

Acts 2:14-42 And it shall come to pass

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Please turn to Acts chapter 2 verse 14.

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Last week we saw that the promise of Jesus to baptise the disciples with the Holy Spirit came to pass on the day of Pentecost or the Jewish feast of weeks or feast of first fruits which was 50 days or around 7 weeks from when they celebrated the Passover.

So much had happened during those 7 weeks and we see here God providentially supercharging the beginning of the early church at this feast.

It was no coincidence that Jews from all over the world had gathered in Jerusalem for this feast of celebrating the harvest and now in fulfilment Jesus' words to his disciples that the fields were ripe with harvest and now he was about to thrust his workers into this field.

These Jews had clamoured around the house in which they were sitting as they also heard the might rushing wind that filled the house and saw the flames that looked like tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them and to hear them amazingly speaking not only in their own languages, but also their own dialects, declaring the great works of God.

And now once again we see Peter standing up and taking the lead and he is about to defend what was taking place and then preaches his very first Holy Spirit inspired sermon.

Acts 2:14-42

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.

And it shall come to pass

Tony Hodge

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.

The last days began at this Pentecost celebration and will culminate with the day of the Lord or what we also know as the second coming of Jesus.

It will be a great and magnificent day but the scriptures also say that it will be a terrifying day a day of judgement as well as salvation.

2 Peter 3:3-10

3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,

6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

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

And here is one of those wonderful watertight promises of God that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL be saved.

It shall come to pass.

No exceptions, no prerequisites to fill, no nationality limitations, no behavioural requirements, only a heart that is willing to submit and say like these Jews “what must I do?”

What is it that we will be saved from or more to the point who is it that we will be saved from?

Romans 5:8-10

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Every person - believer and unbeliever alike has a relationship with God whether they acknowledge it or not. For the unbeliever that relationship to God is as Judge, for the believer that relationship to God is as Father. There is no in between state.

We are saved from God, we are saved by God and we are saved for God.

On the day of the Lord he will not only save but also judge. For those of you here, don't pass up this opportunity today to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. The scriptures say that the day of the lord will come like a thief in the night. Don't be caught by surprise, settle your eternity today.

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.

Here we see God's pre determined plan and purpose - his sovereignty sitting right alongside the responsibility of men.

Try as we might to reconcile these two truths and many able theologians have tried, we need to be comfortable to live with these truths that in our finite minds are in tension.

God has a plan that he will fulfil and we are responsible for the choices we make.

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?”

What a reaction to Peter’s first sermon. I wish I had this reaction to my first sermon.

They were cut to the heart and said “Brothers what shall we do?”

This was not just a nice talk, but it was a demonstration of Holy Spirit empowered preaching that touched men’s consciences’ and I personally believe changed their lives right then and there.

Their wills and ours which are often immovable where softened and opened to the point where they confessed with their mouths what shall we do now.

I actually believe that these people were born again or regenerated at this point in time.

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.

To repent is to literally change your mind in such a way that you do an about face or a 180 degree turn and live in an opposite way to the way you were once living. It’s not simply turning over a new leaf and trying to live a better life in your own strength, but rather a turning wholeheartedly and living unreservedly for Jesus, allowing him to continually transform your life from the inside out.

It’s not so much about saying that I repent as we so often say within Christian circles, but it is a changed transformed life and not just for a few weeks, but for all eternity.

But they were also told that they must also get baptized. This was not an optional extra; it is a requirement of being a disciple of Jesus. Baptism has a sealing effect in your life and is not purely symbolic. You are publicly identifying yourself with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus your our behalf. It confirms our repentance.

If you haven’t been baptised yet, then can I encourage you to. We are planning on having some baptisms in early December. If you would like some more information about baptism then please see me after the meeting as I am going to discuss this with a few people this morning.

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.”

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Finishing up we see that an absolute miracle had taken place in that three thousand disciples were added to the disciples that day.

These people didn't just say I'll give Jesus a try and see if he can fulfil my dreams, no these people became disciples and they devoted themselves to apostolic teaching, to fellowship, to communion, and to prayer.

The committed themselves to Jesus and to each other.

I am really excited by this church as I see you all growing daily in these areas. My encouragement is that you keep your devotion pure, simple and focussed wholly on the Glory of God in Jesus.