

ACTS 2:21-36

Introduction:

1. Joel 2:28-32 - And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

*Peter in Acts 2:16-21 quotes Joel, to show it was **being** fulfilled at Pentecost [this is that]. The passage in Joel was about Pentecost and the **Tribulation**. It is about the Spirit being poured out, then going into the Tribulation (the sun into darkness and the moon into blood).

2. Questions? Has this come to pass yet?
Do we see these signs today?
Is the Day of the Lord being ushered in now? **No!**

Note: Isaiah 13:6, 9-11, 13 - Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Isa. 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Isa. 13:10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. Isa. 13:11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. Isa. 13:13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

3. Why hasn't this happened yet? It is because God had a **secret** purpose that Peter knew nothing about. As Israel, with her signs, began to diminish-**vanish** in Acts after the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7), God raises up Paul to unveil the **new** Dispensation of Grace.

Acts 20:24 - But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

4. With this, God ceased in Acts the coming "Day of Wrath" (Tribulation) and He is not saving "whosoever calls", as predicted by Joel and preached by Peter.

* Today, He offers "whosoever calls" according to His **interruption** of Israel's Prophecy Program
* predicted by Joel and the ushering in of the **Mystery** Body Program of the Dispensation of Grace.

** Today, salvation is offered to all as a free gift of God because of the work of Christ (D.B.R.). This message was **first** used by Paul in Acts **9**, then revealed to him to share with others, who also would become members of the Body.

Romans 16:25-26 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, Rom. 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Galatians 1:11-12 - But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. Gal. 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 - This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1Tim. 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

Romans 2:16 - In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

5. Note: In Acts 2:21 - who are the [whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord] that Peter is talking about? The **remnant!**

a. Note: Joel 2:32 - And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Acts 2:40 - And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

b. *Peter tells these Jewish people to get away from Israel's apostasy and to become part of the remnant/little flock of true Messianic believers. Their salvation and deliverance were to be found in the remnant's **Messiah** message. They never realized the full salvation while they lived because theirs is attached to their **national** blessings. Israel, as a nation, does not experience their full salvation until Jesus returns and sets up His/their Kingdom.

c. When a Jew was called and did call, they followed Acts 2:37-38.

A. 1. The things that Christ did in the Gospels (Matt.-John), the miracles, were the precise verification to what was taking place then. His miracles were exactly what the prophets said would take place when

Acts 2:22 - Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

the Messiah showed up.

2. Remember John the Baptist asking the disciples **if** Jesus was indeed the Messiah?

Answer: Matthew 11:2-5 - Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, Matt. 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for an other? Matt. 11:4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: Matt. 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

*Who Jesus Christ was should have been **easily** identified by them. Lost apostate leaders have a hard time seeing truth.

B.

Acts 2:23 - Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

1. Does Peter say the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was **good** news (like we do)? **No!** Peter charges/accuses them of having slain Christ by their wicked hands. Peter wanted to convict them of their **guilt** for the crucifixion of their Messiah. Then he tells them, "He is alive!"! Ah, oh!

Note: Peter is not preaching the gospel of grace nor that we have redemption through His blood. Peter is blaming them for failing to know Who Christ was and for being guilty of **murdering** their own Messiah.

2. Not here, but one day in the future, Israel will recognize this - their great sin. They will then mourn what they did as a nation and only **1/3** of Israel will be saved, which will be the remnant-the **true** Israel.

Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Revelation 1:7 - Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Zechariah 13:8-9 - And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. Zech. 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

3. [Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God,]
 - a. It does not say, or imply, that **God** had caused/forced them to crucify Christ. God says they were wicked in so doing. The simple truth is that the all-knowing God knew what wicked men would do to His Son, yet He delivered Him into their hands to fulfill **His** purpose.
 - b. In the slaying of His Son, He had a **two**-fold purpose for this **one** cross. **One** related to Israel-prophecy, and **the other one** related to the Mystery Body Program. Peter's Prophecy Program is what we have **here** in Acts 2.
 - c. God purposed to use the cross for Israel in early Acts to offer them their Kingdom. But because of His omniscience, He **knew** Israel would reject Christ then as their Messiah. So He purposed Israel's crucifying of her Messiah, to some day touch and **break their heart**. This will happen **during** the Tribulation and at its **end** when Christ returns.

*The fact that God **determined** for His Son to die on the cross does not lessen the Israelites' guilt of murder. Their wickedness **chose** to kill Jesus and they will be held accountable one day.

C.

1. Peter informs the Jewish mass that even though they had killed/murdered Christ, God raised Him up and they are going to have to **deal** with Him. There is the problem!

<p><u>Acts 2:24</u> - Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.</p>
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2. It is not possible for death to hold the Lord. He is the sinless Son of God, Who had no sin - He is **life!**

John 10:17-18 - Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Revelation 1:18 - *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Hebrews 2:14 - Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

D.

Acts 2:25-28 - For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Acts 2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Acts 2:28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

1. Peter is pressing the point and truth of Christ's resurrection to this guilty generation of Jews. They are standing in a present **danger** of perhaps continuing on to committing the **unpardonable** sin.

*Peter is quoting Psalm 16:10.

2. How was it that David's and Christ's soul did not see corruption in **Hell**? (Luke 16:19-ff).

E.

Acts 2:29-33 - Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

1. Christ was raised for one main purpose and that is to sit on David's throne, to be **King** in the "ages to come".
2. Understand, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was interpreted by Peter as **proof** positive that Jesus Christ has been **exalted** to the Father's right hand, and that He is King and His Kingdom will be restored.

*So what is going to happen to those Jews who killed the King? This is a warning about God's wrath falling on **them**.

F. Acts 2:34-35 - For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Acts 2:35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

1. Peter says to them, "You crucified Him, the Father raised Him and set Him at His own right hand. He has sent us out as a witness to you that He is God **Messiah**. He is going to come back and make His enemies His footstool."
2. "The next time He stands it will be to pour out His wrath on **un**believing Jews and the world. The next thing on God's calendar is to make **you** His enemies. You are His target to be destroyed."
*Can you imagine how some of them **felt** from hearing Peter's message?

G. Acts 2:36 - Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Peter is **not** preaching the gospel of grace here. He is not preaching on the merits of the blood of Jesus Christ-that He will accept you killers. Peter is saying Israel is guilty of crucifying Christ, but He arose and is on the Father's right hand. He is anticipating His return when He will **burn** you well done, and you **better** get right! What would you do?