

Acts 2 - The First Gospel Sermon

Result of preaching the 1st sermon is a Fellowship called “the Church” is born. Jesus had commanded His apostles cf:

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Passover is in the month of April Hebrew Nisan. Pentecost is fifty days later in June Hebrew Sivan. Passover featured a week of unleavened bread and a sacrifice of the paschal lamb, a shadow of the sacrifice of Christ. Cf:

I Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

In Exodus 23:16 Pentecost is called “the feast of harvest”, in Exodus 34:22 it is called “the feast of weeks”. It heralded the beginning of the grain harvest in late May and Early June. It was a feast of joy and a celebration of first fruits. One important feature was the offering of two loaves made of fine flour of the first grains of the harvest. These loaves were made with leaven.

A later tradition added at Pentecost was a memorial of the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. These three features; (1) first fruits, (2) loaves made of leaven (3) giving of the Law combined to made the day appropriate for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

This is the day in which the first fruits of the Gospel is harvested three thousand sin filled leaven loaves are offered and the Gospel, the New Law is Proclaimed.

The Apostles are Baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak with tongues which were languages that they had never studied.

The Bishop’s bible brought us chapter and verse divisions as a tool so we might memorize how to find verses. Acts 2:1 is often misunderstood especially by our Pentecostal friends as they think that the “... they ...” is referring to the 120 cf Acts 1:15. However, they is an antecedent which always refers back to the nearest named noun. Therefore, Acts 1:26 and Acts 2:1 must be read together in order to rightly divide the word of truth and understand that the “they” is “ ... the eleven apostles”

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Acts 2:1-14 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Matthew 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.¹

Acts 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Acts 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

Acts 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Acts 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all [ye] that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Notice Peter stands up with the eleven, not the 120.

Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is [but] the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Two explanations are offered for this phenomenon, first, “these men are full of new wine” cf: verse 13, offered by the mockers. Second, Peter’s answer that this is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel cf:

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Isaiah 2:2-3 And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Acts 2:19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

Warning of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD, Last days cf:

Joel 2:28-31 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 the terrible day of the LORD come.

Disruptions in nature shall proceed and accompany , but not hinder the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord come. This apolitical language is often used in scripture to describe the Lord coming in judgment against nations. An example is the future destruction of Babylon.

Isaiah 13:5-21 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, [*even*] the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. 6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD [*is*] at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:² 8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces [*shall be as*] flames. 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. 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. 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. 12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. 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. 14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. 15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined [*unto them*] shall fall by the sword. 16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. 17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and [*as for*] gold, they shall not delight in it. 18 [*Their*] bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children. 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.

This language is used to describe the destruction of Egypt by Babylon.

Ezekiel 32:7-12 And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. **8** All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD. **9** I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known. **10** Yea, I will make many people amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at [every] moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall. **11** For thus saith the Lord GOD; The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee. **12** By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed

Jesus uses this very language to describe His future coming in Judgment against the Jews at the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus of Rome in 70 AD.

Matthew 24:29-30 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **30** And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 27:45-46 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Joel 2:30-32 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 the 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.

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

“day of The Lord”; destruction and

“day of The Lord”; also refers to the coming destruction of Jerusalem and Christ coming in judgment of the Jewish Nation on that day.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, [*that*] whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

the Christian Age “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. This chapter will teach us what we must do to: “call upon the name of the Lord.”

Peter is saying the predicted ruin is now impending; and only such as receive the Gospel of the Son of God shall be saved. No one but the Christians escaped, when God poured out these judgments. This fact is well known in history; All the Christians escaped and not one of them perishing in these devastations, this is attested to by The historian Eusebus in his “Ecclesiastical History of the Church.

I Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

There will be a final “day of the Lord”.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

We should note the skill Peter uses in presenting Jesus to the crowd. He identifies Jesus as “a man”.

To have started with Jesus’ divinity would have invited their contemptuous rejection. So Peter reasons with them and saves the theme for the close in 2:36.

The word preach means herald or announce. In Acts 2:22-37 Peter heralds the Gospel, and thereby preaches the greatest sermon in history.

Peter makes 7 points

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:

All of Christ's deeds were "miracles" for only the power of God in Him could have done them; they were "wonders," because all who beheld them marveled; and they were "signs" in that, properly viewed, they attested the oneness of Jesus with the Father in heaven. Thus, the miracle of inspiration is seen in a single sentence. Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit summarized the countless miracles of the four-year ministry of our Lord.

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:

"... wicked hands ..." lawless they used the Romans those outside Jewish law but the word is the same as the word for the "man of sin" in II Thessalonians 2:3 meaning deliberate rebellion and resistance to the known will of God.

The death of Jesus they knew about, but that it was a definite foreordained plan with the foreknowledge of God, was a new concept that called for proof.

Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

If a horrible death by crucifixion is proof that a man is not the Messiah, then His resurrection from the dead is proof that He is the Messiah.

Thus the resurrection turned Jesus' death from a dismal defeat into a pre-determined fore-ordained plan for victory over sin, death and the devil.

In Luke's gospel Moses and Elijah talked of Jesus' death as a destiny to be accomplished, a design to be executed and a plan to be fulfilled.

Luke 9:28-31 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. 29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment [*was*] white [*and*] glistening. 30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: 31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:25 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:

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of [*his*] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [*our*] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 2:26-28 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Peter uses the prophecy of Psalm 16 to prove the resurrection of Christ was a foreordained plan.

Psalm 16:8-11 I have set the LORD always before me: because [*he is*] at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence [*is*] fullness of joy; at thy right hand [*there are*] pleasures for evermore.

Acts 2:29 Men [*and*] brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.

The prophecy was not fulfilled in David ... David did not rise.

So it must be the Messiah who was prophesied to rise..

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;

Daniel 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [*one*] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his

dominion [*is*] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [*that*] which shall not be destroyed.

Psalm 132:11 The LORD hath sworn [*in*] truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

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.

Peter and the rest of the Apostles assertion that they are eye ball witnesses of the resurrection lifts the corner stone of Christianity out of speculation and dogma to that of a historical event. They are eye ball witnesses.

A primary witness must be: (1) honest (2) intelligent (3) an eye witness.

Further validity is added by a fearless plurality of 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.

Three proofs have been given: (1) Jesus' works were obvious. (2) The resurrection was proved from prophetic scripture and the testimony of eye witnesses (3) The Holy Spirit ... This marvelous gift of languages "which ye now see and hear." The phenomena is the result of the coronation of Christ as King and His being seated upon David's Throne"

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, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

Peter now uses another Old Testament Psalm this one proving the future exaltation of the resurrected Christ.

Psalm 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

In this Psalm David speaks of a King who conquers and rules over His enemies. Since David did not ascend to heaven to rule ... David must have been speaking of the exaltation and rule of Messiah.

Hebrew 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [*our*] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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.

“You crucified” they and we must see and accept our guilt before we can be directed toward a way to rid ourselves of it.

This is point of whole sermon “Lord” Greek-*Kurios*, *YHWH* Hebrew Unspeakable name of God, & “Christ”-Greek *Christos*, Hebrew Messiah or Anointed One.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard [*this*], they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men [*and*] brethren, what shall we do?

They were pricked in their heart ... is equivalent to saying that these people then and there believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no way that they would have followed on to obey the word if they had not believed. Thus, right here in the gateway of the historical beginning of the church stands the sure and certain truth that "faith alone" did not save the first Christians; nor can the conclusion be denied that "faith alone" never saved any Christians since then

No belief or faith was produced by demonstrations of the spirit Acts 2:1-21.

Only with the preaching of Gospel in, Acts 2:22-36 was and is faith produced. Cf:

Rom 10:17 So then faith [*cometh*] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith is not the correct understanding of orthodox opinions, but, consists of obediently responding to instructions.

What shall we do ...? In the light of Peter's text, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" cf: Acts 2:21, the meaning of this question is "What shall we do to be saved?" It has no other possible interpretation.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Notice the scripture does not say whether repentance and baptism is essential for salvation, or, because of salvation, or, unto salvation, whether it's evangelical, sacramental, or necessary. God takes care of the philosophical basis of salvation. Anyone who debates how they want to be saved, is not ready to be saved in the first place!

This verse contains 2 imperatives & 2 promises.

Dependence of the clause, remission of sins, relies upon both imperative verbs, repent and be baptized.

2 promises, remission of sins and gift of Holy Spirit.

Remember the prophecy in Joel? Well, this is how you call upon the name of the Lord. These are the conditions of salvation for whole Christian Age. Prove it?

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [*even*] as many as the Lord our God shall call.

As a matter of simple fact, the command to believe, repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins the Nestle Greek text translates this "with a view to" the remission of sins and with the promise of receiving the Holy Spirit afterward, - this is a timeless and universal commandment of the Christian gospel, as clear from this verse. None are exempted, or denied, or promised redemption without compliance.

A Fellowship called "the Church" is born.

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

A better translation would be: " Be saved" or "allow yourself to be saved" the verb is passive, we do not save ourselves we submit in obedience to God's plan by following instructions.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [*unto them*] about three thousand souls.

At the time the Law of Moses was given 3,000 were killed for their disobedience regarding the golden calf. The Law is strict and unforgiving but at the preaching of the Gospel 3,000 were saved.

Exodus 32:25-28 And when Moses saw that the people [*were*] naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto [*their*] shame among their enemies:) 26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who [*is*] on the LORD'S side? [*let him come*] unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, [*and*] go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The original primitive worship of the Church (God's people) is described.

Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Acts 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all [*men*], as every man had need.

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

sharing their wealth

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Who can add you to the Church? Repentant baptized believers are added by the Lord to "the Church."

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Clarkes Commentary, and "World Conquest"