
Preaching at Pentecost (2:14-40)

The Speaker

1. Who is credited for the first sermon in Acts? (2:14)
2. Why do you think Peter is the one who delivers this sermon? (Mt. 16:13-20; Jn. 6:66-69; Jn. 18:10-11; Acts 1:3-8)
3. Before he begins to speak, what happens to Peter along with the eleven? (Acts 1:5, 8, 2:1-4)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

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

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.’”

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’ ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

The Audience

4. Describe the audience represented. Where are they from? Are they religious? What kind of understanding would you expect they would have of OT Scripture? (2:5-13)

5. What were they seeing and hearing? What was their initial question? Is this an appropriate question to ask given the circumstances? What were some accusing the apostles of? (2:5-13)

6. Compare and contrast the events in 2:6 with the events at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11).

The Occasion

7. Why did the audience come together? (2:6, 11)

8. What is the celebration of Pentecost? Is there significance that the events of this day fell on Pentecost? (Exod. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 23:15-21; Num. 28:26)

The Message (2:14-40)

9. Peter moves immediately to the OT story to explain what is happening with Jesus and his followers (2:14-21)
 - a. What OT Scripture does Peter quote? What is the immediate OT context of this quotation (Joel 2:12-14, 26-27)?

 - b. Joel and other OT prophets had spoken of what was going to take place in the “last days”. When Peter quotes this prophecy on Pentecost, what is he suggesting about the “last days”? When did the “last days” begin and when will they end? (1 Pt. 1:10-12, 20).

- c. Who received the “pouring out of my Spirit”? What was the result of the “pouring out of my Spirit”?
- d. What is the “day of the Lord” phrase typically associated with?
- e. Define the phrase “calling upon the name of the Lord” (Gen 4:26). What is the result of this “calling”? How does “calling upon the name of the Lord” connect with 2:22-24?

10. He tells the story of Jesus: life, death, resurrection, exaltation (2:22-24)

- a. How was Jesus introduced in 2:22? In what two ways did God publicly endorse Jesus?
- b. According to 2:23, who was responsible for Jesus’ death (see also Rom. 8:32)?
- c. Who was responsible for “raising up” Jesus?

11. Jesus, the Davidic messianic King, is foretold in Israel’s Story (2:25-31)

- a. What OT Scripture does Peter quote? What is the immediate OT context of this quotation? Why does Peter consider this a prophecy (2:33)?
- b. What facts regarding David are acknowledged by Peter (2:29-30)? What did God swear to David in Ps. 132:11?

12. Dead, raised, and exalted as King (2:32-33)

- a. Peter does not merely proclaim Jesus’ resurrection, rather, he claims they are witnesses of the resurrection appearances, a common emphasis throughout Acts (2:32, 3:15, 4:33, 5:32, 10:39,41, 13:31). Why is it important to distinguish an eyewitness account?

- b. If Jesus was raised from the dead, then where was he now? What did Jesus receive from the Father? Who witnessed and what did they witness?
13. Israel's Story once again (2:34-35)
- a. Where was David in contrast to Jesus? What enemy was David unable to defeat?
 - b. What OT Scripture does Peter quote? What is the immediate OT context of this quotation? What does Jesus say about this quotation (Mk. 12:35-37)?
14. The point of the gospel (2:36)
- a. Who was credited for establishing Jesus as both Lord and Christ?
 - b. Based on our understanding of the word "gospel", how does 2:36 proclaim the gospel?

The Response (2:37-47)

15. What cut them to the heart? What problem are they seeking to find a solution for?
16. What was offered to the audience?
17. What further exhortation was given by Peter?
18. How did the gospel change their lives?