

SERIES: Transition Time  
SUBJECT: Peter's Continues To Explain The Coming of the Holy Ghost.  
READING: Acts 2:32-40

Introduction:

Last week we studied to see what happened on the day of Pentecost when Jesus' promise that His 120 followers would become witnesses of the Gospel. They would be filled with the Holy Ghost and become witnesses **Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

The initial fulfillment of this world wide witness actually took place in Jerusalem; **Act 2:4-5 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (5) And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.**

Peter is questioned by those from around the world; **Act 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Peter gives them three explanations in his sermon. We covered two of these in our study last Sunday!**

1. **He explained what happened: the Spirit had come (vv. 14-21).**
  - a. The joyful worship of the only believers present involved the 120 from the upper room and it was not the result of too much wine; it was the evidence of the arrival of God's Holy Spirit to dwell in His people.

- i. **It was indeed the dawning of a new age,** the "last days" in which God would bring to completion His plan of salvation for mankind.
  - ii. Jesus had finished the great work of redemption and nothing more had to be done except to share the Good News with the world, beginning with the nation of Israel.
  - iii. **The invitation is, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" (Acts 2:21).**
  - iv. **It is this invitation that we proclaim my beloved brothers and sisters! That's our message to the lost in our world!**  
*whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
2. **He explained how it happened: **Jesus was alive** (vv. 22-35).**
- a. Peter's message was a sound and truthful rebuke of the "Official Report" (which said the body was stolen) Jesus of Nazareth had indeed been raised from the dead, His Disciples had not stolen the body "**...God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.**" Act 2:24
  - b. **The Resurrection proves that He is the Messiah! Peter gave them four proofs of the resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and then he called on them to believe on Christ and be saved.**

**i. His first proof was the person of Jesus Christ (vv. 22-24).** *Peter's audience knew that Jesus was a real Person from the town of Nazareth and that He had performed many signs and miracles.*

- 1. It was clear that God's hand was on Him. They had heard Him speak and had watched His life.**
- 2. They had even seen Him raise the dead, yet they could find no fault in Him—** In Act 26:26 speaking to Festus Paul said; **For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.**

**ii. Peter's second proof was the prophecy of David (vv. 25-31).**

- 1. He quoted Psalm 16:8-11, verses that obviously could not apply to David who was already dead and buried.**

**Psalm 16:8-11 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

<sup>11</sup> Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

2. **Being a prophet of God**, David wrote about the Messiah, that His soul would not remain in hades (the realm of the dead) or His body in the grave where it would decay.

### THIS MORNING WE WILL CONSIDER...

- c. **The third proof which was the witness of the believers (v. 33).** *After His resurrection, Jesus did not appear to the world at large, but to His own followers whom He had commissioned to give witness to others that He was alive (Acts 1:3, 22).*
  - i. But were these people dependable witnesses? Can we trust them? **We certainly can!**
  - ii. Prior to Christ's resurrection, the disciples did not even believe that He would be raised from the dead; and they themselves had to be convinced.
  - iii. **They had nothing to gain by preaching a lie**, because their message aroused official opposition and even led to the imprisonment and death of some of the believers.
  - iv. A few fanatics might be willing to believe and promote a lie for a time, but when thousands believe a message, and when that message is backed up by miracles, it cannot easily be dismissed.
  - v. **These witnesses were trustworthy.**

**d. Peter's fourth proof of the resurrection of Christ was the presence of the Holy Spirit (vv. 33-35).**

**Acts 2:33-35 (KJV)**

<sup>33</sup> Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

<sup>34</sup> For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

<sup>35</sup> Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

- i. **Let's Follow Peter's logic.** If the Holy Spirit is in the world, then God must have sent Him.
- ii. **Joel promised that one day the Spirit would come,** and Jesus Himself had promised to send the gift of the Holy Spirit to His people.
- iii. **But if Jesus is dead,** He cannot send the Spirit; therefore, He must be alive.
- iv. Furthermore, He could not send the Spirit unless He had returned to heaven to the Father (John 16:7); so, Jesus has ascended to heaven!
- v. To back up this statement, Peter quoted Psalm 110:1, a verse that certainly could not be applied to David (note Matt. 22:41-46).

**Psalm 110:1;** The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

**1. Peter's conclusion was both a declaration and an accusation:**

- a. **Jesus is your Messiah, but you crucified Him!**  
(see Acts 2:23)
  - b. **Peter did not present the cross as the place where the Sinless Substitute died for the world, (although this was to the world the place of Christ's substitutionary death) To Israel it was where they killed their own Messiah!**
  - c. **They committed the greatest crime in history! Had the Jews committed the unpardonable sin? Was there any hope?**
2. Yes, for Peter gave another explanation that was good news to their hearts. **He explained why it happened: to save sinners (vv. 36-41).**

**Act 2:36-41** *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (37) Now when they heard this, **they were pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren, what shall we do?** (38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

- a. **The Holy Spirit took Peter's message and used it to convict the hearts of the listeners.**
- b. After all, if they were guilty of crucifying their Messiah, what might God do to them! **Note that**

**they addressed their question to the other Apostles as well as to Peter, *Men and brethren, what shall we do?*** for all twelve were involved in the witness that day, and Peter was only first among equals.

- c. Peter told them how to be saved: they had to repent of their sins and believe on Jesus Christ.
  - i. **They would give proof of the sincerity of their repentance and faith by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,**
  - ii. Thereby identifying themselves publicly with their Messiah and Savior.