



Session 7 | Acts 2:14-36 | Sober Men, Fulfilled Prophecy, Lord and Christ

The twelve apostles have been given the promise of the Father and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. The apostles were speaking the wonderful works of God. The multitude consisting of those dwelling in Jerusalem as well as strangers from Rome and proselytes were confounded upon hearing these Galileans speaking to them in their own dialect. All were amazed and unsure of what it meant. Others mocked and accused the apostles of being drunken.

Acts 2:14-15 | These are not drunken | To the Men of Judaea

Verse 14—

But Peter, standing up with the eleven.¹Luke makes it clear there are now twelve apostles again (Matthias replaced Judas). All eleven stand up as one. Perhaps as an indication of what their role will be in the Kingdom, as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30). **Lifted up his voice** (Greek, *phōnē*) There were no sound systems in the ancient world. Certain buildings and theaters were constructed in such a way to amplify the voice. Nonetheless, Peter must have had a booming voice since there were likely thousands of Jews gathered in the multitude (Cp. Acts 2:41). Although Peter was not from the elite “educated” class, Luke portrays Peter as a **bold** speaker (Acts 4:13) and this fits perfectly since Jesus promised that Peter would become a fisher of men and would **catch people** (See Luke 5:10). **Hearken to my words** (that is, *listen closely to what I am about to say. Literally, take into the ears*). Peter is about to give a speech that will change the course of history.

In his speech, in order to explain what is happening, Peter will give three appeals (Men of Judaea, Men of Israel, and Men and Brethren), and he will reference three prophecies of Joel, Psalm 16, and Psalm 110.

Verse 15—

These are not drunken. There were hecklers in the crowd! Peter stops them cold by clearly stating they are not drunken. **The third hour of the day.** The twenty-four hours were divided into “twelve hours of the day” and “twelve hours of night.” Daytime reckoned from sunrise, or 6 AM. The third hour of the day would have been 9 AM. Daytime drunkenness was not a usual occurrence (1 Thessalonians 5:7).

Acts 2:16-21 | Fulfilled Prophecy | The Prophet Joel

Verses 16-21—

This is that, not *this is ‘like’ that*, **spoken by the prophet Joel.** There is no drunkenness, what they were experiencing was fulfilled prophecy by the Prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32). Joel uses the phrase *And it shall come to pass afterward.* It was prophesied that *light would spring up “to open blind eyes”* (Isaiah 42:7; Matthew 4:12-16), this light was Jesus Christ present with them. *Afterward* would come the days of the Spirit; and **this is that** when Joel 2:28,29 began to be fulfilled. Between Acts 2:18 | Acts 2:19 there is a pause. Had the nation repented when he called them to repentance (Acts 3:18-26), all things spoken by the prophets would have been fulfilled. As it were, only the first half of the prophecy was fulfilled, the second half will not take place until, as Joel says in 2:31 “The great and terrible day of the Lord” that is, the Tribulation.

Wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath...blood...fire...smoke...sun shall be turned to darkness...moon into blood are all found during the Tribulation, **before that great and notable day of the Lord come** (Matthew 24:29). It will be at that time that **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** Jesus prophesied that Israel would not see his face again until they said, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” (Matthew 23:39). National acceptance by Israel of the Jesus as Messiah is the prerequisite of his return. We should use the proper rules of interpretation. There are many rules to follow when interpreting

¹ Refer to notes on Session 5 regarding Peter having an influential position within the circle of disciples.

Scripture, but there are four key “laws” or rules that should be followed when dealing with prophecy, here are two: 1) The Golden Rule. 2) The Law of Double Reference (Examples, Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 11:1-5).

Consequently, they will reject him and hence the pause between verses 18, and 19.

Acts 2:22-24 | The Christ Ye Crucified | To the Men of Israel

Verse 22-24

Earlier in 14, Peter made an appeal to the men of Judaea, now he makes an appeal to the **men of Israel**. Is he differentiating between those who are from the southern kingdom and those from the northern? The two had not been united since after the days of Solomon nearly 1,000 years before. And the southern kingdom of Israel had not existed for 700 years. It could be he is referring to the same “Israelites” which would be all men who descended from Jacob. Peter lays the blame for Christ’s death at their feet. **The foreknowledge of God**, that is the crucifixion did not catch God by surprise. Nevertheless, **God ...raised him up...death** could not keep him. This Jesus you crucified is alive! Now, he is *both Lord of the dead and the living* (Romans 15:8). This statement that Jesus was alive may have come to a great shock to those who applauded his death

Acts 2:25-31 | Fulfilled Prophecy | To the Men and Brethren | The Psalms

Verses 25-28—

David speaketh concerning him, that is Jesus. Peter references to Old Testament prophecies, here Psalm 16:8-11 (a case where Scripture interprets Scripture). **I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand**, in history a temporary seat at a ruler’s right hand was a position of honor, even more so if it was permanent. The position at the **right hand** allowed the one sitting there to act on behalf of the ruler with delegated authority. This reference to David’s Psalm gives evidence that the Messiah was to die and be resurrected. Peter is proving Jesus was the Messiah David was speaking of. There was rejoicing in hope because of the resurrection and the promise that God would **not leave** Messiah’s **soul in hell**. The word **hell** is not the *lake of fire*, but rather, in Hebrew, *Sheol*, or literally, *the grave*.

Verses 29-31—

To make clear, Peter assures them this Psalm does not refer to David himself for **he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre** (tomb) **is with us unto this day**. David, being a **prophet** understood **since God had sworn an oath** that **Christ** (or, Messiah) would **sit on his throne** (Psalm 132:10,11). Therefore, (vs. 31) David was speaking of the **resurrection of Christ** (Messiah). **His soul was not left** in the grave, **neither did his flesh see corruption**.

Verse 32—

And there are **witnesses** to all of this!

Verses 33-36—

Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. The promise of the Holy Ghost is now being poured out (**shed**), and this is what they **now see and hear**. Peter quotes from Psalm 110:1 in verse 34,35. **Until I make thy foes thy footstool** at the Second Coming. **House of Israel** not the church.

Peter makes sure the nation of Israel is hearing him: **That same Jesus who ye have crucified**, he is **both Lord and Christ**. In other words, *you people made a big mistake! You killed your master (Lord) and Messiah*.