

I KNOW
Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them,
"Repent, and let every one of you
be baptized in the name of Jesus
Christ for the remission of sins;
and you shall receive the gift of
the Holy Spirit."

BUT I DON'T KNOW
ACTS 2

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Let's Get Started:

If someone were to ask you where the middle of the Bible is, what would you say? Some might say that Psalms 118:8 is the middle of the Bible. Others might say the blank page between Malachi and Matthew is the middle of the Bible.

But a better answer might be to say that Acts 2 is the middle of the Bible. Here's why. We mean that this chapter is really at the heart of the Bible story. Everything prior to Acts 2 is pointing to the events found here. Many of the events that take place after Acts 2 point back to this chapter. While Acts 2 is not the geographic center of the Bible, it is at the center of God's plan for man.

It comes as a surprise to many folks that many—if not all—of the Old Testament books of the prophets pointed to the events of this day. Even Jesus, in all four gospels pointed to what would happen in Acts 2. This tells us that this chapter is critically important to the Bible story.

A lot of people are familiar with some of the passages from Acts 2, particularly verse 38, but most folks don't know how everything in this chapter fits with respect to the whole Bible story.

There are a lot of questions that people might have about this chapter. For example: Why was this day called the day of Pentecost? Who were the people gathered to hear Peter preach on that day? Who was it that received Holy Spirit baptism? Is Holy Spirit baptism for us today? What was the speaking in tongues that we read about in this chapter? Why did some of the people in Jerusalem think the apostles were drunk? Why was Peter the spokesman for the whole group of apostles? Why did he quote from the Prophet Joel? The answers to these, and dozens of other questions, are significant when it comes to understanding God's plan. If people misunderstand the answers to these questions, they are sure to make lots of mistakes on other things in God's plan for saving us.

This should be enough to make it clear to us that just knowing about Acts 2:38 is not enough. If all we know is just to quote that verse, we will certainly know more than most people, but we will not know what God wants us to know about this chapter.

Where We Go From Here:

In this class we will address a variety of topics from Acts 2. Before we launch out on our journey, let's take a few moments to read the chapter.

After listening to the reading, what topics jump out at you from this chapter? Write your answers below.

What questions quickly come to your mind that you would like for us to explore in this study?

We are going to find that with a little bit of work and study we can learn a lot from this chapter. You may think it is not reasonable or possible to build an entire Bible class on just one chapter from the Bible. But, we will quickly see that Acts 2 has multiple tentacles that reach all over the Bible. By the time we are finished with this study you will know much more than Acts 2:38, you will know Acts 2.

Introduction Continued

Our primary text for this quarter's material will be Acts 2. However, this study will take us all through much of the Old and New Testaments. Before we begin our study, there are things that we need to discuss.

Discussion

1. Will you commit to come to class prepared? YES NO
2. What are the advantages to you if you come prepared?
3. Are you willing to participate in class? YES NO
4. What are the benefits to you of participating in class?

Where are you now?

How much do you know about our chapter? Here are some questions designed to help you know where you are as we begin.

1. How many Old Testament prophecies are quoted in Acts 2?
2. What is the Day of Pentecost?
3. What is speaking in tongues?
4. How many people received Holy Spirit baptism in this chapter?

5. Who was the primary spokesman for the apostles on the Day of Pentecost?
6. What do you think is the key verse in Joel's prophecy?
7. Can you name the three promises given to Abraham?
8. Did Acts 2 address anything about Gentile salvation? If so, what?
9. According to Acts 2, what had God done to demonstrate that Jesus was approved by Him?
10. What had God promised to King David in the Old Testament about Christ?
11. What message was preached in Acts 2 that was proclaimed throughout the Book of Acts?
12. The apostle used two terms to describe Jesus in the sermon recorded here. What are those two terms?
13. What does the phrase "for the remission of sins" mean?
14. Is the "gift of the Holy Spirit" the Holy Spirit Himself as a gift, or is it a gift that comes from the Holy Spirit?
15. What was it that was established on this day?

The Place of Acts 2

It is sometimes said that Acts 2 is the “Hub of the Bible.” That is, everything seems to find its center in this great chapter. So many things from the Old and New Testaments find their fulfillment here.

Everything in God’s plan fits in its proper place. But where does Acts 2 fit in God’s scheme of things? How does it relate to other parts of the Bible?

Where it fits in the Book of Acts

1. What do you see in Acts 1:8 that helps you understand the place of this chapter in the Book of Acts?
2. Read Acts 2:47 from the NKJV. What do you see that had its beginning here?
3. What do you see in Acts 10:36-48 that might relate back to chapter two?
4. What in Acts 11:15 points back to Acts 2?
5. Can you find other verses in Acts that show the place of chapter two?

Where it fits in the New Testament Scriptures

1. What do you find in Matthew 1:21 that actually happens in Acts 2?
2. What did Jesus promise in Matthew 16:18 that took place in Acts 2?

Where it fits in the New Testament (continued)

3. How does Luke 24:46-49 relate to Acts 2?
4. What did Jesus promise in John 16:7-15 that is fulfilled in chapter two?
5. How would you relate Romans 1:16 to Acts 2?
6. How might you connect Ephesians 3:8-10 to Acts 2?

Where it fits in the big picture of the Bible

1. What promises were made in Genesis 12 that might relate to Acts 2?
2. According to Acts 3:21-23, who had foretold the events that began in Acts 2?
3. What Old Testament text is quoted in Acts 3:22-23?
4. Can you see how Isaiah 2:1-4 connects to Acts 2?
5. What connection do you see from Daniel 2:44?
6. How does Zechariah 13:1 relate to Acts 2?
7. What other Old Testament texts can you link to Acts?

The Day of Pentecost

Before we get deep into the chapter it is important that we identify the day on which these events took place.

Acts 2:1 begins with these words: "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come..." This day was part of a series of Jewish feast days. It is not a day to be observed by Christians. It is important to the text because the events recorded here happened on this day.

What is the Day of Pentecost?

It is mentioned by name only three times in the Bible (Acts 2:1; Acts 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8).

It is not mentioned by that name in the Old Testament, even though it was an important feast day under the Law.

"Pentecost" is a Greek word that means "fiftieth." It describes one of the Jews three great feasts. It began on the fiftieth day after the Passover week was complete.

Please read Leviticus 23:4-17 and answer these questions:

1. What feast was to take place on the fourteenth day of the first month (the month of Abib)?
2. On the fifteenth day of the same month, what feast was to begin?
3. How long was the feast of unleavened bread to last?
4. When this second feast was complete, the Jews were to begin a count. According to verse 15, they were to count from what day?
5. According to verse 16, how many days were they to count?

Leviticus 23:4-17 (continued)

6. They were to count to the day after the seventh Sabbath. What day of the week always came after the Sabbath day?
7. Thus, we are forced to conclude that the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 had to fall on what day of the week?

More Questions about Pentecost

1. According to Exodus 34:22 this feast was known by another name. What is that name?
2. Two feasts are mentioned in Exodus 23:16. The first is called by what name? This feast is another name for Pentecost.
3. The second feast found in Exodus 23:16 is called the Feast of Ingathering. This feast was so called because it corresponded with the completion of the harvest. Do you know another name for the Feast of Ingathering? See Deuteronomy 16:13-15 for help.
4. According to Deuteronomy 16:13-17, how many times were the Jewish males to come before the Lord in the course of the year?
5. Since the Jewish males were to come before the Lord on Pentecost (Feast of Weeks), what kind of crowd might we expect to find in Jerusalem in Acts 2? Can you find a verse that supports your answer?
6. Does God expect Christians to observe Pentecost today? Why, or why not?

Understanding Acts 1 So You Can Understand Acts 2

In all Bible studies “context” is critical to understanding. Whenever we study Scripture, we must be sure that we are reading and making application with what we read based on the context.

The word “context” means *with the weave*. Biblically, we tend to think of context as the verses just before and after a passage. But, in reality, it addresses the whole background or environment of the thing in question.

The Importance of Context

If we don’t know the context of what is said in a particular verse, we might come to a wrong conclusion. For example, in Psalm 14:1 the Bible says, “There is no God.” On the surface we know immediately that something is wrong here, but what is it? Pay attention to the rest of the verse—the context! What does the rest of Psalm 14:1 say?

Context becomes really important as we study Acts 2. For example, we see that Holy Spirit baptism occurred in Acts 2:1-4, but who received it? Was it the apostles or the 120 who were with the apostles in Acts 1:15? The only way to know this is to study the context in both Acts 1 and Acts 2.

That’s what we will do in this lesson. In the back of this workbook is a copy of Acts 1 and Acts 2. Before you do the questions below we want you to mark some things in these two chapters. You might use different colored pencils to do your marking. Below are the things you should mark before we consider some questions. As you read these two chapters, mark what is indicated below. You may want to read through the chapters two or three times, as you look for particular themes.

1. Underline the words baptism and baptized.
2. Draw a box around references to the Holy Spirit.
3. Circle all references to the apostles. This would include pronouns that refer back to the apostles.

What Did You Learn?

1. How many times did you find the words “baptism” and “baptized”?
2. What baptisms were referenced?
3. Now that you know the different baptisms that were mentioned, how will this help us to come to the right conclusions as we read Acts 2?
4. How many references did you find regarding the Holy Spirit? What did we learn about the Holy Spirit?
5. How many references did you find to the apostles from Acts 1:1 to Acts 2:4? (Count every noun and pronoun that is used with respect to the apostles.)
6. With respect to the promise of Holy Spirit baptism, to whom did Jesus make this promise?
7. How would you answer the person who believes that the 120 people who were with the apostles in Acts 1:15 also received Holy Spirit baptism?
8. Based on your Bible marking, who was it that spoke in tongues on the day of Pentecost? Why is this important?
9. What other themes might be useful for us to mark in Acts 1 and Acts 2?

What Many Believe About Holy Spirit Baptism

In our last lesson, we did some Bible marking. We did this to make sure that we keep the events of Acts 2 in proper context. One of the things you were supposed to do was to identify the different baptisms and references to the Holy Spirit.

We learned about Holy Spirit baptism, and who was to receive this baptism. It was the apostles who received it. Yet sadly, many today believe that everyone receives Holy Spirit baptism. This is a reminder that many are confused when it comes to the Holy Spirit. But it's not simply people in denominations who are confused. Even God's people can be confused regarding this. So, it's important that we give some study time to Holy Spirit baptism.

Holy Spirit Baptism: A Promise, Not a Command

1. Read Matthew 3:1-12. What baptisms are referenced in these verses?
2. What do you think it meant when John the Baptist said that some would be baptized with fire?
3. Read Luke 24:44-53. To whom was Jesus speaking in these verses? What promise did Jesus say they would receive in Jerusalem?
4. Read Acts 1:1-8. How can we be certain that it was the apostles who were to receive Holy Spirit baptism?
5. Who was it that was going to impart Holy Spirit baptism upon the apostles? (See John 1:33 for help.)

What Happened in Acts 2 with Respect to the Spirit?

1. Read Acts 2:1-4. What miraculous things occurred when the apostles received Holy Spirit baptism?
2. When the apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, what was the effect on the people of Jerusalem?
3. A little later in the chapter Peter quoted the words of what Old Testament prophet who had foretold this outpouring of the Spirit?
4. Read John 14:26; 16:12-13. What was the Holy Spirit going to accomplish with respect to the apostles?
5. Some people think that you need Holy Spirit baptism to be saved. According to Acts 2:38, what baptism did Peter speak of that would result in forgiveness of sin?
6. Some people go to Acts 10, to argue that Holy Spirit baptism is necessary for salvation. Read Acts 10:44-48. What baptism was commanded by Peter that Cornelius and his family needed to obey?
7. Read Acts 10:44-48, 15:7-9. Why did Cornelius and his family receive Holy Spirit baptism? That is, what did it demonstrate to the Jews?
8. In Ephesians 4:5, Paul said there is one baptism. How can we determine which baptism that is?

Tongues: Setting the Record Straight

There is a lot of confusion about what it means to "speak in tongues." And, some of the most confused are those who profess to have this miraculous spiritual gift today.

Lots of religious people today claim to be able to do exactly what the apostles did in Acts 2. Yet, when we carefully study this chapter, we will see that the claims of men today does not line up with this chapter at all.

In setting the record straight, we need to say in the outset that speaking in tongues was a miraculous gift given by the Holy Spirit that empowered a person to be able to speak a foreign language that he had never learned. It was not gibberish; it was an actual language that could be easily understood by those who knew that language. The record in Acts 2 will prove this fact.

Tongues: Setting the Context

1. Jesus addressed speaking in tongues in Mark 16:17. To whom did he say this applied? Read Mark 16:9-20 for help. Be careful to look at these other verses.
2. Look at Mark 16:20. What purpose did speaking in tongues serve?
3. What is the significance of the phrase "new tongues" in Mark 16:17?
4. In Acts 2:1-4, what group of people spoke in tongues?
5. What other miracles accompanied speaking in tongues in Acts 2:1-4?
6. Did the people in Acts 2:5-12 actually hear the apostles speak, or did they hear something else?

Tongues: Setting Forth the Truth

1. Where did the miracle of speaking in tongues take place? Was it at the mouth of the speaker or at the ear of the hearer?
2. Were the languages spoken on this day actual foreign languages, or was it gibberish of some sort?
3. In verses 12 and 13 we find two different reactions. What are those reactions?
4. Did the apostles have to speak foreign languages in order to preach to the people? Why, or why not?
5. In Acts 2:33, what did the apostles say about "this which you now see and hear?"
6. Read Acts 10:44-48 and Acts 11:12-18. What sign was given at Cornelius' house to prove Gentiles could be saved?
7. Some disciples in Acts 19:6 spoke in tongues. Where did they get this power? (See also Acts 8:18.)
8. Should we redefine tongues in 1 Corinthians 12-14?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. When would tongues cease?

"...As the Spirit Gave Them Utterance"

There is an important point to be made in Acts 2:4 that affects how we view the rest of the chapter. Indeed it impacts the entire New Testament. The point has to do with inspiration. Certainly the apostles spoke in tongues by the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4-11. But it is significant to note that all that they spoke on that day was directly guided by the Holy Spirit.

What they said about Jesus, about the Old Testament prophets, about judgment and about salvation was all guided by the Holy Spirit. What we read in Peter's sermon in Acts 2 is from the Holy Spirit—all of it!

Inspiration: Getting Some Background

1. According to John 16:12-15, what did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into?
2. According to John 14:26, what did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do for the apostles?
3. What promise did Jesus make to the apostles in Matthew 10:19-20?
4. In Matthew 10:19-20, Jesus told the apostles that someone would speak through them. Who was it?
5. According to 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 what did Paul say he (and others) had received from the Spirit?
6. Do you think the apostles received:
 - a. Ideas from God that they put in their own words?
 - b. Words from God that expressed His thoughts?

Inspiration: Demonstrated in Acts 1-2

1. Read Acts 1:16-17. What do we learn about inspiration in this text? To whom did Peter attribute the words of David?
2. What other passages in Peter's talk in this section (Acts 1:15-22) show that he believed the Old Testament Scripture was authoritative?
3. Read Acts 2. Identify the Old Testament passages that Peter referenced as he preached.
4. Why was it important that the apostles use the Old Testament Scriptures as they preached to the Jews about the Messiah?
5. Read Acts 2:11. The apostles spoke the wonderful works of God. Yet, those words were not recorded for us. How concerned should we be that we don't have this information recorded for us?
6. Read Acts 2:40. Peter used many other words to convince the Jews to obey Jesus. Yet those words of inspiration were not recorded for us. How concerned should we be that we don't have those words?
7. Since Peter and the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit, what should we conclude about the words recorded in Acts 2:38? Were those words authoritative or not?

Joel: An Old Testament Prophet

As Peter begins his sermon, the first Old Testament text that he introduces is from the Book of Joel (Acts 2:16-21).

He opens with these words in verse 16:

"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel..."

These words are contrasted with Peter's explanation that these men are not drunken. (Remember the accusation of the mockers in verse 13.) Rather than being drunk, the apostles are being used by God to fulfill a prophecy made by Joel in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-32).

It is important to note that Peter is not giving a new prophecy, but rather is repeating a prophecy made hundreds of years beforehand. This is important because some folks treat Peter's words—not as fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost—but looking to a far distant time from then.

The KJV is well-worded in verse 16.

"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel..."

Peter says Joel's words are being fulfilled. The reason some folks do not agree with that is because of the use of the phrase "the last days" in verse 17. Most people think "last days" refers to the time just before Jesus returns. We will address that in this lesson.

When Joel was written: Probably about 825 B.C.

Why Joel was written: To call God's people to repentance and to warn them of coming judgment. Skim over chapters one and two and identify at least two verses that speak of judgment.

It is often the case that God follows judgment language with a promise of future blessings. Early in the book, God speaks of a judgment of locusts (Joel 1:1-4). But later in the book, God speaks of good times to come. Can you find those promises of better times?

Fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy

1. Look up these passages: Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:18; Acts 2:17. What do all of these verses have in common?
2. The prophecy from Joel said that God would pour out His Spirit on "all flesh" (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17). What do you understand "all flesh" to mean? Does it mean "every human being"? If not, then what? Read Acts 10 for help.
3. Joel's prophecy said "Your *sons* and *daughters* shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17). Since there were no women among the apostles, how do we explain this?
4. Read Acts 2:43; 3:6-7; 5:12. Who worked miracles in these verses? Read Acts 6:5-8; who else worked miracles? How did these persons receive miraculous power? (See also Acts 8:18.)
5. Peter used judgment language in Acts 2:19-20 as he quoted from Joel 2:30-31. What should we apply this language to?
6. Peter closes the quote from Joel in Acts 2:21. How important do you think this verse is to Peter's sermon?
7. In Acts 2:21 Peter talked about "calling on the name of the Lord." Staying in Acts 2, explain how we call on the name of the Lord.

Acts 2:39: The Promise Is unto You..."

We learned in our last lesson about Joel's prophecy, that the key verse in the chapter is [Acts 2:21](#). Peter's entire sermon is build around this text.

He shows...

- Who the Lord is upon whom they must call (vv. 22-36)
- How to call upon His name (v. 38)
- Salvation (given by the Spirit) is through Jesus (v. 38)
- That the promise is open to all (v. 39)

Exploring the Promise

Early in our study we learned that Acts 2 is the hub of the Bible. So many things from the Old Testament find their fulfillment in this chapter.

One of the earliest of all promises in the Old Testament is found in [Genesis 12:1-3](#). That promise is repeated in [Genesis 22:16-18](#). We commonly call these "the three promises to Abraham." The three promises are listed here. Identify how God fulfilled each. (What land did He give? What nation did He make? Who is the seed?)

1. Land Promise: _____
2. Nation Promise: _____
3. Seed Promise: _____

Questions to Consider

1. What promise made to Abraham do you find fulfilled according to [Deuteronomy 4:1-7](#)? What words make it clear that it is fulfilled?
2. What promise do you find fulfilled in [Joshua 21:43-45](#)? What is the extent of the fulfillment of this promise?
3. What promise do you find fulfilled in [Galatians 3:16](#)?

Promise #3

It is the third promise that is the focus of this lesson. God's great plan of the ages for man's salvation finally came to fruition in Acts 2.

Peter's address in Acts 2 is not about the land or the nation. It is about the salvation that God promised through the Christ who was to come—promise #3.

Men today mistakenly put emphasis on promises #1 and #2, as though the people of Israel and the land of Canaan are critical to God's plan today. Peter does not play that game! He teaches about the Messiah.

Here are some passages and questions to consider about the seed promise:

1. Read [Luke 1:67-73](#). What had all the prophets of old spoken of?
2. Look at [Acts 3:18-26](#). What point is Peter trying to make with the Jews? How many of the prophets had spoken of these days?
3. Read [Galatians 3:26-29](#). Who truly belongs to Christ, and who are the heirs according to the promise to Abraham?
4. How does [Acts 2:39](#) relate to the promise made to Abraham?
5. What does the promise made to Abraham 4,000 years ago mean to you today?

Acts 2:39: The Promise...Is to All Who Are Afar Off"

Remember Acts 2:21. What language in this verse would show that salvation was not only for the Jews?

What words in Acts 2:39 relate back to the words you chose from Acts 2:21.

Learning about Gentile Salvation from the Old Testament

1. Was God concerned about the Gentiles during the Old Testament period? (See Jonah 3 for help.)
2. What do you see in the three promises to Abraham that indicate salvation was coming to the Gentiles? (See Genesis 12:1-3.)
3. What do you see in Isaiah 11:10 that help the Jews understand that Gentiles would be included in God's plan of salvation?
4. Read Isaiah 42:1-4. What do you find in this text that indicates salvation was coming to the Gentiles?
5. Read Isaiah 49:6. Part of this verse is quoted in the New Testament. Where is it found?
6. With all these references from the Old Testament, do you think the Jews should have expected that Gentiles would be saved?

Gentile Salvation in the New Testament

1. Who spoke about Gentile salvation in Luke 2:32?
2. What prophet did Matthew quote when he spoke of Gentile salvation in Matthew 12:15-21?
3. To whom did Jesus send His apostles when He gave the Great Commission in Mark 16:15-16? Do you think the apostles realized the full scope of their mission at this point?
4. The case of conversion in Acts 10-11 marks the beginning of salvation to what people? According to Acts 11:18, what had God done?
5. Read Acts 13:42-48. What did Paul say that he and Barnabas were doing? How did the Gentiles respond to this?
6. According to Ephesians 2:11-17, what happened as a result of the death and resurrection of Jesus? Why was this such a big deal?
7. Read Ephesians 3:6. What was God's plan from the beginning with respect to Jews and Gentiles?

The Patriarch David and God’s Foreknowledge

The promises God had made to King David in the Old Testament are numerous. Peter said that God had promised that the Messiah would be raised to sit on David’s throne, [Acts 2:29-31](#). Peter’s presentation of this matter is a critical part of his sermon in Acts 2.

All that happened to Jesus—even His death, burial and resurrection—was in accordance with God’s plan. When Peter begins his argument in [Acts 2:22-23](#), he speaks of the “determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.”

1. What is meant by “determined purpose”?
2. How would you describe the “foreknowledge of God”?

The Promises to David

1. When Peter introduces the resurrection of Jesus ([Acts 2:24](#)), he immediately quotes from the Old Testament ([Acts 2:25-28](#)). Where was this found in David’s writings?
2. Thinking further about [Acts 2:25-28](#), what was Peter trying to prove from this text? Which part of the text is particularly important to what Peter is teaching?
3. According to [Acts 2:29](#), why couldn’t the quoted reference from the Psalms apply to King David?
4. What two words in [Acts 2:30](#) make it clear that God had made a promise to King David?
5. Since the prophecy from the Psalms could not apply to David, it must, therefore apply to whom?

God Had Sworn with an Oath to Him

After Peter quoted from the Psalms, he said God had sworn with an oath to King David that the Messiah would be raised to sit on his throne. Let us now look at those places in the Old Testament where that promise was made.

1. Read [2 Samuel 7:12-16](#). Some of this applied to King Solomon. Identify which parts of it apply to Christ. Read [Luke 1:31-33](#) for further information.
2. Read [Psalm 89:3-4](#). What covenant had God made with King David?
3. Read [Psalm 89:34-37](#). Is it possible that this covenant could fail? Explain your answer.
4. Read [Psalm 132:10-12](#). What language in this text is remarkably similar to [Acts 2:30](#)?
5. There are also a number of references to the promises God made to David in the New Testament. What do you learn from the following passages?
 - [Matthew 12:22-23](#)
 - [Matthew 21:9](#)
 - [Matthew 22:41-45](#)
 - [Acts 13:21-37](#)

Is He or Is He Not?

We learned in our previous lesson that God had sworn with an oath to King David that the Christ would be raised from the dead to sit on David's throne. The questions before us are these: Did God fulfill His promise? Is Jesus on David's throne? Why is this issue important?

It is critical that we understand that God fulfilled the promise that the Holy Spirit had made to King David. Why? Because there is a demonic doctrine in the religious world that argues strongly that God did not fulfill His promise. The false teaching is known as "premillennialism." It argues that Jesus failed to establish His kingdom—and that He must return a second time to do what He failed to do the first time. This doctrine denies that Jesus is on the throne of David.

We will learn that Peter announces that Jesus is on the throne of David. Jesus was at the right hand of God on the Day of Pentecost. He is still there today.

Exalted to the Right Hand of God

1. Read Acts 2:29-36. Peter tells us where Jesus currently resides. Where is Jesus according to Peter?
2. Is the throne of David (Acts 2:30) physical or spiritual in nature? (For help, see #4 and #5 below.)
3. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. What did Isaiah speak of that would be fulfilled in the Son who was to be born?
4. Read Amos 9:11-12. What did Amos say would happen as he mentioned David's name?
5. Read Acts 15:13-18. What did James prove had happened when he mentioned David's name?

Having Received from the Father the Promise of the Holy Spirit

Reading Acts 2:33, we are forced to ask "What did Jesus receive when He returned to heaven?" Some folks say, "It is simple. He received the Holy Spirit!" But, is that what the text really says? Let's make a careful examination. Let's also bring in some other passages where Peter speaks of the Holy Spirit and His work.

1. Read Acts 1:16. Peter speaks of Scripture being fulfilled. To whom does he attribute the Old Testament Scripture? Is it merely to King David? Why is this an important issue?
2. Read Acts 4:25. Check your center reference or read from the NASB. To whom does Peter attribute the words of David?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:10-12 and 2 Peter 1:21. To whom does Peter attribute the writings of the prophets?
4. Read Acts 2:33. What promise did Jesus receive? Choose the correct answer and be ready to explain.
 - a. Jesus received the Holy Spirit as a promise.
 - b. Jesus received what the Holy Spirit promised?
5. What had the Holy Spirit promised that Jesus had received? (For help see Acts 2:30.)
6. In Acts 2:34-35 Peter quotes Psalms 110:1. Peter says Jesus is at God's right hand. For how long will He reign? Also, according to 1 Corinthians 15:24-27, how long must He reign?

The Lord Said to My Lord

We learned in our previous lesson that Jesus fulfilled the promise that God had made to David—that the Messiah would be raised to sit on David's throne. Peter said that God had sworn with an oath to David that He would fulfill this promise. When Jesus returns to heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God and received from the Father what the Holy Spirit had promised to King David.

Being seated at the right hand of God was another thing the Old Testament had prophesied about the Messiah. Thus, Peter proclaimed that [Psalm 110:1](#) was also fulfilled. That Psalm portrays one who is called "the LORD" who spoke to another who is called "my Lord." This is the Father speaking to the Son, fulfilling the promise made to David. But, Peter isn't finished yet!

Both Lord and Christ

As Peter draws his lesson to its conclusion, he proclaims that Jesus is both Lord and Christ, [Acts 2:36](#). The powerful significance of this statement cannot be overemphasized. All that Peter has said in his preaching has been leading up to this point. In fact, all that has happened in the Bible prior to this time has been leading up to this point!

1. Where did we see the term "Lord" earlier in chapter two where it relates to salvation?
2. What was its significance in that place? How does [Acts 2:36](#) relate to that verse?
3. How would you define the term "Lord"? What are some synonyms?
4. Peter also declares that Jesus is the Christ. How would you define the word *Christ*? The word *Christ* is a New Testament word. It is equal to what Old Testament word?

Jesus is Both Lord and Christ

In one person—Jesus—we have the one the Old Testament was looking for. Jesus is proven to be Lord because He has fulfilled the prophecy of [Psalm 110:1](#). He is proven to be the Christ because He has fulfilled the prophecy about being King on David's throne. We might also add here that Peter teaches that Jesus is the Savior. That is implied in [Acts 2:21](#).

1. Who is it that made Jesus to be both Lord and Christ? Was it Peter?
2. Look carefully at [Acts 2:35](#). What is implied about Jesus in that verse? It is true that He is both Lord and Christ, but He is also to be something else when He returns? What is another term that could be used to describe Him?
3. According to [Acts 2:37](#), how did the people react when they learned they had killed the Lord?
4. Some people insist that Jesus can be your Savior without being your Lord. How would you respond to that claim?
5. Read [Acts 3:1-26](#). How many terms can you find in this chapter that are used to identify Jesus? List them.
6. Take a look at [Revelation 1:1-20](#). How many terms can you find that are used to identify Jesus? List them.

Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection of Jesus

In Acts 2, a pattern is established that is found throughout the Book of Acts. Peter preached the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The apostles wanted to convince the people that they must follow Jesus. Why should they follow Him? Because He is both Lord and Christ. How do we know that? Because He has been raised from the dead!

Look again at Acts 2 and take note of all that Peter says about the resurrection. After Peter introduced his sermon with the text from Joel, he began to preach about Jesus. By the third verse (verse 24) of his discourse about Jesus he introduces the resurrection!

1. Read Acts 2:24. Why was it not possible that Jesus should be held captive by the agony of death?

2. Peter has three things in his sermon that he uses to argue for the resurrection of Jesus. Here are the three arguments he uses. Identify the verses for each and explain Peter's arguments.
 - a. Proof from Miracles:

 - b. Prophetic Statements:

 - c. Personal Witness:

3. Several weeks earlier, Peter had denied Jesus; at that time, all the apostles fled. What was it that gave Peter and the apostles such boldness on the Day of Pentecost?

The Message of Resurrection in the Book of Acts

Acts 2 was only the beginning. The resurrection of Jesus was the central message preached by the early Christians. The Apostle Paul emphasized the truth of the resurrection in his first letter to the Corinthians. Paul's statements show us why the preaching of resurrection in Acts is so critical!

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 12-19. What is the consequence for us if there is no resurrection?

2. Acts 3:15 is a resurrection text. Why do you think Peter calls Jesus the Prince of life?

3. Read Acts 4:1-10. Why were the rulers in Jerusalem so upset with the apostles?

4. In Acts 5:29-32 the apostles present the case for the resurrection at their trial. What do they claim as proof?

5. What evidence did Jesus present to Saul in Acts 9:1-6 that the resurrection was true?

6. Read Acts 10:34-43. What proofs did Peter use to argue for the resurrection of Jesus?

7. Read Acts 13:26-39. Paul declared that the resurrection of Jesus fulfilled what prophecy?

8. Have we missed any references to Jesus' resurrection in the Book of Acts? If so, list them.

Men and Brethren, What Shall We Do?

That's the question of the crowd that heard Peter and the apostles preach (Acts 2:37). They were cut to the heart by the powerful gospel message (Romans 10:17). Everything Peter had taught was designed to lead them to ask this question.

But, the question is not asked in a vacuum. They are not asking "What shall we do for lunch?" The question points back to the key verse in the chapter.

1. Read [Acts 2:21](#). How does the question in verse 37 relate to verse 21?
2. Remember that these were people who seven weeks earlier called for Jesus' crucifixion. Now they want to know how to _____ upon the name of the Lord.
3. Peter's answer to them is two-fold. What two things does he tell them to do in [Acts 2:38](#)?
4. Peter tells them why they need to do these two things. He says it is "for" what?
5. Read [Matthew 26:28](#). What do you find in this verse that is identical to what is in [Acts 2:38](#)?
6. In telling them what to do to be saved, there is no mention of believing or of having faith. Why is that?
7. Repentance is one of the hardest things to do in being saved. Why?

The Message of Salvation

Acts 2 was only the beginning of the message of salvation. The same thing that was preached in Acts 2 was preached throughout the Book of Acts! This book shows us many cases of conversion, as well as cases of non-conversion.

1. Read [Acts 2:40-47](#). How did the people on Pentecost respond to the message of salvation?
2. How were the lives of these people changed?
3. Read [Acts 3:19](#). Did Peter change his message about how to be saved? Explain your answer.
4. What does [Acts 6:7](#) mean when it uses the phrase "obedient to the faith"?
5. Read [Acts 8:4-13](#). What did these people do to be saved? How does this fit with Jesus' words in [Mark 16:15-16](#) and [Luke 24:47](#)?
6. Read [Acts 8:18-24](#). What was Simon, a new convert, in danger of losing?
7. Read [Acts 9:1-9](#). Was Saul saved on the road to Damascus? For help, read [Acts 22:16](#).
8. In the conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10:34-48), did he do something different than those in Acts 2? Explain.

Addressing the Issue

The "gift of the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38 is the subject of controversy. Folks make unwarranted assumptions about this text. Some say, "Obviously, the Holy Spirit is the gift." But a careful study will show us something different!

The Gift of God

Read the following texts and identify what "the gift of God" is in each. In which of these verses is God the gift?

- Ecclesiastes 3:13
- John 4:10
- Romans 6:23
- 1 Corinthians 7:7
- Ephesians 2:8

The Key Verse in Acts 2

In an earlier lesson we showed [Acts 2:21](#) to be the key. It introduces every element of Peter's sermon. In that text he said that the result of calling upon the name of the Lord would be *salvation*. Answer these questions from Acts 2.

1. Who is the Lord upon whom they must call? (Acts 2:22-24).
2. Of whom did David speak in prophecy? (Acts 2:25-29)
3. What promise was made to David? (Acts 2:30)
4. For what purpose was Jesus raised from the dead? (Acts 2:30-33)
5. What did Jesus receive when He ascended into heaven? (Acts 2:33) Did He receive the Holy Spirit? Or, did He receive something promised by the Holy Spirit?

The Key Verse (continued)

6. Who is now reigning in heaven? (Acts 2:34-36) What two terms did Peter use to describe this person?
7. What have the people on Pentecost learned about their spiritual condition? (Acts 2:36-37)

What do they want when they ask, "What shall we do?"

How does this relate to [Acts 2:21](#)?

Analyzing Peter's Answer in Acts 2:38-39

Here is what Peter accomplishes in Acts 2:

1. He identifies **who** the Lord is upon whom they must call: Jesus is both Lord and Christ
2. He tells them **how** to call upon the name of the Lord: by repenting and being baptized.
3. He tells **why** they must call upon Him: for the remission of sins.
4. He tells them the **result** of calling upon Him: they shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How was this result expressed in [Acts 2:21](#)?

Who made the promise in [Acts 2:21](#)?

Who was the promise in [Acts 2:21](#) for?

Who was the promise in [Acts 2:39](#) for?

Conclusion: The gift of the Holy Spirit is the promised gift of _____ that was foretold by the Holy Spirit in Old Testament prophecy.

See [Luke 1:77](#) for an interesting thought about salvation.

Continuing Steadfastly

A new day had arrived. About 3,000 souls had obeyed the gospel. They were now Christians. But what was next? These Jewish Christians could not return to how things used to be. They would no longer be bound to the Law of Moses. We learn in [Acts 2:42](#) that they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. The teaching of the apostles came directly from Jesus, [John 17:20-21](#). The new Christians learned what God expected from them with respect to their walk and their worship.

Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth

About three years earlier Jesus spoke of a time where things would change with respect to those who worshiped God. See [John 4:23-24](#).

1. What did Jesus mean when He spoke of worshipping God in spirit?
2. What did Jesus mean when He spoke of worshipping God in truth?
3. How would you define worship?

Worship under the Law of Moses

Our text in [Acts 2:42](#) is the launching pad for what worship under the New Covenant would look like. Before we address the new components of worship, let's review what worship was like for a Jew before he became a Christian.

According to [2 Chronicles 30:1-5](#), when Hezekiah became king, he reestablished the order of worship according to the prescribed manner.

God always gave His people a pattern to follow. Read the passages listed in the right hand column, and identify the elements of worship in the Old Testament.

For example, in [Exodus 20:8-11](#), we learn that the Jews were to observe the Sabbath every week.

Worship under the Law of Moses (continued)

1. [Leviticus 23:4-5](#):
2. [1 King 12:25-27](#); [John 4:19-20](#):
3. [Leviticus 1:1-10](#):
4. [2 Chronicles 29:25-30](#); [Psalm 150:1-6](#):

Worship under the Law of Christ

The Jewish Christians would continue to worship God, but there would be a new standard. See [Acts 2:42](#).

1. To what does "the apostles doctrine" refer?
2. What is the "fellowship" that is referenced in [Acts 2:42](#)? Read [1 Corinthians 16:1-3](#); [Philippians 1:5](#); [4:15](#) to help with this question.
3. To what does "the breaking of bread" refer? Read [Acts 20:7](#) to help answer this question.
4. Can you find an example in the book of Acts where the church is said to have prayed?
5. What element of New Testament worship is not mentioned in [Acts 2:42](#)?
6. The saints came together as a church, [1 Corinthians 11:17-20](#). What was the prescribed day for when they did this? Provide a passage with your answer.

A Panoramic View of the Church

Acts 2 provides the answer for a lot of questions that people have concerning the church. In [Acts 2:47 \(NKJV\)](#) the church is mentioned for the first time in the present tense. But what else can we learn about the church? Let's consider a panoramic view of the church from the scriptures.

The Church Was Mentioned in Prophecy

In [Isaiah 2:1-4](#) we learn about the church in prophecy. Answer the following questions from this text.

1. What would God establish?
2. Who would be a part of it?
3. Where would it be established?
4. When would it be established?
5. How would people enter it?
6. See also [Daniel 2:44-45](#). What do we learn about the church from this prophet?

Jesus Promised to Build the Church, [Matthew 16:18](#)

From [Matthew 16:18](#), we learn some important facts about the church.

1. How many churches did Jesus promise to build?
2. What did Jesus mean when He used the word church? Was He referring to a building or people? Explain.

The Church Was Established on the Day of Pentecost

1. Isaiah said that God would establish His house in Jerusalem. Read [Acts 2:5](#). Where did the events of Pentecost occur?
2. Isaiah said that God's house would be established in the last days. Read [Acts 2:17](#). Do you think this fulfills Isaiah's prophecy?
3. Isaiah said that people would be taught the way of the LORD in order to enter His house. Read [Acts 2:22-38](#). What were people taught on the day of Pentecost?
4. Isaiah said that all nations would flow into the LORD's house. Read [Acts 2:5](#). What group first did that?
5. Read [Acts 10:44-48](#). What other group of people would also become a part of the church?

The Church Is Made Up of Saved People

When we think of church we need to think people. The church is made up of saved people, [Acts 2:47](#).

1. Read [Ephesians 5:23](#); [Colossians 1:24](#). How is the church described?
2. According to [Ephesians 4:4](#), how many "bodies" does Christ have?
3. Read [1 Timothy 3:15](#). How is the church described?
4. Read [Ephesians 3:20-21](#). What is the purpose of the church?

ACTS 1:1-26

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas;

Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,

16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

17 "for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'

21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

23 And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen

25 "to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

ACTS 2:1-24

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

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

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

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

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"

9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 "Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--

23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

ACTS 2:25-47

25 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

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

30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,

35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

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

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.