



“Peter’s First Sermon: Part 2”

Acts 2:22-36

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Introduction: Peter’s sermon at Pentecost consists of three elements (vv. 14-41):

- an *apologia* (a “defense” or “reason”) for the phenomena that occurred (vv. 14-21),
- a *kerygma* (a “proclamation”) of the apostolic message (vv. 22-36)
- a call to respond (vv. 37-41)

We find the overall theme in this section of Peter’s discourse in v. 36: Jesus is both Lord and Christ.

“Attest” – *apodeiknymi* – show forth; prove. Display the quality of an entity.

1. His works attest to it (v. 22)

(v. 22) “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—”

The central significance of the miraculous ministry of Jesus was God’s demonstration of who Jesus is.

John 3:2 – “This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’”

2. His death and resurrection attest to it (vv. 23-24)

- a. His Death (v. 23) *“this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”*

Jesus was delivered up according to God’s plan (“*predetermined*” and “*foreknowledge*”). But Peter is also clear about where human responsibility falls (“*you nailed*” and “*put Him to death*”).

Genesis 50:20 – “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

“When God brings His will to pass, He works in through, and by the real decisions of real people.” - R. C. Sproul

- b. His Resurrection (v. 24) *“But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”*

The resurrection is a basic doctrine in the books of Acts (vv. 32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33-34, 37; 17:31; 26:23)

1 Corinthians 15:17 – “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

“loosing the pangs of death...” (ESV). Death is unable to hold its painful grip on Jesus.

3. **The prophecy attests to it (vv. 25-31)**

(vv. 25-28) “For David says of Him, ‘I saw the Lord always in my presence; For He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. ‘Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; Moreover my flesh also will live in hope; Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. ‘You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.’”

Peter quotes Psalm 16:8-11. One of the many psalms of David that predicted what the coming Messiah would be like.

There was a point when Peter himself did not understand these things. John 20:8-9 “Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.”

(vv. 29-31) “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.”

Peter says, “David died and is still dead. But a thousand years before anyone had ever even heard of Jesus the Nazarene, God said His empty tomb will attest to who He is.”

4. **The witnesses and recipients attest to it (vv. 32-33)**

a. The witnesses (v. 32) “*This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.*”

They themselves were at one-point skeptics. They had nothing to gain by preaching a lie. They held on to their belief amid extreme opposition, persecution and death. #NobodyDiesForALie

b. The recipients (v. 33) “*Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*”

The reception of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by “a violent wind” (v. 2), “tongues of fire” (v. 3), and “the apostles speaking in other languages” (vv. 4, 6, 8, 11), proves that God did in fact give Jesus the authority He declared to have.

5. **Jesus is Lord and Christ (vv. 34-36)**

(vv. 34-36) “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’” Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Peter again quotes David, this time Psalm 110 often quoted in the New Testament.

Jesus is Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of the world who died for our sins. Jesus is Lord, seated at the right hand of the Father, and is the cosmic authority over everything.

All Hail King Jesus!

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. What are the things in your life that attest to Jesus being both Messiah and Lord of your life?
2. Read Genesis 50:20. Have you seen God take something meant for evil and turn it for good in your life?
3. What about the testimony of the witnesses reaffirms what you believe?
4. Is there any area of your life that Jesus is not Lord over? What would it look like to surrender that area to God?