

## Episode #1116 Acts 2 Part 5-To the Men of Israel

I. Acts is unique in the New Testament. Rather than the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth, it focuses on what came after, when the Lord had ascended back into heaven. The Lord left His disciples with many commands to carry out, and Acts tells us how they did them.

II. We were discussing the miraculous events at Pentecost in Acts 2. Tongues of fire came down and rested on each of the 120 disciples and they began to speak in other tongues, which means languages, and declare the powerful works of God. Many from other nations were amazed to hear their own, mother tongue, spoken without accent, but others just dismissed the whole thing as a drunken display. The Holy Spirit through Peter took up the defense.

III. Peter's Address. Acts 2:14-36.

- B. Verse 20. The sun literally being turned into darkness would destroy all life on earth. But Exodus 10:21-23 shows that the sun does not have to go out for it to be darkness. But this may not even be literal. In Acts 26:13, Paul describes a light so bright the noonday sun looked dark by comparison. This might refer to the light of truth that God will send on earth, making the light of the sun look pale by comparison. Peter says this happens "before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD." Revelation 1:10 tells us that that book takes place "on the Lord's day." This is not Sunday, nor the Sabbath, but is the same as the "day of the Lord." What Peter is talking about takes place before Revelation ever begins! Since most Christians get their entire view of future things from Revelation, no wonder they have missed this great pouring out of the Spirit on all flesh.
- C. Verse 21. Many interpret as many passages in the Bible as possible as being soteriological, or having to do with the salvation of sinners. But crying out, "Lord, save me" does one little good. We have to establish the right to call. Romans 10:12-14. This right is established by believing in Him. I pray that you have believed in Jesus Christ!
- D. Verse 22. "Israel" meant "a prince with God." This was an appeal for them to live up to the character that name implied. Peter draws their attention to the Lord Jesus. Jesus of Nazareth was the name most often used by His skeptics and enemies, but Peter uses it because it was His commonly known name. God attested the Lord Jesus to them by miracles, wonders, and signs. They had seen them, and could not deny it.
- E. Verse 23. There were two purposes and counsels at work in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ: the purpose of God, and that of the lawless rulers of Israel. God could and did work through these men in spite of themselves. They did not mean it, but their godless actions worked to bring about the purpose and the glory of God. It is better, though, when we obey purposefully! Greek crucified is *prospegnumi*, is different from everywhere else. To fasten, or in this case impale. Usually *stauroo*.
- F. Verse 24. God used His power to reverse what lawless men had done. This was the central point in all of our history, when God did what was necessary to turn back the sin and destruction we had brought into the world. Pains is the Greek *odin*, literally means "birth pains." Death found that it was not possible for it to hold the pure and sinless Son of God.
- G. Verse 25. Peter now quotes Psalm 16:8-11. It looks like David was speaking of himself in this passage, and the rabbis thought this was the truth. God's intention behind this psalm was to speak not of David, but of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus

Christ. During His earthly ministry, Christ enjoyed the continual presence of the LORD, for He was Yahweh in human form. Because of this, none of the things He faced troubled Him.

- H. Verse 26. Rest is the Greek *kataskenoO*, means tabernacle. The word is used 3 other times: Matthew 13:32, Mark 4:32, and Luke 13:19, in all three is translated nest or nested. *SkenoO* is from *skene*, English scene, it means the place where you live out your life. Does not mean the Lord died in hope, but that He lived out His life in hope.

IV. Conclusion: Peter argues that what they are seeing is the same Holy Spirit Joel spoke of. Jesus of Nazareth had been attested by God, but they took Him with lawless hands and crucified Him. Yet God raised Him up! Do we believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?