

Lecture 8 – The First Major Speech in Acts

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:36

Key Terms

Outpouring of the Spirit, resurrection, exaltation, repentance, baptism

Objectives

- *List the four major sections of the speech in Acts 2.
- *Explain how Joel’s prophecy applies to the situation of the outpouring of the Spirit.
- *Explain why Peter uses Psalm 110 in his speech.
- *Indicate what role Jesus’ resurrection plays in Acts 2.

The First Major Speech in Acts (Acts 2:14-40)

The lecture begins with Dr. Bayer answering some questions from the prior lecture.

I. Introduction (Acts 2:14-40)

A. Speech by Peter

B. 4 major sections:

1. Explanation of the phenomenon of the outpouring of the Spirit (2:14-21)
2. Presentation of the earthly Jesus (2:22-32)
3. The exalted Jesus (2:33-36)
4. Call to repentance (2:38-40)

II. Verse 14

- A. Way the speech is introduced is very significant
- B. Peter is spokesman of the 12 disciples
 1. Corporate, apostolic witness
- C. Addressed to Palestinian and Diaspora Jews

III. Verse 15

- A. Peter deals first with those who accuse the apostles

IV. Verses 16-18

- A. Explanation of Pentecost by reference to Joel
- B. Spirit is poured out indiscriminately
- C. Context of Joel’s prophecy: Call to repentance, offer of forgiveness, the coming of the day of the Lord
- D. Peter pronounces: This is the event of Joel; it is the commencement of the end times.

V. Verses 19-20

- A. Some say: References to crucifixion of Christ (F.F. Bruce)
- B. Bayer: The concluding point (v. 21) is very important, so Peter cites the entire passage, despite the fact that vv. 19-20 probably apply to the future.

VI. Verse 21

- A. “Calling on the name of the Lord” is attributing divinity to God.

VII. Verse 22

- A. No obvious transition/link between outpouring of the Spirit and the description of the earthly Jesus
- B. Signs and wonders confirm authority and claim of the Messiah

VIII. Verse 23

- A. People thought they were pursuing their agenda, but they were actually fulfilling God’s purposes. Does not justify their actions!

- B. "Handing over": God takes His protective hands off His anointed Servant.
- C. A simple and real story of Jesus going to His death.

IX. Verse 24

- A. Peter testifies to Jesus' resurrection as a witness.
- B. Refers to Psalm 18:5

X. Verses 25-28

- A. Reference to Ps. 16 (and 18)
- B. Proof from the OT that Jesus had to be raised from dead

XI. Verse 29

- A. Peter carefully explains that Psalm 16 cannot apply to David.

XII. Verses 30 and 31

- A. Peter recognizes David as a prophet.
- B. Refers to 2 Sam. 2:7, Ps. 16, Ps. 18

XIII. Verse 32

- A. The resurrection is demonstrated from the OT, witnessed to by the disciples, and makes it possible that Jesus pours out the Spirit.

XIV. Verse 33

- A. Concentrated reference to who Jesus is.
- B. Resurrection anticipated a place of honor that gives Jesus His rightful status
- C. Father hands to the Son the promise of _____

XV. Verses 34 and 35

- A. Reference to Ps. 110
- B. Psalm 2: Messianic Son psalm
- C. Ps. 16: Resurrection psalm
- D. Psalm 110
 1. Conversation between Yahweh and *Adonai*, Yahweh says to "My Lord": Sit at my right hand until _____.
 2. This text is about Christ; Mark 12:36 and 37: 'David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?"'
 3. Origin of the preaching and confessing of the early church that Jesus is the Lord, *Adonai*
- E. Concurrent with exaltation: Opposition
 1. Psalm 2, Psalm 110, Isaiah 53
- F. Verse 35: Eschatological description of what is happening now that *Adonai* has been exalted
- G. Great respect paid to David, described as someone who looked forward

XVI. Verse 36

- A. Most concentrated christological statement of the speech and maybe of entire book of Acts
- B. What does 'made' mean?
 1. Could mean: He was not before.
 2. But: Same word as in Mark 3:14, there translated as _____
Connotation: A particular commission, an affirmation of a particular ministry

XVII. Verse 37

- A. Hearts of the listeners where pierced
- B. 'What shall we do?' Might be a typically Jewish response

XVIII. Verse 38

- A. Baptism: Water baptism and identification with Christ
- B. Summary statement: One work of God

XIX. Verse 39

- A. Reference echoing Abrahamic promise; God is in charge, the one who calls

B. Not clear what Peter means with “those far off”

XX. Verses 40 and 41

A. An amazing burst of external growth

Questions:

Do you know why you believe in Jesus as Lord?

Do you know how to communicate that truth?