

Episode #1117 Acts 2 Part 6-Dead David; Living Christ

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. Peter was explaining to the crowd of Jews just what it was they were witnessing. They were seeing the same Spirit at work that Joel had prophesied would someday be poured out on all flesh. Jesus of Nazareth, attested to by God through miracles, they had taken by lawless hands and put to death, but God raised Him up. David had prophesied this long before in Psalm 16:8-11.

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

- B. Verse 27. Soul is used for the whole person here, means "me." Hell is in Greek Hades, and is the same as Sheol in the Old Testament. There is no English word to translate Sheol. It is a state of being. State of being poor is poverty. State of being rich is wealth. State of being alone is solitude. Sheol means the state of being dead. "Dead-itude," to coin a word. It does not mean the second death, but death before resurrection, though the resurrection could be to life or to the second death. The Lord Jesus entered the state of death after the cross. God did not leave Him there. He did not corrupt. We all have death working in us, but He did not. Death is what causes us to decay after we die. It comes from the forbidden fruit. Christ, born of a virgin, did not have the death that comes from Adam working in Him.
- C. Verse 28. This is His resurrection. David gives the same story we have in the gospels!
- D. Verse 29. We usually think of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the patriarchs. David is the patriarch of the royal line. Peter was speaking to many different people in this address, and they would have held many different opinions about this passage. Some believed this was talking about David. Some had picked up Greek views of death. But Peter points out that David has been in Hades for a thousand years. His body has corrupted away. David was still awaiting resurrection. This must be speaking of Someone else.
- E. Verse 30. David was a prophet. A prophet in the Bible is anyone who speaks God's words. He could be speaking of the past, present, or future. God had sworn that the Messiah would be David's descendant, and David's throne would be given to Him. II Samuel 7:16. His house would be established forever. II Samuel 7:19. I believe David was here speaking of THE man, the Messiah.
- F. Verse 31. David foresaw this truth about the Lord Jesus. By these words, the Holy Spirit through Peter masterfully and yet kindly refutes the teaching that this applied to David. But it did apply to the One Who now had risen from the dead, Jesus Christ.
- G. Verse 32. With Peter were 120 men, all of whom had seen the Lord Jesus after His resurrection. They could have questioned any one of them to learn the reliability of their testimony. We don't have this privilege, but have only the Scriptures to testify. Yet these were written by some of these men. We too can learn this truth.
- H. Verse 33. The point of this address. What they were doing was not drunkenness. The Lord Jesus had been exalted to the very rights of God. Acting as God, He had received from His Father the promise of the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit the Holy" in Greek, refers to the Person of the Spirit, Who obeyed the His command sitting as God. Since He was sitting there, He had poured out the miracles they saw and heard.

- I. Verse 34. David did not ascend into the heavens, yet Christ did, so Psalm 110:1 must speak of this. Ascend is the Greek *anabainō*, means “to go up.” Our views of life after death must fit with this statement.
- J. Verse 35. A footstool is under your feet, and what is under your foot is under your control. Someday, all Christ’s enemies will be controlled by Him.
- K. Verse 36. Peter addresses his proclamation to those who were hearing him, the house of Israel. The word would spread from these people to every Israelite around the world in the Acts period. The Lord Jesus never allowed a proclamation like this while He was on earth. He forbade people who knew who He was to tell anyone. Matthew 16:20, Mark 8:30, and Luke 9:21. Now, it was proclaimed, and accompanied with signs and wonders so no one could deny it without being condemned before God.

IV. Conclusion: Peter quoted Psalm 16:8-11. Many Israelites in his audience may have thought this psalm was talking about David. Yet Peter through the Spirit kindly yet masterfully shows that this could not have been speaking of David, since his tomb containing his remains was still with them. David had been promised a seed to sit on his throne, and Jesus was that seed. He had not stayed in Hades and He had not seen corruption. So Peter showed them that David had been speaking of Jesus Christ. Then, he announced to all Israel officially for the first time that Jesus was both Lord and Christ! Do you believe that Jesus is the Lord Jehovah and Christ the Savior?