

A Preparatory for Latter Rain

• ACTS CHAPTER 2 A REPLICA OF PSALMS 133

- “Christ’s Promise Fulfilled.--The time had now come. The Spirit had been waiting for the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ and then the number 12 of the Apostles, to be complete as even Judah had brought a gap. For ten days the disciples offered their petitions for the outpouring of the Spirit, and Christ in heaven added His intercession. This was the occasion of His ascension and inauguration, a jubilee in heaven. He had ascended on high, leading captivity captive, and He now claimed the gift of the Spirit, that He might pour it out upon His disciples (The Southern Work - SW Nov. 28, 1905). {6BC 1055.2}”

- “Heaven's Reservoir of Power not Locked.--[Acts 2:1-4 quoted.] God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly. {6BC 1055.3}.” The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring His Spirit upon the early disciples. We also may receive of the fullness of His blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that He has promised. If we do not have His power, it is because of our spiritual lethargy, our indifference, our indolence. Let us come out of this formality and deadness (RH June 4, 1889). {6BC 1055.4}.”

- “Pure, simple, and fervent was the piety of these followers of Christ. The principles of truth they valued above houses and lands, friends, kindred, even life itself. These principles they earnestly sought to impress upon the hearts of the young. From earliest childhood the youth were instructed in the Scriptures and taught to regard sacredly the claims of the law of God. COPIES OF THE BIBLE WERE RARE; THEREFORE ITS PRECIOUS WORDS WERE COMMITTED TO MEMORY. Many were able to repeat large portions of both the Old and the New Testament. Thoughts of God were associated alike with the sublime scenery of nature and with the humble blessings of daily life. Little children learned to look with gratitude to God as the giver of every favor and every comfort {GC 67.1}”.

- “In the work that was accomplished on the day of Pentecost, we may see what can be done by the exercise of faith. Those who believed in Christ were sealed by the Holy Spirit. As the disciples were assembled together, "there came a sound. . . as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." And Peter stood up among them and spoke with mighty power. Among those who listened to him were devout Jews, who were sincere in their belief. But the power that accompanied the words of the speaker convinced them that Christ was indeed the Messiah. What a mighty work was accomplished! Three thousand were converted in one day {6BC 1055.7}”

• Who were the audience?

- The devout men dwelling in Jerusalem. So devout men need to be baptized again! That's incredible. There are people who think they know anything while actually what we know is nothing: I Corinthians 8:12 viz Rev 3:18. Baptism as its put in Romans 6 is to put off your own self and put on Christ. Are we not being called even today to renounce self and put on Christ! Even to accept that He is the source that we ought to draw from, cause of ourselves we cannot do it. When you die to self, then you are a vessel that can be used by the Holy Spirit, this is the part we are defeated but all is not lost Rev 3:20, "(Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23, 28, 29; Zechariah 10:1; Revelation 18:1.)"
- Pentecost Repeated With Greater Power.--It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue {6BC 1055.5}."

- God can breathe new life into every soul that sincerely desires to serve Him, and can touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar, and cause them to become eloquent with His praise. Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful truths of God's Word. The stammering tongue will be unloosed, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth. May the Lord help His people to cleanse the soul temple from every defilement, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out (RH July 20, 1886) {6BC 1055.6}”.

- REVELATION 18:1, HABAKKUK 2:1
- (Rev 14:9-12; Habakkuk 2:14; see EGW on Acts 2:1-4) ‘The Angel of Revelation 18’
- The prophecies in the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel's message, "another angel" is to "come down from heaven, having great power," and the earth is to be "lightened with his glory." The Spirit of the Lord will so graciously bless consecrated human instrumentalities that men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with His unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea. {7BC 983.9}
- Those who have held the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end will be wide awake during the time that the third angel's message is proclaimed with great power (RH Oct. 13, 1904). {7BC 984.1}

- (2 Timothy 2:14-16; see EGW on Ch. 16:14-17.) Message Prepares for Translation.--Amid the confusing cries, "Lo, here is Christ! Lo, there is Christ!" will be borne a special testimony, a special message of truth appropriate for this time, which message is to be received, believed, and acted upon. It is the truth, not fanciful ideas, that is efficacious. The eternal truth of the Word will stand forth free from all seductive errors and spiritualistic interpretations, free from all fancifully drawn, alluring pictures. Falsehoods will be urged upon the attention of God's people, but the truth is to stand clothed in its beautiful, pure garments. The Word, precious in its holy, uplifting influence, is not to be degraded to a level with common, ordinary matters. It is always to remain uncontaminated by the fallacies by which Satan seeks to deceive, if possible, the very elect. {7BC 984.2}
- The proclamation of the gospel is the only means in which God can employ human beings as His instrumentalities for the salvation of souls. As men, women, and children proclaim the gospel, the Lord will open the eyes of the blind to see His statutes, and will write upon the hearts of the truly penitent His Law. The ANIMATING SPIRIT OF GOD, working through human agencies, leads the believers to be of one mind, one soul, unitedly loving God and keeping His commandments--preparing here below for translation (RH Oct. 13, 1904). {7BC 984.3}

- (Jeremiah 30:7; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1; Ephesians 4:13, 15); refreshing of the Latter Rain.--As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, "the time of Jacob's trouble," they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel (RH May 27, 1862) {7BC 984.4}
- (Isaiah 61:11.) Not to Wait for Latter Rain.--We must not wait for the latter rain. It is coming upon all who will recognize and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us. When we gather up the fragments of light, when we appreciate the sure mercies of God, who loves to have us trust Him, then every promise will be fulfilled. [Isaiah 61:11 quoted.] The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God (Letter 151, 1897) {7BC 984.5}

- Revelation of the Righteousness of Christ.--The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth (RH Nov. 22, 1892) {7BC 984.6} When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel's message is, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (RH Dec. 6, 1892). {7BC 985.5}



The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church. {AA 54.2}

But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest "in the time of the latter rain." In response, "the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." "He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain," Zechariah 10:1; Joel 2:23. {AA 55.1}

But unless the members of God's church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping. Unless they keep their lamps trimmed and burning, they will fail of receiving added grace in times of special need. {AA 55.2}

God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Christ declares to His followers: "Ye are the light of the world." To every soul that accepts Jesus the cross of Calvary speaks: "Behold the worth of the soul: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'" Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work. It is the all-important work for time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity. The love that Jesus manifested for the souls of men in the sacrifice which He made for their redemption, will actuate all His followers. {5T 455.2}

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message. {EW 277.1}

Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." This message **SEEMED TO BE** an addition to the third message, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom. {EW 277.2}

- **A More Evident Fulfillment.--**If this prophecy of Joel met a partial fulfillment in the days of the apostles, we are living in a time when it is to be even more evidently manifest to the people of God. He will so bestow His Spirit upon His people that they will become a light amid the moral darkness; and great light will be reflected in all parts of the world. O that our faith might be increased, that the Lord might work mightily with His people. {4BC 1175.2}

Mark 11:13-22.

And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

For further satisfaction on this point, let us suppose:-

- 1. That this tree was intended to point out the state of the Jewish people.**
- 2. They made a profession of the true religion.**
- 3. They considered themselves the peculiar people of God, and despised and reprobated all others.**
- 4. They were only hypocrites, having nothing of religion but the profession-leaves, and no fruit.**

1. It was a proper time for them to have borne fruit because they had received the former rain through the prophets and John the Baptist: Jesus had been preaching the doctrine of repentance and salvation among them for more than three years; the choicest influences of Heaven had descended upon them; and every thing was done in this vineyard that ought to have been done (ISAIAH 5:1-7), in order to make it fruitful JUST AS WE HAVE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US. That our Lord's conduct towards this tree is to be considered as emblematical of the treatment and final perdition which was to come upon this hypocritical and ungodly nation EVEN AMONG THE CHURCH AS IT IS HAPPENING NOW.

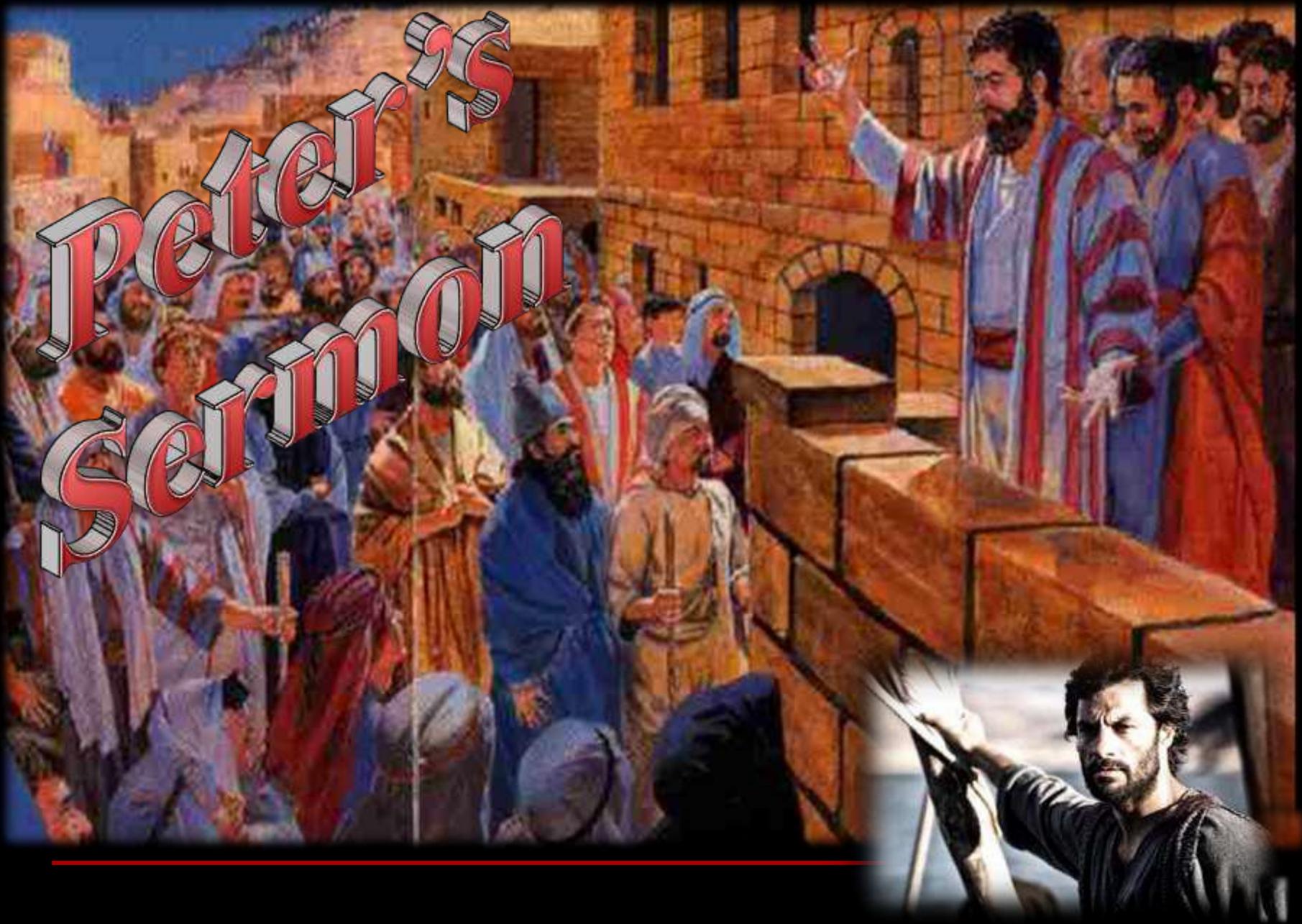
- 2. The time was at hand in which God would require fruit, good fruit; and, if it did not produce such, the tree should be hewn down by the Roman axe OR WE BE SIFTED AND MISS SEALING.

Therefore,

1. The tree is purely the Jewish nation thus **THE CHURCH AT ITS PRESENT STATE.**
2. Christ's curse the sentence of destruction which had now gone out against it; and,
3. It's withering away, the final and total ruin of the Jewish state by the Romans. **“THESE THINGS WERE WRITTEN AS ENSAMPLES OF WHAT SHALL BE OR WHAT SHALL BEFALL THY PEOPLE AS DANIEL 10:14 PUTS IT.** His cursing of the fig tree was not occasioned by any resentment at being disappointed at not finding fruit on it, but to point out unto his disciples the wrath which was coming upon a people who had now nearly filled up the measure of their iniquity. A fruitless soul, that has had much cultivation bestowed on it, may expect to be dealt with as God did with this unrighteous nation/church/people.

- Such as the incarnation of Christ; his various miracles, preaching, death, resurrection, and ascension; are the design of God to save the world through him. From this one circumstance we may learn that all the people enumerated above were either Jews or proselytes; and that there was probably none that could be, strictly speaking, called heathens among them. THE VERY POINT TO NOTE IS THAT, ITS ONLY THOSE WHO WERE PREPARED THAT RECEIVED THIS ANOINTING ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY, THE UNBELIEVING CONTINUED IN THEIR DOUBT SOME TO EVERLASTING PERIL SAVE A FEW WHO ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. After this wonderful outpouring, we find the scripture even being more opened to the disciples more vividly and making them understand and wax bold in the work that was before them. MANY CAN SAY THAT IT WAS AFTER THEY HAD RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT THEY BECAME BOLD BECAUSE BEFORE THAT THEY WERE HIDING. BUT REMEMBER THAT THE DISCIPLES HAD BEEN IN SCHOOL FOR 3 YEARS AND THAT HAD PREPARED THEM FOR THE PRESENT DUTY THEY HAD TO DO. And so the notion that we can sit around not practicing what we intend to do in the future, is cast out from the wrestlers of the word of God: “Heaven's Reservoir of Power not Locked.--[Acts 2:1-4 quoted.] God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly. {6BC 1055.3}.” The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring His Spirit upon the early disciples. We also may receive of the fullness of His blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that He has promised. If we do not have His power, it is because of our spiritual lethargy, our indifference, our indolence. Let us come out of this formality and deadness (RH June 4, 1889). {6BC 1055.4}.”

Peter's Sermon



Filled with The Holy Spirit

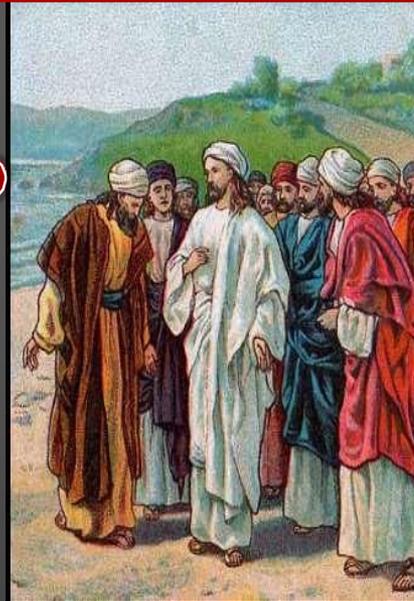
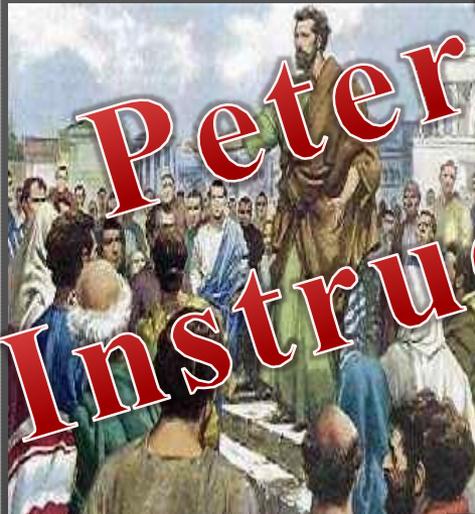


Peter explained to the people the Holy Spirit's arrival and the speaking in tongues.

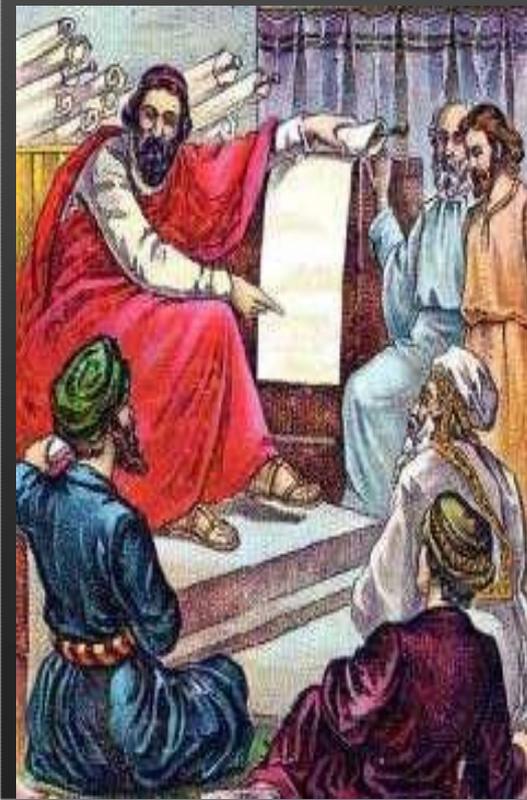
He quoted the prophet Joel about prophesying. Acts 2: 33

“...therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.”

Peter's Instructions

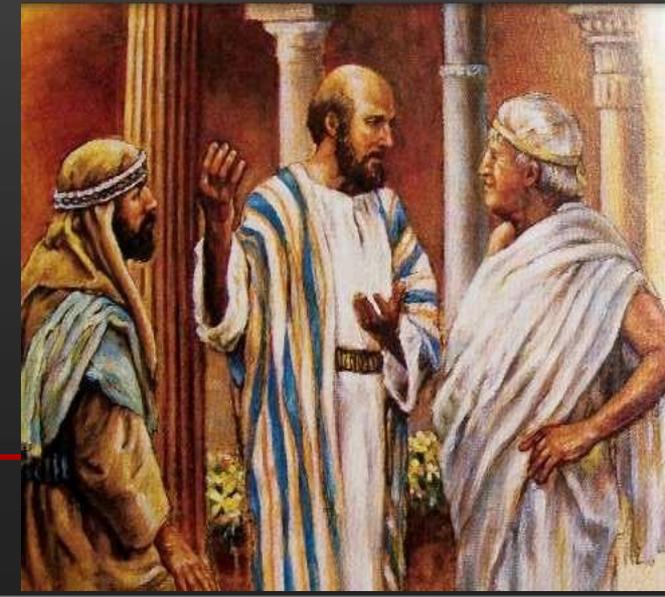


Peter's sermon, the people asked of him and the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"



Peter said to them, **"Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

Those who received his word were baptized and many souls were added.



2:1-12 (ch. 4:13). Second Edition of Christ's Teaching.--After the disciples had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the priests and rulers marveled at the words which they spake, for they knew them as unlearned and ignorant men. But they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. Their teaching was a second edition of the teachings of Christ, the utterance of simple, grand truths that flashed light into darkened minds, and converted thousands in a day. The disciples began to understand that Christ was their Advocate in the heavenly courts, and that He was glorified. They could speak because the Holy Spirit gave them utterance (MS 32, 1900).

2:1-4, 14, 41 (Ephesians 4:30). A Harvest From Christ's Sowing.--In the work that was accomplished on the day of Pentecost, we may see what can be done by the exercise of faith. Those who believed in Christ were sealed by the Holy Spirit. As the disciples were assembled together, "there came a sound. . . as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." And Peter stood up among them and spoke with mighty power. Among those who listened to him were devout Jews, who were sincere in their belief. But the power that accompanied the words of the speaker convinced them that Christ was indeed the Messiah. What a mighty work was accomplished! Three thousand were converted in one day. The seed had been sown by the greatest Teacher the world had ever known. For three and a half years the Son of God had sojourned in the land of Judea, proclaiming the message of the gospel of truth and working with mighty signs and wonders. The seed had been sown, and after His ascension the great ingathering took place. More were converted by one sermon on the day of Pentecost than were converted during all the years of Christ's ministry. So mightily will God work when men give themselves to the control of the Spirit (MS 85, 1903).