

"Peter's Sermon"

Part 2

Acts 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of Acts we step briefly into Peter's sermon that he preached on the Day of Pentecost at the birth of the church. In last week's study we looked at several points:

1. The Preacher

The preacher is Peter. A man who had failed miserably when he denied the Lord three times about 53 days earlier. But God restored him and now that the chaff had been removed Peter was fit for service for the Lord.

Luke 22:31-34

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

³³ And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

³⁴ And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Notice the results of one ordinary fisherman filled with the Spirit.

Notice Acts 2:41

2. The Means

The means by which three thousand were saved was PREACHING. The word PREACH is used thirty-six times in the book of Acts in one form or another. This is God's way of building the church through the preaching and teaching of His Word.

3. The Setting

Notice Acts 2:11-13

We looked at two points here.

- a) Peter used the current situation to present the Gospel.

b) There will always be critics and scoffers in the crowd.

4. The Content

Notice Acts 2:14

We looked at this verse last week and just commented on the word "hearken." This word shows the authority by which Peter delivered his message. His message was the message of Jesus Christ, and he was not ashamed of it. He knew it was the power of God unto salvation and therefore he would stand and preach with great authority.

I. The Content

Part 2

Notice Acts 2:15

Peter begins by addressing the mockers who claimed those speaking in tongues were drunk. The mockers had no grounds to back their accusations of drunkenness. It was the third hour which was 9:00 in the morning. This was the hour of prayer in the temple and no Jew would ever be found intoxicated in the temple. It was also a feast day, and neither would they be drunken on a feast day. So, Peter was not afraid to stand against the mockers and reject their accusations. Peter then goes on to explain what they are witnessing.

Notice Acts 2:16-20

Here Peter points to the words of the prophet Joel.

Application:

There is a point here that is so important for us to see. There is great confusion and people are looking for answers. Peter simply calls a Bible study. He was saying, "Let's see what the Bible says concerning this event." He did not search for the most popular opinion. He simply went to the Scriptures for Peter knew the Bible was the Word of God and it is the absolute Truth.

Again I remind each of us that when the opportunity comes up to share the Truth let us never forget the Bible is the absolute Truth. We do not need man's opinion and we do not need to take a survey to see what the most popular thought is. People need the Truth of the Bible.

John 8:31-34

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

³³ *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

Now let us notice Joel's prophecy which Peter quoted.

Joel 2:28-32

²⁸ *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:*

²⁹ *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

³⁰ *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

³¹ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*

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.*

I want to first of all look in detail at Joel's prophecy then we shall see how Peter used it. Joel's prophecy can be divided into two parts and there are two key words that help us to do so. The words AFTERWARD and BEFORE help us to divide this prophecy.

A. Before

Joel 2:30-31

³⁰ *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

³¹ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*

These are the events that will happen BEFORE the great and terrible day of the Lord. These verses list events that will come to pass in the seven years of tribulation.

Revelation 8:7-8

⁷ *The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

⁸ *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;*

Revelation 9:2-3

² *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

³ *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

Joel writes concerning these locusts also.

Joel 2:4-10

⁴ *The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.*

⁵ *Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.*

⁶ *Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.*

⁷ *They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:*

⁸ *Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.*

⁹ *They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.*

¹⁰ The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

"The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord"

All of this will happen before the great and terrible day of the Lord. But what is the great and terrible day of the Lord? This will be the day when the Lord returns, and the Battle of Armageddon takes place.

Revelation 19:17-21

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Revelation 14:15-20

¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

¹⁶ And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷ And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

¹⁸ *And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.*

¹⁹ *And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

²⁰ *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

Conclusion:

Joel 2:30-31

³⁰ *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

³¹ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*

The blood, the fire and the smoke which Joel writes about will happen before Jesus returns and the end of the Great Tribulation. Next week we will see what happens after He returns.