believer's question "What shall we do?" is:

"_____."

Then, we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is _____. We are saved. No argument from anyone can change this verse. As a matter of simple fact, the command to believe, repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins with the promise of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit afterward, - this is a timeless and universal commandment of the Christian gospel, and is clear from this verse. None are exempted, or denied, or promised redemption without compliance.

Note the following:

[\(1 Timothy 4:16\)](#)

[\(Philippians 2:12\)](#)

The great teaching of these verses, taken in conjunction with what Peter said, is that _____ is responsible for whether or not he/she is saved. If he obeys the Lord, he will be saved, not as a matter of merit, but by the grace of God; but if he does not obey, not even the grace of God can reach him and redeem him. Nor is there any implication in those teachings that an absolutely perfect obedience is prerequisite to redemption, because absolutely perfect obedience does not lie within the province of man's ability. However, the initial obedience, such as Peter commanded on Pentecost, does lie within the area of what man is fully able to do, provided only that he desires to do it; and that is the basis of the conclusion that there can be no waiver of what Peter commanded on Pentecost. It will be bound in heaven. It is simply incredible that most commentators pass over this sentence with no comment: "Save yourselves from this crooked generation"!

The Church Begins

At the giving of the Law, _____ souls broke the Law and died; on this occasion _____ souls obeyed the gospel and were saved.

The Early Days of the Church

[Act 2:42-47 KJV](#)

As this church did, so should every church do, the apostles' teaching being the only doctrinal authority in the Christian religion. This is limited, of course, to the teachings of the New Testament.

Whereas in Judaism, prayers were offered at stated times of the day, the Christians offered prayers _____, and _____.

They partook of the _____.

Verse 43 is the proof of the deductions given earlier in this chapter to the effect that only the Twelve were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Here it is clear enough that the one hundred twenty were not able to do the wonders and signs, which accompanied the Twelve, indicating most certainly that they, the one hundred twenty, were not included in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which the apostles received.

Regarding what these signs were, conjecture is idle; however, it is reported later in Acts that Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:41). The signs here mentioned were of such a powerful and supernatural nature that fear came upon the whole community of Christians, and presumably upon many in Jerusalem besides these.

They lived as a community, sharing when needed, eating together, living together, praising God together, and increasing their numbers as God chose to add to them. These are all things we should continue to do today. What a truly fabulous beginning the _____ had.