

Acts 2:22 ESV (Pg. 530) “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. **25** For David says concerning him, “‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; **26** therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. **27** For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. **28** You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ **29** “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. **34** For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, **35** until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

- I. Last week we talked of how God promised King David that one of his descendants would sit on the throne of Israel forever. From a human perspective, the kingdom of David seemed to fail, being ruled mostly by wicked kings and eventually conquered by her enemies and exiled. Where then was the promise of God? Had it failed?
 - A. The passage we read takes place 50 days after Christ’s crucifixion, 47 days after his resurrection, and 10 days after his ascension to the Father. It was the day of Pentecost. In fulfillment of his promise, Jesus had poured the Holy Spirit out on the church, giving them power to be witnesses of his resurrection before a skeptical world. Peter makes the point that Jesus is David’s long-awaited heir.
 1. Peter addresses the crowd, explaining what they have just heard (uneducated people proclaiming, by the power of the Spirit, the works of God in at least 15 different languages they’ve never learned). He points past the event to a deeper reality. Jesus is the King who will sit on David’s throne.
 2. **“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”** From this passage, let’s answer 4 questions about the reign of the King, Jesus Christ.
 - a) Who is called by God to recognize the reign and kingdom of Christ?
 - b) How much confidence are we to have in his rule?
 - c) By what authority was Jesus’ hold on the kingdom made secure?
 - d) How was Jesus crowned Lord and King? When was his coronation?
 - B. The goal of this message is that we can live with grateful hearts and bended knees as we daily recognize the One who is sovereign over everything, that we lay aside competing loyalties and foreign loves, giving ourselves to deeper faith.

- II. Let's begin by looking at who is called to recognize the reign of Jesus. Peter says, "Let all **the house of Israel** therefore know..." Who is this referring to? On the Day of Pentecost, it was referring to Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem for the feast.
 - A. But don't be too quick to relegate this passage to ethnic Jews alone. Something amazing will happen as you read further in the book of Acts. In chapter 10, God will again use Peter, this time to introduce the gospel to non-Jewish Gentiles, those who were once considered unclean outsiders. This was a big deal!
 1. This is something that no one expected, but that was prophesied over and over in the Old Testament. **Micah 4:1 ESV** It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, **2** and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
 - a) Micah envisions God's dwelling place (mountain of the Lord) lifted high above the other mountains as a beacon to all nations, compelling them to come in, learn his ways and be governed by his righteous laws.
 - b) At the beginning, God told Abraham that in his seed (Israel leading to Jesus), all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The Gentiles were always part of God's plan, but the Jews saw God as exclusively theirs.
 2. So what made the difference? It was faith! Paul tells us that now "Israel" is not defined by nationality, or ceremonies like circumcision, but by faith in the Messiah. Therefore, gentiles with faith in Jesus are "the house of Israel"!
 - a) **Romans 2:28 ESV** For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. **29** But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.
 - b) But none of this was possible until Jesus came and fulfilled the old Jewish covenant so that he could establish the new covenant on better promises. The Jewish covenant was based on a condition: obey and be blessed. The new covenant promised salvation and abundant life to those who believed what God had accomplished through Christ.
 - B. If you are one who believes, you are "the house of Israel"! You will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord (King) and Christ (deliverer). If you trust in your religion, good deeds, or anything else, you are not the true house of Israel, among God's elect. I pray that the Holy Spirit will awaken you to the truth, and that you will believe.
- III. 2nd, how much confidence are we to have that all Peter declared is the truth? "Let all the house of Israel therefore **know for certain**..." The Bible teaches that all the promises of God find their "yes and amen" in Christ! It says God is not a man that he should lie, and even says "let God be true and every man a liar"! Yet many Christians live in such insecurity about the reign of Jesus Christ. We see this in the confidence we place in political solutions, financial security, recognition, comfort and in things. Does your life increasingly demonstrate who's really in charge?

- A. There are 2 indicators of a life truly submitted to Jesus' reign: confidence and sacrifice. We're not identified as believers by our words or our best intentions. **James 2:17 ESV** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
 - 1. Confidence in Jesus' rule is demonstrated first by obedience. If someone doubts the authority of the One who is in command, they are more likely to disobey what they say. Jesus pointed out this kind of hypocrisy. **Luke 6:46 ESV** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' (King) and not do what I tell you?"
 - 2. But the second indicator of submission is sacrifice. The Gospels clearly teach that there is nothing (spiritual or material) that we are to withhold from Jesus because we see his surpassing worth. But it also makes no sense for believers to withhold from Jesus, because he promises to give us everything we need in this life, and to reward our faithfulness richly in the next life. What do we have to lose in the light of all we are promised to gain?
- B. Talk is cheap! May we be a people who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, prove with our lives that we "know for certain" who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! May we not be found clinging to stuff that we think gives us more assurance than we find in Christ, but let us "know for certain" that he alone is King!
- IV. 3rd, we ask "by what authority was Jesus' hold on the Kingdom made secure?" Peter gives us the answer several times in our text. God the Father is the power behind everything Jesus accomplished. He willed all of it and brought it to pass.
 - A. "Jesus of Nazareth, a man **attested to you by God** with mighty works and wonders and **signs that God did through him in your midst**" God endorsed the ministry of Christ by working through his words and through his hands before the people of his time. The man healed of blindness in John 9 told his Pharisee inquisitors, "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."
 - B. "this Jesus, delivered up according to **the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." Jesus was executed by sinners, but they were players in a drama the Father had scripted.
 - C. "**God raised him up**, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." God planned Jesus' atoning death, but he was also the architect of his resurrection. Nothing can show God's power more than this!
 - D. "**God had sworn with an oath to (David)** that he would set one of his descendants on his throne." God is not a man that he should lie! God made a promise to David, and he watched over it until it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ!
 - 1. Peter points out the now Jesus has ascended to the throne at the right hand of his Father, fulfilling all the promises made to David in a way more glorious and eternal than any national Jew could have ever foreseen.
 - 2. As long as Jesus lives, he will be King. As long as God keeps his word and maintains his power, Jesus will sovereignly reign over all creation.
- V. Lastly, we must ask ourselves "How was Jesus crowned Lord and King? When was his coronation?" This is a hard question in one sense because when we talk about Jesus being crowned King, we are not implying that there was ever a time when Jesus wasn't Lord. Jesus is, and always has been God. What, then, do we mean?

- A. When mankind sinned in the garden, we became subject to sin, the devil and death. The oppression of these enemies had to be crushed by a representative of the human race so that we could be restored to righteousness, God, and life.
 1. This was only possible by one of us living in perfect righteousness, thereby meeting God's perfect standard. Yet because sin had so thoroughly corrupted us, none of us were capable of attaining the required perfection.
 - a) So Jesus, who was God (perfect and unblemished in any way), became a man so that he could fulfill everything we could never be. He always pleased the Father, obeying in every aspect of a normal human life.
 - b) This is what the writer of Hebrews means: **Hebrews 5:8 ESV Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.** He doesn't mean that Jesus could have ever disobeyed, but rather that he obeyed perfectly under the exact same circumstances we live under.
 2. Jesus was born to earthly parents, grew up, worked, got hungry, thirsty, and tired, was persecuted and rejected just like us, yet never sinned. This makes him able to stand in our place to represent us in righteousness.
 - B. But our problem was two-fold. Not only could we not perfectly obey God's righteous decrees, making ourselves desperate for a representative, we had already filled the cup of God's justice with unrighteous acts that required decisive punishment. To let us go would have made God unjust. That can't be!
 1. But the Holy One who represented us in righteousness went one step further and represented us in sin and judgement. **1 Peter 3:18 ESV For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...**
 2. God regarded One that was perfectly righteous as completely sinful, so that those who were completely sinful could be regarded as perfectly righteous.
 - C. So the cross, that awful symbol of the bloody death of those guilty of the worst crimes, became the symbol of Christ's victory and our eternal deliverance. **"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."**
 1. Only in the unfathomable wisdom of God could a bloody tree be transformed into a blowing trumpet signifying that old powers were overthrown, that old enemies were defeated, and that a new King would reign forever and ever.
 2. It was on that cross that our dying savior declared, "It is finished!" Now nothing remains to be done, except to believe that we may be freed from sin's deadly sting, from death's merciless grip. All hail the King! Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered!
- VI. For those of you who have never pledged allegiance to the King, won't you do so today? Real, abundant life is promised to all who do. Trusting him is not about moral reformation (although your life will change!); it's about believing that God has accomplished in Christ what you can't do for yourself. It's about turning from your sin in a vain search for meaning and satisfaction and clinging to the God of love.
- A. Some of you think Jesus is your King because you prayed a prayer once, or go to church, or live a mostly moral life, or any other religious thing; while inside

you are filled with bitterness, jealousy, envy, lust, anger, or fear. I'm calling on you to throw yourself on God's mercy and get honest about who you really are.

1. Skydiving is meaningless as a hypothetical reality. I can own a parachute and brag about its high quality construction, but until I am willing to jump out of a plane at high altitude, the parachute I own is worthless.
2. That's how too many of us are with Christianity. We own a little bit of it. We brag about how much better it is than what the Catholics or Mormons have, but we have never trusted our very lives with it.
 - a) Jump out of the plane with nothing to rely on but Jesus! He will not let you fall to the ground!
 - b) **Psalm 91:11 ESV** For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. **12** On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

B. There are also people here who truly love King Jesus. You want to depend on him, but you find your heart wavering instead of trusting. Today I call you to reach out to him in faith and ask that you might live a life of greater devotion, worship, sacrifice and service. His Spirit will reveal his beauty to you more and more and cause your heart to be drawn to him. Just keep pressing forward!

VII. **Communion: 1 Corinthians 11:23 ESV** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

VIII. **Benediction: 1 Timothy 1:17 ESV** To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.