

Brief Introduction to Acts 2:22-36

Book of Acts Structure

- I. Jesus promises power for witness to the nations 1:1-11
- II. **The apostles witness in Jerusalem & Judea 1:12–6:7**
 - A. **The church in Jerusalem is planted 1:12–2:47**
 1. The Lord chooses a twelfth apostle 1:12-30
 2. Jews are baptized in the Holy Spirit 2:1-13
 3. **Peter preaches the gospel to Israelites 2:14-36**
 - a. Joel’s prophecy fulfilled 14-21
 - b. Nathan’s prophecy fulfilled 22-28**
 - c. David’s prophecy fulfilled 29-36**
 4. The apostles plant churches in Jerusalem 2:37-47
 - B. The church in Jerusalem expands 3:1–6:7
- III. Believers witness in Judea & Samaria 6:8–9:31
- IV. The apostles witness to Gentiles 9:32–14:31
- V. The Jerusalem church counsel 15:1-16:5
- VI. Paul preaches the gospel to the Greeks 16:6–19:20
- VII. Paul preaches the gospel to the Romans 21:15–28:31

b. Nathan’s prophecy (2 Samuel 7) fulfilled 22-28

NOTE: Three sections begin with “Men!”

22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man [–clearly] attested to you [~us] by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know— 23 this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, [+seizing him] you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles. 24 But God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death [~hell], because it was not possible for him to be held in its power. (ESV 2016, brackets = early manuscript variants)

QUERY: What are miracles? Was Hume right when he defined miracle as violation of natural laws?

Powers: Something hard to do.

Wonders: Something that amazes.

Signs: Something that points to someone else.

QUERY: “Handed over to whom?”

Two interpretations:

- To be crucified, making God a co-conspirator in Jesus’ crucifixion.
- To be your Messiah, strengthen Peter’s accusation of homicide.

NOTE: Literally, “THE allotted plan AND foreknowledge” *Prognosis* occurs four times in the Greek Bible (2 in Apocrypha + 2 in NT). It is God working his plan, never of his decreeing our faith or obedience.

QUERY: What are the essential elements of the Peter's 'gospel' message?

- Jesus' name
- His divine miracles
- God's plan fulfilled
- Jesus' crucifixion
- His resurrection
- His victory over death and hell

QUERY: What did Peter not say about Jesus' crucifixion?

- Peter did not explain theology of atonement.
- Atonement teaching is mostly for Christians.
- The apostolic emphasis was on resurrection.

DOCUMENT: http://currah.download/pages/jesus/original_apostolic_good_news.html

ACTION: Turn to your neighbor and ask him to tell you as much of Peter's message that he can remember in 30 seconds. Then let him ask the same of you.

25 For David says about him,

'I saw the [~my] Lord always in front of me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced;
my body also will live in hope,

27 because you will not leave my soul in Hades,
nor permit your Holy One to experience decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of joy with your presence.'

Interpretations of Acts 2:27 = Psalm 16:10.

- David was talking about himself, hoping one day to get out of Sheol, and Peter applies it to Jesus as an accidental prophecy. (Hebrew Bible in later Judaism: šāḥat = "pit".)
- David was speaking prophetically on behalf of a future descendant or messiah, who has turned out to be Jesus. (Hebrew behind the LXX: šihēt = "decay". This could be older than the current Hebrew.) (Those who disbelieve in biblical prediction opt for the "pit" translation, whilst those who accept predictive prophecy, opt for the "decay" translation, although the difference remain so little that either can be a prediction.)

NOTES: Nathan's original prophecy is found at 2 Samuel 7. David later wrote Psalm 16 in response.

2 Sam 7:14 "I will be ['ani 'hyh = I AM] to him 'Father', and he will be [hû' yhyh (~yhwh) = he is] to me 'Son'", from the verb hyh/hwh, to be. In ancient Hebrew, y and w are interchangeable in verbs.

QUERY: "When he commits iniquity." How can this be a prediction of Jesus who committed no iniquity?

- All the natural sons of David failed on this point.
- Until Jesus the Son came and obeyed his Father flawlessly.

c. David's prophecy fulfilled 29-36

29 "Brothers, I can speak confidently to you about our forefather David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 So then, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath [~to raise the Messiah] to seat one of his [~natural] descendants on his throne, 31 David by foreseeing this spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he [~his soul] was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his body experience decay.

QUERY: By what logic does Peter apply Psalm 16:8-11 to Jesus?

- It was not fulfilled for David himself, who has died and remains dead.
- God had promised to David that one of his descendants would reign on his throne forever.
- Jesus has fulfilled all of the details.

NOTE: Learn to use bible software that can find Greek words fast. www.olivetree.com comes with free Bibles in several languages, on Windows, Mac, Adroid and iPhone. For example:

"I may say with *confidence (parrésia)*" = "boldness" in every other similar context.

- (1) Leviticus 26:13. "I am the LORD... That you should not be their slaves ... I made you walk with *parrésia*."
- (2) John 18:20. "I have spoken with *parrésia* ... where all Jews come together."
- (3) Acts 2:29 "Brothers, I may say to you with *parrésia*."
- (4) Acts 4:13 "They saw the *parrésia* of Peter and John."
- (5) Acts 4:29 "Grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all *parrésia*."
- (6) Acts 4:31 "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with *parrésia*."
- (7) Acts 28:31 "Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all *parrésia*."

32 This Jesus God raised up, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 So then, exalted to the right hand of God, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he has [+now] poured out what [~the gift that] you both see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says,

'The Lord said to my lord,
"Sit at my right hand
35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

QUERY: what was peter able to declare, that you and i cannot?

- Peter was an eyewitness to Jesus risen.
- You and I are not.

NOTE: 2:33 "the right hand" can be taken as either "to his right hand/side" = position, or "by his right hand" = means.

QUERY: Why quote from Psalm 110:1?

Jesus, in Luke 20:42, quoted it after asking, "How can they say that the Christ is David's son?"

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.”

QUERY: how did God “make” Jesus to be Lord and Christ?

Suggestions:

- ‘Make’ = appoint or declare to be
- ‘Make’ = show or reveal to be in the psalms
- ‘Make’ = make public what Jesus already was

QUERY: Who is Jesus? Who says?

- Jesus is the Christ (v. 31)
- Jesus is Lord (v. 34).
- God says in the Scriptures.

Next Study

II. The apostles witness in Jerusalem and Judea 1:12–6:7

A. The church in Jerusalem is planted 1:12–2:47

1. The Lord chooses a twelfth apostle 1:12-30
2. Jews are baptized in the Holy Spirit 2:1-13
3. Peter preaches the gospel to Israelites 2:14-36

4. The apostles multiply churches in Jerusalem 2:37-47

- a. Seven commands of Jesus for evangelism 2:37-41
- b. Seven commands of Jesus for discipleship 2:42-45
- c. Seven commands of Jesus for body life 2:46-47