

**save
yourselves from
this untoward
generation**

Acts 2:14 – 47

~ If Christ is not risen from the dead, then our faith is futile, friends - because we would still remain dead in our trespasses and sins. Without the resurrection after His crucifixion, there is no possible path for salvation to come upon humanity, according to Holy Writ. In the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we considered the Day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit came to begin calling out a body of believers. That body would become the church as we know it today. The day before Pentecost, there was no church; the day after Pentecost, there was a church. As the Passover spoke of the death of Christ, and the Feast of Firstfruits spoke of His resurrection, the Day of Pentecost speaks of the Holy Spirit being sent into the world to begin His ministry in this Age of Grace. Christ had told the apostles that if He went away, He would send the comforter unto them. This is the fulfillment of that promise.

Pentecost occurred fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits, as we saw in our previous report. We are told the Spirit of God made Himself evident in two ways: the sound like a mighty rushing wind - but it wasn't wind; and we saw tongues parting asunder like as fire - but it wasn't fire! Those two manifestations appealed to the ear-gate and eye-gate of our learning; the two ways in which we acquire most of our information. So, we saw the complete fulfillment of all ministries associated with the Holy Spirit as these men were indwelt by God. I'm sure the apostles spent a lot of time praying in the upper room after Jesus' crucifixion. I'm also sure they didn't know what to expect. I believe they had their doubts – but were certainly praying, nonetheless.

At this point in Acts, the disciples have begun to witness to the Jews that had come from various regions of the three continents ruled by the Roman Empire to Jerusalem for the feasts as the Mosaic Law demanded. Apparently, by this time in history, the Hebrew language was already

beginning to be replaced and forgotten amongst them. They heard the Gospel in their own language as it was spoken; and many were saved as a result of the preaching of Simon Peter. However, our last report concluded with some who were mocking and saying Peter and the others were just drunk....

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:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

~ Of course, Peter is answering those who were mocking and accusing. It's important to note who "these men" were. The congregations are the men of Judaea and inhabitants of Jerusalem. This early church is one hundred percent Jewish. The only exception would have been Pilate and his ilk. If you and I had been present that day, there would have been serious questions from the Jews concerning whether we could have joined the church. The early church began at Jerusalem and went out into Judaea from there, then to Samaria and on to the uttermost parts of the earth. In the Old Testament, the nations were told to go TO Jerusalem to worship; but now, God is commanding them to go out FROM Jerusalem and take the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. These facts are critical to recognize as confusion surrounds modern instruction in our contemporary churches....

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

~ Peter is answering cynical unbelievers and mockers at this time concerning his sobriety. Of course, there have always been men who get drunk first thing in the morning, but Peter didn't. Peter in NO WAY says what they are seeing is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel; Peter says this is that which shall come to pass in the last days. It's definite Peter is NOT speaking of this as fulfillment of prophecy because, if you'll check outside right now, the sun is not darkened, and the moon is not turned to blood. It didn't happen in Peter's day, either. This hasn't happened yet. Joel's

prophecy is future from his day - and future from today - eschatological. This is similar to, and this is LIKE that – but it isn't that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel. What we need today is a little reading comprehension and even more grammar lessons, to be sure. The writings I see around this forum on which I teach this safari are atrocious and shameful and the understanding is, well, it's dim, friends – dim....

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:

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

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

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

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

~ So, let's pause to examine the extent of the prophecy Simon Peter quoted from Joel. I don't think anyone is willing to attempt to support the theory that the prophecy of the moon turning to blood has been fulfilled literally; nor that the sun has literally been turned to darkness. If one attempts to support that theory then, well, they're just plain crazy. When Christ was crucified there was darkness of the sun for three hours – but not on the Day of Pentecost – and certainly not today. There is no signs of wonder, blood and fire, vapor and smoke – oh, no, my friends, this is not that by any stretch of an imagination. We have no record of any of these thnigs and Simon Peter makes it clear – at least, it's clear to me – and if you want to understand your Bible properly, correctly and completely, then you're just going to have to accept my teaching. I just do not happen to

guess at Bible prophecy – I understand it a little better than some might like to think I do!

Peter is telling an all-Jewish congregation these things shouldn't seem strange – they were all predicted to come to pass. Even so, the prophecy in Joel's second chapter has not been fulfilled. Those are fighting words for the people who are seemingly stuck on this prophecy. If you read Joel correctly, you will notice that his primary message concerns "day of the Lord!" The "day of the Lord" begins with the Great Tribulation period and continues on through the millennium. Joel mentions the "day of the Lord" five times in three short chapters! It's what Joel is speaking of; and that isn't today. Joel tells us of a time of war and continual judgment upon the earth. The FUTURE is the time period for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, friends; not today - and certainly not on the Day of Pentecost. I must drive that point home and it must be comprehended correctly or you cannot continue with us in our expedition. Remember, Joel is speaking to men who knew the Old Testament and they knew the background as they stood there at this feast in Jerusalem. Trying to read two thousand plus years of church history into this is simply a reckless and irresponsible handling of the Word of God....

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:

~ Peter is speaking to the men of Israel – NOT the men in Florida or southern California – and we're going to get down to the nitty gritty of our subject here, to be sure, the Lord Jesus Christ! If I went into each of the miracles, wonders and signs Peter is speaking of in this passage we would read a thousand pages full of type – so we won't do that. Personally, I believe they are all different subjects; miracles were performed for a particular purpose – wonders performed for an altogether separate purpose, and signs for a specific need. Basically, the signs and miracles told everyone Who Christ was; the wonders were performed to get their attention at the proper time. Those are the three areas in which the Lord Jesus ministered on this earth....

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

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

~ What Luke is saying is not contrary to God's program. When this happened, it didn't surprise God. However, this does NOT relieve us of responsibility. To ask who is responsible for the crucifixion of Christ is nonsense; the religious rulers moved upon the multitude to make a mob out of them – and they moved on the Roman government – so one might conclude they were largely to blame. The Roman government tried Jesus, and He died on a Roman cross, to be sure – but it is YOU who is responsible. It's ME – WE are responsible for the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ because of our sins! Jesus said, "no man taketh My life from Me; I have power both to lay it down and take it up again!" That's power Jesus received of the Father. Pointing the finger is a useless argument; even though Simon Peter is pointing the finger at this time. What we have is the very first sermon given to any church and Simon Peter is talking about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's not change the subject and get away from what Peter is talking about....

Psalm 16:8 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.

Acts Chapter Two ~

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:

26 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.

~ In Psalm sixteen verse eight, David is speaking of the resurrection of Christ! Simon Peter, in chapter two of Acts verse twenty-five, is speaking of the resurrection of Christ! From the temple where Peter was standing he could see the top of Mount Zion and the sepulchre where David was buried. It's obvious David wasn't speaking of himself because his bones were within eyesight of Simon Peter when this statement was made. Now, let's read on to see the full interpretation of Simon Peter....

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

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;

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.

~ If you didn't see the resurrection in Psalm sixteen, it's because you have to get all the way over here to Acts chapter two and have the Holy Spirit interpret it for you. Simon Peter is talking about the resurrection of Christ. The very first sermon ever taught was an Easter sermon; and EVERY sermon we read from the early church in Acts was an Easter sermon! Now, when we read "hell" here, we are talking about "Sheol" – the place of the dead – not what we traditionally think of as hell, as in, the lake of fire. We've considered that before, so we'll keep moving along now....

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

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.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

~ Simon Peter is telling those who were present that day that what they were seeing was only happening because Jesus was raised from the dead. You must remember that Old Testament saints didn't have a Heavenly hope; theirs was an earthly hope of resurrection to an earthly paradise. If Old Testament saints DID go to Heaven, David would have been there, because David was a man after God's own heart. It is the CHURCH that is taken to the New Jerusalem. When BELIEVERS die, they become absent from the body and present with the Lord! The Psalmist said, "... the LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Jesus is at the right hand of God where He will remain until He returns to establish His Kingdom on this earth! At the same time Jesus is still working down here in this world through His Holy Spirit....

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

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.

37 Now when they heard Simon Peter say 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?

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 Spirit.

~ This message is directed at the people who had been given the privilege of handling the Word of God. They had the prophecies, as we have just seen. They had heard the message; but had been going straightly away from God in a godless religion. These are those who are told to repent and

come God's way! The baptism in verse thirty-eight is water baptism; and they are to receive that to identify with trusting Christ and as having turned to Him in faith. No longer is an animal sacrifice to be brought and offered in the temple – those days are over as of the time in which we are studying. Jesus is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world; and they are to trust in that from here on. Well, anyone who believes these truths will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit....

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.

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

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

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

~ These people are told to get away from their religion and turn to Christ. What follows is not some preachers convert count – these are genuinely born-again Christians. This is likely the ONLY accurate record of conversions we have had since then, too, by the way. The ONLY way we can tell a genuine church is by the four fingerprints left behind: (1) continuation in the apostle's doctrine (2) fellowship (3) the breaking of bread, and (4) prayers! Breaking of bread is more than the Lord's Supper; it means being brought into fellowship and a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer is something most churches don't do properly; but, either way, these are the visible marks of a genuine Bible believing church....

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

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

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

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,

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

~ At the time in which we are studying, the apostles had authority over the sign gifts. Today, you don't – and some people deeply resent that type of honest and sound doctrine from the Bible. Well, the church is nowhere near as spiritually strong as it was in the days we are studying and, in fact, the church is in nearly total apostasy today. THAT is one of the myriad reasons the sign gift type of living doesn't work. If you think you can heal, then get yourself right down to the cancer ward at your local hospital where they need you and prove it. If you do heal - you'll also be able to raise the dead! So, you can go on down to the morgue and continue your ministry. See how that works? The sign gifts were inextricably intertwined; and they aren't for today, my beloved. Let me say this kindly: those who erroneously believe they are endowed with sign gifts are nothing in the world but carnal Christians. The LORD does the adding to the church – not us. So, with that, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari. We'll take up chapter three and consider the next steps the church takes by the preaching of Simon Peter in our next report ~
