

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 2:14–41

Review Acts 2:1–13. Then read Acts 2:14–41.

1. Less than two months ago, Peter was quaking in his sandals at the thought of a servant girl finding out he was associated with Jesus. How has he suddenly become bold enough to address this large crowd? (1:8; 2:4)

2. What phrase does Peter use to label the era in which he and his listeners are living? (v. 17a)

What event sets off this era from the one before it? (Heb. 1:1–2; 1 Pet. 1:18–20)

What is the distinguishing feature of this new age—the age in which we still live today? (vv. 17–18, in which Peter quotes the Old Testament prophet Joel; Is. 32:14–17; Ezek. 36:25–27; 39:28–29)

3. In verse 22 Peter turns to the heart of his speech: Jesus. How does he sum up Jesus' ministry in this verse?
4. Peter then walks the crowd through the culminating events in Jesus' work. List them below.
 - a. v. 23:
 - b. vv. 24–32:
 - c. vv. 33–35:
5. What is now possible for humanity as a result of these events that took place in accordance with "God's set purpose and foreknowledge" (v. 23)? (v. 21; Titus 3:3–7;  * Rev. 7:9–10)
6. The Old Testament law stipulated that "A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses" (Deut. 19:15b). To what two witnesses does Peter appeal to establish the matter of Jesus' resurrection? (vv. 25–28, 32)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

7. Why was it “impossible for death to keep its hold on [Jesus]” (v. 24)? (vv. 24–28)

Why will it be equally impossible for death to hold anyone who believes in Jesus? (Rom. 6:3–5; 8:11;  1 Cor. 15:16–26)

8. Peter portrays Jesus as not only the greater descendant of King David who reigns on the throne of Israel (v. 30), but as the cosmic “Lord and Christ” (v. 36) who has been “exalted to the right hand of God” (v. 33) and whose enemies will be made his footstool (v. 35).
- a. What response do Peter’s listeners have to this portrayal of the man they have helped crucify? (v. 37)
 - b. What is your response to this picture of Jesus?
 - c. What is the only hope for Peter’s listeners—and for us? (v. 38)
9. What has Jesus’ exaltation to the right hand of God the Father made possible? (vv. 33b, 38b;  Jn. 16:7)
10. In 1:8 Jesus told his disciples that they would be his witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Though the crowd in this passage is made up of Jews and converts to Judaism, where do you see hints that this message of salvation will spread across all geographic, ethnic, class, age, and gender lines? (vv. 17–18, 21, 39)
11. The Feast of Pentecost was a time to celebrate the first fruits of the harvest.
- a. What was the result of the Holy Spirit’s work on this Pentecost? (v. 41)
 - b. Why do you think this was the perfect time for the Holy Spirit to come?
12. Through the work of the Spirit, Peter’s message struck his listeners deeply. Which part of his message strikes you particularly? Why?