

### ACTS 2:14—36 Peter's sermon

- Peter spoke only to Israel. Men of Judah (verse 14) and men of Israel (verse 22)
  - Israel and Judah split in 922 B.C. (see 1 Kings 12)
- Peter was taught personally by Jesus and under the full control of the Holy Spirit who stated that the events at Pentecost were in fulfillment of Joel's prophesy.
  - Many Jews had a good understanding of prophesy.
    - John 7:40—42** <sup>40</sup>Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet." <sup>41</sup>Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? <sup>42</sup>"Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"
- Peter knew exactly where Israel stood in relation to prophesy. We in the Body of Christ don't.
- The events at Pentecost were in fulfillment of prophesy. (2:16, 33)
  - Prophesy relates to God's program with Israel.
    - Prophesy is from the foundation of the world.
      - Matthew 13:35** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.
      - Matthew 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
    - We in the Church, the Body of Christ are related to Mystery.
      - Mystery is from before the foundation of the world.
        - Ephesians 1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
        - Romans 16:25** Now to him that is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal,
        - Colossians 1:25—26** <sup>25</sup>Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, <sup>26</sup>that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,
      - Mystery is unknowable until God reveals it to us.
      - It was God who revealed the Body of Christ to Paul.
- It was Peter and the eleven with a message of the Millennial Kingdom (2:1)
- It was a message of the Messiah sitting on David's throne (2:30)
- Christ's death, burial and resurrection were all a part of prophesy and related specifically to Israel. (Of course it also is relevant to all mankind).
  - What good would a dead Messiah be?
  - Their hope and our hope are wrapped up in a living Savior.
- Jesus is both God and Messiah. (2:36)
- The focus is still Israel and the coming Millennial Kingdom.
  - There is no change in God's program, only advancements in the Kingdom program.

### KINGDOM SALVATION

NOTE 1: Salvation in any age was always by God's grace and through our faith. God also sets the means for us to demonstrate our faith. We don't get to make up our own way. Israel demonstrated her faith by keeping the commandments. We demonstrate our faith by adding nothing and resting completely in God's free gift of salvation and Christ's work on the cross.

NOTE 2: It is important to understand that Israel was God's covenant people. They were chosen by God in love.  
**Deuteronomy 7:7—9**

and needed to obey the commandments in order to stay in their favored position.

**Exodus 19:5—6**

Individuals who did not do the commandments were cut off from Israel, not because they were not doing works, but because it demonstrated that they did not have a true faith in God.

**Numbers 15:30—31**

Since God is the Father of those in Israel, those who defiantly turn away from God are told to repent and return to Him. (See the Prodigal son in Luke 15. Israel had wondered away from God their Father.)

**Chronicles 7:14; Acts 3:19—20**

- How were Jews saved in the Gospels before the Church the Body of Christ was formed?
  - They only needed to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. And by faith repent, be baptized and obey the commandments.
    - Matthew 16:16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
    - Matthew 28:19** <sup>19</sup>"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to (the end of the age)."
    - In the Kingdom gospel, they believed in the person Jesus Christ and then demonstrated their faith by baptism and works (obeying the commandments).
      - Matthew 5:19—20** <sup>19</sup>"...whoever keeps and teaches [the commandments], he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
      - Luke 3:7—14** ...bear fruits in keeping with repentance...
      - Luke 6:46** Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do (work) what I say?
      - Luke 10:25—28; Mark 10:17—21**
    - In the Grace gospel, we believe in the Person and the work of Jesus Christ and by faith do nothing. **Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8—9**
      - Romans 4:5** But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,
- They needed to show that their faith was genuine (prove their faith) and true because they did not have eternal security as we have. Their assurance came through obedience.
- By holding on to their faith to the end through obedience and endurance, they were assured of their position in the Kingdom.
  - 1 John 2:3** We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands...<sup>6</sup>Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.
    - Notice the order: Obey and remain **John 15:10—11**
    - They needed to abide. This was their assurance. **1 John 3:22—23**
    - Those who do not abide are burned up **John 15:4—7**
    - These verses fit in with what was taught during Jesus' earthly ministry. **Luke 3:8—14**
- They needed to believe in Jesus as their Messiah for the salvation of their souls.
- They needed to believe in the Person to be saved. This is consistent with the Gospels **John 20:31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
  - Then to demonstrate their faith, they needed to be baptized.
    - Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, " Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
    - Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.
- We need to believe in the Person and His work for our salvation.
  - Romans 10:9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
    - Then to demonstrate our faith, we do nothing.
- Those who struggle with the importance of Israel demonstrating works to show their belief need only to look at the tenth plague.
  - Those who believed put blood on the doorpost and were saved.

- Those who believed with all their heart but did not do the work of putting blood on their doorpost were killed.
- If they truly believed, they would do the works.

## THE LAST DAYS

- This time in Acts is known as the Last Days because it comes at the end of Daniel's prophetic clock.
    - The Last days basically refers to the last couple weeks of Daniel's prophetic clock. (Daniel 9:24—27) From the time of Christ's birth to the setting up of the Millennial Kingdom.
    - 69 weeks have passed and the 70<sup>th</sup> week should have come shortly after Christ ascended into heaven.
    - These are the Last Days of Israel. We are not in the Last Days now because this Age of Grace is open ended. Under Prophecy, the days were numbered.
      - Acts 2:16, 17** <sup>16</sup>but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;
    - Jesus understood that he was in the Last Days with His reference to the Kingdom being at hand
    - Other Kingdom writers refer to the Last Days by saying the end-time events are near.
  - The time is near
    - Refers to the second coming and setting up of the millennial Kingdom by Jesus Christ
      - James 5:9** The Judge is standing right at the door
      - James 5:8** The coming of the Lord is near
      - Peter 4:7** The end of all things is near
      - 1 John 2:18** It is the last hour...the antichrist is coming.
      - Revelation 22:10** Do not seal up the words of this prophesy for the time is near.
  - The Kingdom is at hand (or right around the corner). **Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; Mark 1:15**
    - Micah 4:1** And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains
    - See also Hebrews 1:1; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18**
    - Paul never refers to the Dispensation of the Age of Grace as being the “Last Times”
      - 2 Timothy 3:1** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. (Paul knows the Last Times are coming which indicates they are not a part of this age.)
      - 1 Timothy 4:1** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the...(Again, Paul seems to place this time after this age.)
    - This falling away is expanded upon in Matthew and Mark and seem to point to the coming Tribulation: **Mathew 24:10—13; Mark 13:22**
- Compare this with:
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3** Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
- A better translation is:
- Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the Tribulation) will not come unless the **departure** comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
- Conclusion:
    - The Last (Latter) Days is a technical term related to Israel and the final days of prophesy.
    - They were called Last Days because they were literally the end of prophesy.
    - We can not be in the Last Days because there is no way to measure when the end of this age will be completed. All we know is the next thing to happen is the Rapture.

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