

## Thoughts on Peter's first sermon: Acts 2:14-40

- 2:16 Peter says that this Pentecost arrival of the Spirit is Joel's prophecy being fulfilled. *Peter knows his scriptures!*  
(Joel 2:28-32)
- 2:17 "***I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.***" Peter sees the Pentecost arrival of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of this part of the prophecy as proof that they were living in the last days... they certainly were dreaming dreams and prophesying!
- 2:20 ***The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood*** ... In Joel's day a horrendous locust plague darkened the sun and turned the moon red. Joel prophesied that God would do the same on the Day of Judgment at the end of time (Joel 2:10 & 3:15). Peter saw the sun darkened at Jesus' death – from noon until 3pm. – as another fulfillment of this prophecy.
- 2:21 "***Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.***" Since Peter sees this as the reason he and all the 120 disciples were empowered to witness ... he gets on with the task of doing so!
- 2:22 ***Jesus of Nazareth a man attested to you by God...*** Peter begins with Jesus' known earthly title and supposed personhood (a man). But goes on to declare that the signs and miracles which they saw were God's "attestation" that He was more than just a man. Peter perhaps also saw Jesus' signs and wonders as another fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.
- The obvious question then is: Who was Jesus?
- 2:23 ***this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God.*** But rather than answer their question now, Peter goes on to say that His death was also according to God's plan. Jesus always knew that His ministry on earth had to end with His

death: *behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world* (John 1.29).

- 2:23 ***you crucified and killed.*** Jesus death may be part of God's plan, and actually performed by the Romans, but it did not release the Jews from his blood guilt.
- 2:24 ***But God raised Him up... impossible for death to hold him.*** Mere humans stay dead, implying again that Jesus was more than a mere human.
- 2:25-31 ***David prophesied about Him...*** (From Psalm 16:8-10). Peter calls upon David, the most respected Jewish hero to further bolster his claim that Jesus was more than just a man. And he uses proof of David's continued death ("*his tomb is with us to this day*") as evidence that David was not speaking about himself but about his future promised descendant – the Messiah – when writing that God would not leave this one dead or let his flesh see corruption.
- 2:32-34 Furthermore the Holy Spirit whose activities they are now witnessing came as a gift from Jesus who now lives in Heaven as God's "right-hand man."
- 2:36 ***God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.*** Now Peter reveals who Jesus really is ...
- 2:38-39 ***Repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit... this promise if for everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Him.*** Peter's alter call is given to all, yet he realizes that God still has a say in who will respond. Little did he know at this time that those he had labeled as, ***all who are far off***, would include the gentiles (us).
- 2:40 ***with many other arguments [he] exhorted them.*** Peter's sermon actually lasted longer than 3minutes and 45 seconds ... but the results were amazing: 3,000 people were baptized into the faith before sun down.