

Sports & Rec Plus  
**THE BOOK OF ACTS**  
Lesson 4: Peter Addresses the Crowd  
Acts 2:22-36 (NIV®)  
Rev. Rick Mitchell and Rev. Rod Morris

Acts 2:22-35 Peter's Sermon

<sup>22</sup> *Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.*

<sup>23</sup> *This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

<sup>25</sup> *David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.*

<sup>29</sup> *Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.*

<sup>34</sup> *For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."*

**Rick, verses 22-28**

INTRODUCTION

Peter is now preaching. In this sermon, which was directed to the Jews and even to those that mocked, Peter preaches with great boldness. Peter the one who had denied Christ is now courageously confessing Him.

**2:22** **"Fellow Israelites, listen to this:** God is going to speak through Peter, so Peter says, **listen to this**—listen to me.

**Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.** The purpose of the miracles, wonders, and signs was not to do stuff or get the people to marvel. It was to attest to Jesus as the son of God.

Likewise, when the apostles or a disciple was accredited by God with a miracle, wonder, and/or sign. It was to show that his message was from God. It was to accredit or to validate that this one who is speaking is speaking the truth and the truth he is speaking is truth from God.

**Accredited by God.** There is no excuse not to follow Jesus. God has accredited Jesus by miracles, wonders, and signs. God did these miracles, wonders, and signs in and through Jesus. This shows that Jesus is recognized, endorsed, sanctioned, and approved, by God. Thus, Jesus receives His authority and power from God the Father.

**2:23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge;** This is the doctrine of concurrence. When God brings His will to pass, He works in, through, and by the decisions of real people. One cannot say look at the good God brought out of my sin. Judas cannot say that it was good that he betrayed Jesus because without that betrayal there would have been no cross, resurrection, redemption, or salvation. Judas is held fully accountable because his only desire was to get the money and sin.

It was God who triumphed over Judas’s sin. God is all powerful and all knowing. He can do anything.

**and you,** Peter directly “points” to the crowd and tells them that you—possibly some of them were in the crowd that day at Jesus’ trial and cried out, *Crucify Him, Crucify Him,* (Matthew 27:22-23; Mark 15:13-14; Luke 23:23; John 19:6, 15).

**with the help of wicked men,** Peter is quick to point out that these men were not the only ones who wanted Jesus to die, there were **wicked men** too, who also helped in the crucifixion.

**put him to death by nailing him to the cross.** Jesus was put to death on a cross. The cross was a horrible form of death. The condemned person was nailed to the two pieces of wood and then stuck up in the ground for all to see and mock. Death was usually by suffocation. Once the body was nailed upon the cross and it hung there on the nails that were driven through the hands, the weight of the body would begin to pull down on the body (the lungs) and the criminal would begin to grasp for air until he suffocated.

**2:24 But God raised him from the dead,** It was God who raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus had no life left in Him so God—showing His approval and acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins—raised Him from the dead.

It was like when you pay a bill, and it is stamped “Paid” showing that the debt is paid in full. There was nothing else to be done. The transaction was complete. It was finished.

This is another proof of his resurrection. *But God raised him from the dead,* (Acts 2:24). The same One that delivered Jesus to death, delivers Him from death.

**freeing him from the agony of death,** This freed, let Jesus lose from the agony and hold of death.

**because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.** There was no way Jesus would remain dead because he was the Lord of both life and death (John 11:25-26; Hebrews 2:14-15).

**2:25 David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.** David’s confidence in never being shaken was to keep the Lord at his right hand. The right hand is the place of honor. Give the Lord a place of honor in your life and you will not be shaken. NOTE: If you are shaken it will only be for a season and as always, for everything that happens to you, God will have a purpose for it—to make you more like Jesus.

**2:26 Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices;** He says here that this is the reason his heart is glad and his tongue rejoices—that he has put the Lord at his right hand—in a place of

honor in his life. And that for everything that happens God is working out His purpose in and through it.

**my body also will rest in hope,** Not the hope that says “maybe” it will happen. But the hope that his gladness of heart and rejoicing with his tongue will show that it will happen and that he will rest in this assurance.

**2:27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your Holy One see decay.** God will not let His Son see deterioration. Neither will the ones who are following His Son see deterioration.

**2:28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.** He is now on the paths of life and is filled with joy because he is in God’s presence.

### **Rod, verses 29-36**

**2:29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.** Verses 29-33 continue with Peter still quoting King David from Psalm 16. Here he is going to layout the argument that Christ is alive.

Before we go any further, I want us to notice one thing about Peter. He is often described as an uneducated person from Galilee. Just a common fisherman. But he was more than that. As a Jewish boy he would have attended the Synagogue and learned from the scriptures. It’s just that he probably only went through the first level of training unlike the Apostle Paul who learned at the feet of Gamaliel. We do have to remember one other thing, while he may have not studied at the feet of Gamaliel as Paul did; he did study at the feet of Jesus. I would rather have been in Peter’s sandals and Paul’s. Paul got his PhD from a man; Peter got his from God. What we may see here is the Holy Spirit of God taking what Peter had learned maybe years earlier and brought them to life here. The same is true for us. Have you ever witnessed someone and all of a sudden, a verse comes to mind which you read and learned many years or maybe decades ago. That is the Holy Spirit of God working through you. This is why it is so important for us to read and study the Bible. Often God will use that very thing for His glory at a much later date.

So, in our verse here, the first thing Peter says is to remind the people that as great as King David was, he died and is buried, and his bones are still in his tomb. All the people knew how great a man David was in this life. But he was just a man. And like all men eventually died.

**2:30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.** Most people don’t think of David as a prophet, but he was. We normally only think about him as a shepherd boy watching his father’s flocks, or as the young man who fought Goliath while no one else would, or as a great general leading Saul’s army to many victories, or as the King who wasn’t perfect and sinned with Bathsheba and had rebellious children. He was all of those things, but he also prophesied the coming Messiah. Remember the test of a prophet? He had to be perfect in what he said. For example, describing the death of Jesus in Psalm 22:16-18 which says, *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.* He was right on describing the day Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary.

**2:31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.** Here Peter is telling everyone that Christ is not dead. That He was alive and that the grave could not hold Him. This is the message of hope for the world. That Jesus died on the cross for the sins of man, he was buried, and that He rose again. His bones are not in a grave somewhere. The bones of Buddha and Muhammad are still in their graves, but not the bones of the only Son of God. Jesus is alive!

**2:32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** His words must have served as a reminder to the other eleven disciples and other witnesses to having seen Jesus alive and then witnessing Christ's ascension just ten days earlier. I can almost picture heads nodding and voices praising God with affirmation as Peter spoke. This affirmation of the witnesses would have been a very impressive sight to those gathered to hear Peter speak. As the witnesses all stood up giving their testimony that they had seen the Christ, who was crucified, alive after his death, and then ascended back to heaven. It was a wonderful public attesting to that grandest of all events; the raising again from the dead of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.

**2:33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.** Peter begins this verse with a bold and powerful statement. Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God. The right hand is a place of special honor. While this statement might have troubled some of those hearing it, no one could deny the events taking place. Everyone there is witnessing the promise of the Holy Spirit of God being poured out freely to all believers. It is no wonder that we will see in future messages of the impact of this sermon by Peter. Everyone listening to him was seeing firsthand the power of God pouring out only on these witnesses. No one else present was experiencing this truly divine gift of the Holy Spirit.

**2:34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand.”** This begins the third Old Testament passage Peter used in his sermon, Psalm 110:1. This verse of the Old Testament is quoted or referred at least twenty-five times in the New Testament. More than any other single Old Testament verse. In this Psalm, David understood and proclaimed the *deity* of the Messiah. In this Psalm, King David – by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – recorded that Yahweh, Israel's covenant God (The LORD), spoke to David's Lord (my Lord) as God. Peter used this to show that the Messiah, who is the focus of Psalm 110, is in fact Divine – He is God. If Jesus is not the Christ, then He is not God; and all our hope is lost. But since Jesus is the Christ, He is God; and we do have hope in every promise of Scripture.

**2:35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”** A day is coming when Jesus is truly exalted as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Everyone will bow before Him including His enemies. That will be both a glorious and dreadful day. Glorious in that Jesus is exalted as King, and dreadful in that the lost are all gone forever from the presence of God in hell. This is why we must as Peter proclaimed on Pentecost, Jesus is alive, Jesus is God, and He wants to be Lord of your life. Repent of your sins and trust Him as your personal Lord and Savior.

**2:36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”** The sermon concludes with a simple summary. Clearly, all Israel should know that even though they crucified Jesus, God has declared Him **both Lord and Christ**. It is as if Peter said, “You were all wrong about Jesus. You crucified Him as if He were a common criminal, but by the resurrection, God proved that He is Lord and Messiah.” When Peter exhorted them *whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved* (Acts 2:21),

there is little doubt that the **Lord** he spoke was **Jesus**. The fact that the early Christians gave Jesus the title *Lord* in this highest sense of all is indicated by their not hesitating to say that He is the same as the passages of Old Testament scripture referring God as Yahweh.

Let's close in prayer.

### **Preaching/Teaching Outline**

1. Peter introduces the focus of the sermon: The resurrected Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, (Verses 22-24).
  - a. Hear these words!
    - i. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
    - ii. Miraculous dreams, visions, and prophecy.
    - iii. Signs and wonders regarding the Day of the Lord.
    - iv. An invitation to call on the name of the Lord.
2. Quoting Psalm 16, Peter explains the resurrected Jesus, (Verses 25-33).
  - a. David speaks of someone greater than himself
  - b. Jesus is the Holy One
  - c. God raised Him up
3. Quoting Psalm 110, Peter explains the Divine Messiah, (Verses 34-36).
  - a. Jesus is divine, in fact He is God
  - b. Jesus is indeed the Messiah
  - c. Tell the world of this truth