

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## LESSON 4: CHAPTER 2:27-47

19 June 2015

- Vss. 27-28** This is a continuation of Psalm 16; David speaking of Jesus Christ. Christ's soul went to hell for less than a day (see Luke 23:43). Jesus trusted that His body would be raised up before any corruption set in. He will once again see the Father's face and rejoice.
- Vs. 29** Peter points out that David couldn't possibly be writing about himself. He is still dead in the grave. His body DID see corruption. The location of his grave was well-known.
- Vs. 30** Peter reminds the devout men that God promised David that He would "**raise up Christ to sit on his throne.**" Peter was referring to Psalm 132:11 and 2 Samuel 7:12-16.
- Vs. 31** Peter clearly states that Christ is the one referred to in all of his scriptural examples. He went to hell, he rose from the dead, and he is the one who will occupy the throne of David.
- Vs. 32** The Jesus that they crucified has been raised from the dead—and there are many witnesses (Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 15:5-8).
- Vs. 33** Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God in heaven and has sent the promise of the Holy Ghost. You asked "what meaneth this?" (vs. 12). This is the manifestation of the Holy Ghost.
- Vss. 34-35** Peter quotes Psalm 110:1 to show that Christ ascended to the right hand of the father. David did not ascend. Peter is not offering the kingdom to the Jews or he would have quoted Psalm 110:2 (which will be fulfilled at the Second Advent). Jesus will be at the right hand of the Father "until" (vs. 35) that time.
- Vs. 36** Peter sums up his sermon to these Jews. "**God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**" Peter gave them all the information they need to get saved. Now they must respond by calling on the Lord.
- Vs. 37** They were "**pricked in their heart.**" Their conscience has been stabbed by the word of God, which is "**quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword**" (Heb. 4:12). Once the word of God gets a hold of you, "**it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks**" (Acts 9:5). They realize they must do SOMETHING, so they ask "What shall we do?"
- Vs. 38** This verse is usually misinterpreted to support the false doctrine of baptismal regeneration (salvation from water baptism). Water baptism is included in the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16), and so is the preaching of repentance and remission of sins (Luke 24:46-49). Peter is obeying the great commission from the Lord Jesus. Salvation is the result of belief. Baptism should always accompany that belief.
- Peter can't possibly be offering these men remission of sins as a result of their baptism. He knows that "**without the shedding of blood is no remission**" (Heb. 9:22, Lev. 17:11). Peter is asking them to show him evidence of their belief in the Gospel by submitting to water baptism.

**Vs. 39** The promise (remission of sins, the gift of the Holy Ghost) is for the devout men in Jerusalem, their children (including future generations), and all that are afar off (Eph. 2:13, Gentiles). When the disciples carried the promise to Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8), it was the exact same promise given on the day of Pentecost and the same **“Holy Spirit of promise”** that we receive today (Eph. 1:13) after we believe the gospel.

**Note:** **“baptism FOR the remission of sins”** means you get baptized because your sins have already been remitted. Illustration: “I got fired FOR being habitually late.” “For” describes the reason for the action. Peter is not teaching that baptism will remit your sins. Baptism is the outward public display of our inward belief.

**Note:** Context is very important to the proper interpretation of Acts 2:38. Those who use it to teach *salvation by water* ignore the fact that Peter preached the Gospel and that the men have been “pricked in their hearts” and believed what Peter preached before he tells them to get baptized.

**Note:** Paul preached the same message as Peter in Acts 26:20. The message has never changed.

**Vs. 40** Notice that we have not been given all the words that Peter spoke that day. Peter urges these Jews to leave behind their national loyalties as Jews. **“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”** (Gal. 3:28). He refers to Israel as an “untoward generation” because they are not getting closer to God (toward), but further from Him every day (untoward).

Obviously Peter is not trying to save the nation of Israel and offer them the kingdom.

**Vs. 41** Who was baptized? **“They that gladly received his word.”** Three thousand souls were saved.

**Vs. 42** They depended on the “apostle’s doctrine” because there was no New Testament Scripture. Doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer are key elements in the Christian church. Notice that the apostles enjoyed fellowship as an equal among the people. They did not place themselves on a pedestal and expect to be treated like kings.

**Vs. 43** Many wonders and signs were done by the apostles (not the 120 disciples). These were “the signs of an apostle” (2 Cor. 12:12).

**Vss. 44-45** The believers “had all things common,” “sold their possessions” and distributed their possessions and money to those who had need. This was not commanded. They did it because they wanted to do something good.

**Vs. 46** The believers are still “with one accord” (in total agreement; true unity). They went to the temple daily to witness to the crowds in the outer courtyards. They shared meals together from house to house with gladness and singleness of heart. They were not distracted by other worldly interests. Their thoughts were always on the Lord.

**Vs. 47** The Lord added to the CHURCH. Then it is nonsense to teach that there was no church until Paul. Who was added to the church? Those who were saved.

Matthew 16:18  
Acts 9:5

1 Corinthians 15:9  
Colossians 1:24

Galatians 1:13  
Romans 16:7

Philippians 3:6  
Ephesians 2:16-20, 3:3-6