

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church – Part 8

### I. Exposition of Chapter Two - (Continued).

#### A. Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost (Verses 14-40).

##### 1. Verses 16-21 - Peter quotes the prophet Joel. (cf. Joel 2:28-32).

- a. Verses 19-20 – This portion of the prophecy is understood as that which will yet happen just prior to the “...awesome day of the Lord.” (verse 20) which will be the second coming of the Lord Jesus in judgment.
- b. There is an aspect of the “sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood” (cf. **Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12**) that refers to end times events which are to occur just prior to the second coming. This suggests that right up until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be an ongoing fulfillment of people who call on the name of the Lord and are saved (cf. **Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13**) through repentance and believing, and that the filling of the Holy Spirit will be available to them as well. **This understanding of the ongoing fulfillment of Joel's prophecy should put to rest the notion that the filling of the Holy Spirit, in the same way it was experienced in various portions of the book of Acts, including the speaking in other tongues, is no longer available today.**

**“...Peter is looking forward to the signs which will herald the end of the world; these are still the future, and they belong to the ‘end; of the last days, rather than to their ‘beginning’ which is just taking place. The third element in Joel's prophecy is the event which these signs portend: the day of the Lord, i.e. the day of judgment.”<sup>1</sup>**

- c. Verse 21 – “**And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**” – This is also quoted in **Romans 10:13**. The “**Lord**” is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ which is confirmed in the context of **Romans 10:9-13** and the remainder of this passage in **Acts 2**. This confirms that Jehovah (Yahweh) of the Old Testament is Jesus of the New Testament.

**“This verse gives the purpose of the outpouring. Through this empowering the Holy Spirit will do His convicting work in the world, not just in the end but throughout the age – right down to the great Day of the Lord. All during this period, whoever calls on the name of the Lord for help, that is, for salvation, will be saved. ‘The Lord’ is Jesus (cf. Rom. 10:9, 13)...No matter what happens or what forces oppose the Church, the door of salvation will remain open. The Greek also indicates that we can expect many to respond and be saved.”<sup>2</sup>**

##### 2. Verse 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”

- a. It's notable that right away, as Peter is speaking by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he points the people to “**Jesus of Nazareth**”. Jesus made it clear that when the Holy Spirit came, He would testify of the Lord Jesus and glorify Him (cf. **John 15:26-27; 16:13-14**).
- b. “**...a Man attested by God to you...**” – The word “**attested**” means “**to show forth**”; “**exhibit**” and “**approved**”. One Lexicon states: “**to cause something to be known as genuine, with possible focus upon the source of such knowledge—‘to demonstrate, to show, to make clearly known.’... ‘Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine mission was clearly shown to you by miracles’ Ac 2:22**”<sup>3</sup>
- c. Note the words “**...to you...**” and “**...in your midst...**” and “**...you yourselves also know.**” in the context of attested by God and “**...miracles, wonders and signs...**”. Marshall comments on this:

**“Peter assumes the reality of these signs, claims that his audience are well aware of them, and states that they were worked by God.”<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>I. Howard Marshall, *The Acts of the Apostles: An Introduction and Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980), 74.  
NOTE: Marshall's “first element” is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his “second element” is the cosmic signs.

<sup>2</sup>Stanley M. Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2001), 70.

<sup>3</sup>Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 340.

<sup>4</sup>Marshall, 74.

d. Regarding the “...miracles, wonders and signs...”, we know that the ministry of Jesus was characterized by an abundance of supernatural healings, deliverances from bondage and even the raising of the dead. Dr. Thomas Constable helps us in our understanding by stating:

**“Peter argued that God had attested to Jesus' Messiahship by performing miracles through Him. ‘Miracles’ is the general word, which Peter defined further as ‘wonders’ (miracles eliciting awe) and ‘signs’ (miracles signifying something). Jesus' miracles attested the fact that God had empowered Him (cf. John 3:2), and they led many people who witnessed them to conclude that He was the Son of David (Matt. 12:23). Others, however, chose to believe that He received His power from Satan rather than God (Matt. 12:24).”<sup>5</sup>**

**3. Verse 23 – “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death:”**

a. We see in the first part of this that Jesus was handed over to the Jews and “lawless hands” by the “...determined purpose and foreknowledge of God...”. Of course, God always had, as a part of His purpose, the plan for Jesus to die on the cross for humanity’s redemption. (cf.

**Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:10; Mark 10:45; II Timothy 1:8-9).**

**“And all the inhabitants of the earth will fall down in adoration and pay him homage, everyone whose name has not been recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain [in sacrifice] from the foundation of the world.” – Revelation 13:8 – Amplified Bible**

b. Even though God had foreknowledge and had pre-determined that Jesus would die for our sins, the Bible also reveals that this doesn’t in any way diminish man’s guilt and responsibility. It seems that in God’s foreknowledge, He will sometimes use the wickedness of men in order to bring about something greater – in this case the crucifixion of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sins.

c. Take note of Peter’s phrase to his audience; “...you have taken by lawless hands have crucified, and put to death.” – This also shows that at least some, if not many of the people listening to Peter were present during Jesus’ ministry and somehow had a part in His suffering.

**“Some of the Jews who had recently cried ‘Crucify Him’ may very well have heard Peter's speech. Peter laid the guilt for Jesus' death at the Jews' feet (cf. v. 36; 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 7:52; 10:39; 13:28) and on the Gentile Romans (cf. 4:27; Luke 23:24-25).”<sup>6</sup>**

**4. Verse 24 – “whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”**

a. “...whom God raised up...” – The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the main message of Christianity. Without the resurrection of Christ, there is no Christianity. Paul said, “**And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.**” – I Corinthians 15:14.

b. Every recorded sermon in the book of Acts included the resurrection of Christ (cf. v. 32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33–34, 37; 17:31; 26:23).

**“The resurrection of Christ took away the stigma of the Cross and reversed the decision of the Jewish leaders and Pilate. It also indicated God’s acceptance of Jesus’ sacrifice.”<sup>7</sup>**

c. “...having loosed the pains of death...” – Horton adds: “By the resurrection also God released Jesus ‘from the agony of death.’ ‘Agony’ usually means ‘birth pangs,’ so that the death here is perceived as labor. Just as labor pains are relieved by the birth of a child, so the resurrection brought an end to the pains of death.”

d. Through the cross, Jesus conquered over sin and through the resurrection, Jesus conquered over death.

**“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” – Romans 8:1-2**

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<sup>5</sup>Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Acts* (<http://www.soniclight.com>: Sonic Light Publication, 2019), 66.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 67.

<sup>7</sup>Stanley M. Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2001), 72.