

# Jesus Is both Lord and Christ

Acts 2:22-36

*Halifax: 21 August 2011*

## **Introduction**

Who is Jesus?

- The way you answer that question makes all the difference.
  - The Bible is clear about the importance of knowing Him—
    - In John 3:36 it says:
      - **John 3:36: "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."**
    - This has to do with eternal destinies!
      - everlasting life if you believe and
      - abiding wrath from God if you do not believe!
- You may be among the many who say that you believe in Jesus.
  - But it is imperative that you believe about Him in the right way.
    - There are a whole lot of different opinions about Jesus.
      - Some men who are great scholars make certain claims about who they think He is—and their claims are often very contradictory...
        - They often share the modern bias against the supernatural, supposing that by definition science explains everything without God's hand.
        - This is a very arbitrary and unsatisfactory way to look at things when there is testimony from our creator.
        - True science will not rule out such testimony.
      - And then there are popular opinions about Jesus—
        - People have a fill in the blank Jesus that they believe in...
        - They decide what they would like Jesus to be and then that is what they believe about Him...
          - But that extremely self-centred and is nothing more than wishful thinking.
      - Neither of these methods are suitable for coming to a true and certain understanding of who Jesus is.
- There is only one sure way to do that!
  - We need to come to the testimony that God Himself has given us concerning Jesus.
  - A couple of weeks ago,

- we saw that Jesus appointed twelve apostles to be His official witnesses and promised to give them perfect understanding of what He did and taught and of what it means to us.
- These men were guided by God’s Spirit to proclaim the truth about Him for their own generations as well as for all generations that would follow—including ours!
- And their writings and teachings are preserved for us in Holy Scripture,
  - the book that God has given to us through the Apostles to be His official testimony of Jesus Christ.
  - So if you really want to know who Jesus is, you must come to scripture to find out.
- And right here in Acts 2:22-36, we have the great apostle Peter’s testimony about Jesus.
  - It is the first sermon that was preached after the Holy Spirit was poured out to empower him and the other apostles to preach the truth about Jesus—enabling him to remember and understand.
    - As we saw last week,
      - the Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus’ followers when they were gathered at Jerusalem.
      - The LORD had made the coming of the Spirit very conspicuous with signs and wonders...
        - He made it audible by accompanying it with the sound of a mighty rushing wind...
        - And He made it visible by tongues of fire that came upon each of the 120 followers of Jesus.
    - There was a great crowd of people in Jerusalem that saw and heard this, and they gathered to see what was going on...
      - They were Jews who had come for the feast of Pentecost from all over the world...
        - And they were amazed because they heard the disciples of Jesus speak of His wonderful works in their own languages...
        - And they knew that these Galilean fishermen did not know their languages!
          - They did not know how this could be happening!
    - And then Peter—Peter who had been transformed by the Holy Spirit—
      - stood up and began to tell them what all this was about!

- He went to the Old Testament scriptures—to the prophecy of Joel where God had promised that the Holy Spirit would be poured out in the last days!
  - But there was a dreadful warning in Joel too that along with the blessing of the Spirit, terrible judgement would fall on Jerusalem!
    - There would be blood and fire and smoke...
      - And of course there was.
      - In 70 AD Jerusalem fell with a more devastating destruction than ever before.
  - But there was also a wonderful promise that whoever called upon the name of the LORD would be saved!
    - Saved from the coming judgement of God!
- I urged you that you need to realise that God's Spirit has come and is still here today...
  - Jesus baptises His people with the Spirit to give us new life and to unite us to Him as the crucified Saviour for the forgiveness of sins.
  - It is still true that whoever calls upon the LORD will be saved.
    - That is why it is so important for you to believe rightly about Him—so that you may call upon Him and be saved.

And that is where we stopped last week because I wanted to have plenty of time to tell you what Peter says at the heart of his sermon.

- The heart of His sermon is about Jesus.
- He begins to talk about Him in verse 22 and he does not stop until verse 37 when some of the hearers ask Peter what they need to do to be saved...
  - And Peter tells them to repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus for the remission of sin...
  - They are to turn from their own way (that is repentance) to follow Jesus as Lord, and they are to look to Him for cleansing which they do by getting baptised...
    - Baptism with water represents the cleansing that we receive when we look to Jesus by faith, and we openly and officially declare that we are doing that by baptism.
- But I am getting ahead.
  - We are going to look at that in detail next week.
  - First, you need to see who Jesus is so that you can call upon Him and not on someone you just made up.
    - And Peter tells us just who Jesus is in verse 22-36.
      - He summarises it all in verse 36 when He says:

- **Acts 2:36: Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**
- This is the conclusion of all that Peter says about Jesus.
  - This is what they needed to know assuredly if they were to be saved...
    - That He is LORD means that He is in charge and that they must submit to Him and follow Him.
    - That He is Christ means that He is the Messiah or the Anointed One who was sent by the Father to save His people from their sins—that they must come to Him for that salvation—for forgiveness and for new life.
- And this is what you need to know assuredly today if you are to be saved.
  - You need to submit to Him as Lord and trust Him as Christ.
  - And so let's take a look and see what Peter, God's official witness of Jesus Christ, has to say about Him!
    - We can fully trust what Peter says about Him
    - It is much more reliable than the scholars and the people around you.
    - What Peter says in the very Word of God.

Peter shows us four ways that He is shown to be Lord and Christ.

- Peter is eager for his hearers to know this.
  - And I am eager for you to this about Jesus too so that you will follow Him as your Lord and trust Him for forgiveness and eternal life.
  - So please give my your complete attention as we look at these four ways that Peter points to to show us that He is LORD and Christ.

## **I. First, Jesus is shown to be LORD and Christ by the signs and wonders He did while He was on earth...**

### **A. Peter introduces Him as "Jesus of Nazareth."**

1. It is interesting that he begins this way because this reminds everyone of His very humble origins.
  - Nazareth was a backward sort of a place and nobody important was expected to come from there.
  - This was something that a lot of people who saw Jesus' miracles took up as a ready excuse to dismiss Him...
    - "He can't be the Christ of God (which means Messiah or anointed one)—He's from Nazareth."
    - And even though Peter knew that this was a common objection, he shows that he is not embarrassed about this at all...
      - He begins talking about Him by calling Him "Jesus of Nazareth."
2. That is a great thing about the truth...

- You don't need to be ashamed of it or embarrassed about it...
  - Someone finds out that you are Christian and they say—"but I believe in evolution, science has proved evolution."
  - "You are not one of those Christians who believe that God made the world in six days, are you?"
  - And you can start apologises and being ashamed or avoiding this question...
- But the best thing you can do is just boldly say—"Why yes, of course I believe that," and then go on and tell them about the Lord!
  - They know that they have latched on to evolution as a convenient way to dismiss the truth—and they want you to be unhinged when they talk like that...
    - But don't let it unhinge you.
      - You can say more about it if you want to...
      - Peter could have told them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem as the prophets had foretold and all of that...
        - But he wants to get on to his main point about who Jesus is, so he dismisses the objection about Nazareth by letting them know up front that this objection is no threat to what he is going to tell them...

TRANS> And the point Peter makes is that...

B. Jesus of Nazareth was shown to be Lord and Christ by the signs and wonders that He did while He was on earth:

- Look at verse 22—he calls Him:
  - **Acts 2:22: "Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—**
- 1. Jesus had done real miracles and signs among them—just like the ones they had just seen in connection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!
  - a. These were signs and wonders that the Father gave Christ to do for the very purpose of demonstrating that He was the Christ.
    - They were designed to show forth His supernatural power in a most convincing way—
      - not like the cheap so-called miracles that some boast of today.
    - Jesus frequently told His detractors that if they would not believe Him, they ought to believe the signs that the Father had given Him to do.
      - God had used signs to confirm Moses and the other prophets—and Jesus was given even greater signs...

- b. And unlike the prophets, He did them in His own name as by His own authority...showing that He is LORD....
  - 1) When He calmed the sea, He showed that He was Lord of the wind and the waves...
  - 2) When He healed the paralytic, He declared that the man's sins were forgiven, showing that He had authority to forgive sins.
  - 3) When He cast out demons, He showed that He had authority over them.
  
- c. And unlike the prophets, He also used His signs and wonders to show that He was the Christ.
  - 1) When He fed the 5000, He declared that He was the bread of life who came down from heaven to give life...
  - 2) When He healed the sick or cleansed lepers, He showed that was taking all of our infirmities.
  - 3) When He raised the dead, He showed that He was the resurrection and the life.
  
- 2. You see that Peter boldly declares that Jesus did these things "as you yourselves know."
  - Only recently, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead even though he had been dead for four days...
    - and the Jewish authorities all knew about this and spoke about it as a problem because everyone knew that Jesus had done this...
    - They did not deny the miracle, but grew concerned that people would start following Jesus more because of it.
  
  - His miracles and signs were not like the stupid miracles that modern TV preachers do.
    - This is not about people claiming that their fillings have turned to gold and having a dentist tell them that they are not gold or producing the records to show them that they put the gold in for them.
    - These were miracles that the leaders never even attempted to deny.
      - Josephus, the Jewish historian writes it as a fact that Jesus did all sorts of marvellous works.
      - In the Talmud, instead denying that Jesus did such things, it says that He did them by the powers of the darkness.
        - That was the best they could come up with!

TRANS> It stands in the annals of history that Jesus did these miracles and signs.

- 3. And though there are some who would deny the record of history today, we have miracles and signs from Jesus today that are especially obvious to us...

- a. For example, we can see how the gospel has spread to the nations, just as prophets (as well as Jesus) said that it would in times when it looked hopeless.
  - There is no way to account for how it spread and how it transformed cultures so that they stopped killing and turned from idols to serve the living and true God.
    - How did the prophets know this if not by divine revelation?
  
- b. And we have the evidence of the apostles themselves—who said that they had seen Jesus alive and were willing to die for that testimony.
  - If they did not believe it, their behaviour cannot be explained.
  - Why would anyone suffer again and again for something they knew was not true?
    - Not something that had been told them, but something that they had seen with their own eyes...
      - And not in a momentary vision, but they saw the risen Christ over and over again,
        - they heard Him teach,
        - they ate with Him,
        - they saw Him ascend into heaven,
        - He opened the scriptures to them and gave them new understanding.
      - How is it that they taught as they did—being unlearned men if it were not that the Holy Spirit really did come upon them?
  
- c. These things are not out of range for anyone to know.
  - The problem is that many people do not want to know—just like the Jewish leaders.
  - The problem is not a lack of evidence, but a sinful rebellious heart that does not want to find out that Jesus is Lord and Christ.

TRANS> So Jesus is shown to be Lord and Christ by the signs and wonders and miracles that He performed while He was on the earth...

- and now Peter goes on to speak of the second way He shows that He is Lord and Christ...

## **II. He shows that He is Lord and Christ by the fact that He went to the cross...**

- **according the “determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.”**
- Verse 23 says:
  - **Acts 2:23: Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;**

- A. Now here is something for sure that Peter's opponents would think He ought to be ashamed of...
- the Messiah, crucified and put to death by the hands of the Jewish authorities?
1. Peter *had* been terribly ashamed about this when it happened...
    - On the night Jesus was betrayed, Peter had been quite ready for a fight,
      - but He had not been willing for Jesus to go as a lamb to the slaughter, dumb and yielded!
        - It was an outrage—it was unconscionable!
        - The Messiah should have called fire down from heaven or something!
  2. But now Peter speaks of Jesus deliverance to be crucified as **the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.**
    - Not an accident at all, but something that was completely planned out!
      - Why did Peter have such a change of mind?
    - Because now He understood that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
      - Now he was not at all ashamed, but totally impressed that Jesus had willingly gone to the cross!
      - Now He understood that all those Old Testament sacrifices that were continually slaughtered were pictures of the Christ as a substitute for sinners.
      - Now He understood that all of our iniquities were laid on Him—and that in willing love, He went to bear our iniquities so that we could be forgiven.
      - Now He understood that it was the Father's great love that had caused Him to purpose from before the foundation of the world to send His Son to die in the place of guilty sinners.
        - It would have been impossible for Peter to say in any stronger terms that the crucifixion was the plan of God from start to finish...
          - **delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.**
            - It was not just that God **knew** the future—it was that He had **planned** for this to be done...
              - It was He who sent Jesus for the purpose of giving His life a ransom for sinners to redeem them through His blood.
    - Peter sees that this is God's greatest act of love yet for His people!
      - He has learned, as every believer does, to glory in the cross.
      - Do you glory in the cross, or are you ashamed of it?



- Only when God shows you how much you need a crucified Saviour and shuts up your boasting in your own goodness will you glory in the cross.
  - It was not an unfortunate outcome—it was God’s gracious plan!
- B. But notice that even though it was the plan of God, it was also the deed of wicked lawless men.
1. Peter is very bold speaking to the Jewish leaders who boasted in the law that they had taken Him by lawless hands!
    - But they knew it was true!
    - They knew that they had schemed and plotted and set up false witnesses!
      - Peter’s words must have struck deeply because they knew that they had not been honest.
        - They had acted for political reasons—not for the glory of God.
  2. And you need to learn something here about the plans and purposes of God.
    - The Bible tells us that **all things** are done “according to the counsel of His own will...”
      - That is hard for a lot of believers to accept, but if you read the Bible without bias, it is taught all along the way.
      - The prophets had taught the people that when the wicked Assyrian came and destroyed their land,
        - that it was not just the Assyrian’s doing—
          - that the LORD was the one who sent these wicked men in accordance with His purposes to chasten His people.
          - In Isaiah 10, the LORD called the Assyrian “the rod of my anger.”
    - The same was true with the Babylonians, with destructive storms, with droughts, and with plagues...
      - God claims to have sent all of these things,
        - yet, when human agents are involved, they are nevertheless guilty of sinning against their neighbours...
        - The Assyrians and Babylonians did not come with any intention of glorifying God—
          - They came with the intent to plunder and destroy—but they still carried out God’s purposes despite themselves.
          - They will be punished accordingly.
    - What Peter says about the cross is one of the best illustrations of this principle...

- It was God's will and it was the wicked Jewish leader's will for Jesus to be crucified...
  - For the Jewish leaders, it was sin because they wanted to get rid of the one who perfectly represented God because they hated God;
  - For God, it was an act of unparalleled mercy and grace for His people because He delivered Christ up to save His people from their sins.
  
- And so the cross, far from calling Jesus' lordship into question, rather shows the outworking of His (and the Father's) sovereign plan...
  - And above all else, it shows that Jesus is the Christ, the one that God anointed as our priest to save His people from their sins.

TRANS> And now Peter turns to speak about a third way that Jesus is shown to be LORD and Christ...

### **III. He is shown to be Lord and Christ by His resurrection from the dead.**

A. Notice that Peter sets this in contrast with the Jewish leader's rejection of Him...

- You crucified Him—but God raised Him up!
  - Their rejection of Him was completely out of accord with the judgement of God who is the judge of all the earth!
  
- 1. This contrast highlights the fact that the resurrection of Jesus shows the Father's complete acceptance of Him.
  - Jesus made His soul and offering for sin and the Father was pleased with it—He accepted His offering and that is why He raised Him up!
  - There could be no greater vindication of Him than this!
  
- 2. The resurrection shows that He is LORD, having conquered death and him that had the power of it for all of His people.
  - You see, Jesus went to the grave because our sins had been charged to Him...
    - But by His suffering and death as our mediator—He completely overcame them and was declared to be God's Christ.
    - His offering was fully accepted.

B. Peter goes so far as to say that it was *not possible* that death should hold Him.

- Why would he say that it was *not possible*?
  1. It was not possible because Jesus went to the cross with faith in the Father's promise to Him as our redeemer.
    - The Father would not go against His promise!

- a. Peter quotes Psalm 16 which, though written by David who was God's anointed king, was written with reference to Christ...
    - It is Christ speaking through David.
      - Peter explains in verse 30 that David, being a prophet, wrote words that pertained to Jesus who was *the* anointed one.
      - David knew that the Father had—as verse 30 says:
        - **Acts 2:30: sworn with an oath to him (David) that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.**
    - In Psalm 2 and in Isaiah 49, we are told that the Father made the promise to His Son that He would give Him the nations as His inheritance...
      - He promised to do this if Christ made an offering for their sin.
        - In Psalm 2:7-8, the God the Father says to the Son:
          - **Ps 2:7-8: I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**
      - Isaiah 49 is even more dramatic...
        - It has a dialogue between God the Father and God the Son, and the Son, in the midst of His sufferings, says:
          - **Isa 49:4: 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain;**
          - But He adds in faith...
            - **Isa 49:4 continued: Yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, And my work with my God.'**
        - And then the Father's response is given (v. 5):
          - **Isa 49:5: And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him... 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'**
- b. And you see in the quotation of Psalm 16 in Acts 2:25 that Jesus confesses this absolute confidence in God's promise as He descends into the grave.
  - He says (v. 25):
    - **Acts 2:25-26: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.**

- Despite the Father's forsaking of Him at the cross, Jesus knew that when the work was done, the Father would accept Him—
  - along with all the people He represented!
- He knew all along the way that the Father had led Him to the cross and that He was doing the Father's will.
- And so when He declared those famous words from the cross, "It is finished",
  - He was then able to commit His spirit into the Father's hands.
    - He went to grave with rejoicing and hope.
      - again,
      - **"My heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad, moreover my flesh also will rest in hope."**
- He went to the grave with absolute confidence that the Father had accepted His work and so would raise Him up...
  - And so He goes on in verse 27 to say:
    - **Acts 2:27: For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'**
    - He went to grave knowing that what He had just done on the cross would save His people from their sin.
      - He was full of joy and assurance about this.
        - What love He had for us!
        - He was so pleased to be able to save us!
        - What faith He had in the Father's promise to Him as Mediator!

TRANS> And so you see that it was not possible for Him to be left in the grave for two reasons...

- Because the Father had promised that He would accept His offering for us that had sent Him to the grave...
  - And because He, as our Mediator, believed God's promised to accept His offering, raising Him from the dead to declare the acceptable year of the Lord.
    - God could not be Himself and leave His Son in the grave!
      - He had promised to accept Him.
2. Now Peter wants to make sure that everyone realises that when David wrote Psalm 16, he was indeed writing words that pertained to Christ.

- a. Peter makes the clear case that David's tomb is right there and that though a thousand years had elapsed, he was yet to come out of it!
    - In verse 29, he says:
      - **Acts 2:29: "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.**
      - David was not speaking about himself as the one who would see no corruption—he was speaking about Jesus.
  
  - b. David knew this about Jesus because he was a prophet and God had told him that his son (the fruit of His body according to the flesh) would not see corruption...
    - Look at verse 30...
      - **Acts 2:30-31: "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.**
    - We read about God's promise to David concerning his son today in 2 Samuel 7:12, the Father says to David:
      - **2 Sam 7:12: "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.**
    - And in verse 16, He says:
      - **2 Sam 7:16: And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**
- C. And this has been fulfilled—Peter makes it clear that it has been fulfilled in Jesus!
1. In verse 32, He says:
    - **Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.**
    - a. Peter and the others have seen Him, raised from the dead!
      - The Promise that Jesus trusted in was fulfilled!
      - He did not see corruption!
  
    - b. Peter would never have stood before these men and declared that he seen Christ resurrected if it were not true!
      - And nobody challenged it—
        - All they had to do was to the tomb to prove that Jesus was still there, but He was not there and they knew it.
        - And we know it too.
          - If the apostles had not seen Him, they had no reason to die saying that they had seen Him.
          - Can you imagine all twelve of them making it up?

2. This proves to us that Jesus is both LORD and Christ!
  - He is God's anointed One.
  - His offering as the Christ has been accepted for all who trust in Him.
    - He is the only Saviour!
      - His is the only offering that takes away sin
        - Are you trusting in Him whom the Father raised up?
        - He is LORD and Christ!
          - That is the third proof that Peter gives.

TRANS> And now Peter turns to the fourth proof that He is LORD and Christ...

#### IV. Jesus is shown to be LORD and Christ by His reign at God's right hand.

- But how can it be proven that He is there?
    - Peter and the others saw Christ ascend, but how do they know that He is reigning at the right hand of God?
- A. First, it can be proven by what Christ has done from the throne of His glory.
1. He had told His disciples that He would go to the Father and that when He did, He would not abandon them, but would pour out His Spirit upon them.
    - And as we saw last week,
      - Jesus **did** pour out the Spirit, and He did it in a most conspicuous way—
        - a way that was audible—the wind,
        - a way that was visual—the tongues of fire the visibly fell upon each of those who received the Spirit,
        - and a way that was confirmed by a miracle—those who received the Spirit spoke in languages that they had never learned.
  2. The crowd that Peter was preaching to had all just seen these things!
    - Peter had shown them from scripture that it was what Joel had prophesied.
      - And now He explains that Jesus of Nazareth whom he has just been speaking about is the one who had done this...
        - See what He says, beginning with verse 32:
          - **Acts 2:32-33: This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.**
    - All the things that the crowd had just seen were the result of Jesus' pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon His church!
      - Having taken His throne at the Father's right hand,
        - the Spirit was given as His coronation gift to His people!

- The Holy Spirit was given to them to remain with them for ministry, for sanctification, for illumination!
    - All of His people would be prophets, knowing the greatest revelation of all—
      - that Jesus in Lord and Christ.
      - that He has made an offering to take away sin forever.
  - Already, the crowd before Peter is seeing evidence of Jesus' reign...
    - They have seen miracle and they have heard Spirit-empowered preaching from Peter!
    - And they are going to see a lot more in the days to come as Jesus continues to work by the Spirit in His people.
- B. And as he has done in every case, Peter backs up what He says from scripture to affirm that Christ has ascended.
- In verse 34 and verse 35, He contrasts David with Christ and quotes from Psalm 110:
    - **Psalm 110:34-35: For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"**
1. This Psalm proves that David has One whom He calls Lord who is exalted by the Father to sit at His right hand.
    - It is not David, but one that David calls Lord!
      - It would ordinarily be strange for David to call his son Lord, but in this case, he does so because Christ is the Son of God.
  2. And you see that Jesus is said to be there, reigning at God's right hand, until He subdues all His enemies and makes them His footstool.
    - The beginning of His reign is the outpouring of the Spirit that has just been seen.
    - And the continuation of His reign will be seen in the nations turning to Him for salvation and submitting to Him as their Lord.
      - This is done by the powerful working of the Spirit whom Jesus sends from His throne in glory!
        - Oh let us crave that we might see the clear evidence of the Spirit working among us today!
        - Let us pray as I encouraged you a couple of weeks ago to expect God to work in our midst—
          - that we might pray with earnest expectation...
          - that we might see people converted...
          - that we might see God transforming our lives to honour Him—to delight in the gospel—to delight in Jesus!

3. Peter's hearers had the evidence of the signs that accompanied the outpouring of the Spirit...
  - but we have the even greater evidence of the nations turning to Christ for salvation as soon as Christ took His seat in glory!
    - When the Spirit is poured out, Christ is always exalted and many turn to Him.
  - And we have the evidence of the destruction of Jerusalem which proves that Jesus is Lord—exalted to reign until He brings down all His enemies...
    - either by converting them and bringing them into His righteous redemptive kingdom...
      - or by bringing them to destruction and at last casting them into the place of outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **Conclusion**

And so Peter concludes what He has said about Christ with the words of verse 36:

- **Acts 2:36: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."**
  - You need to see it too!
  - There is no doubt about it!
    - He proved it by His life—by the miracles He did...
    - He proved that He was Lord and Christ by His death... being offered to atone for our sins.
    - He proved that He was Lord and Christ by His resurrection... death could not hold Him because the Father accepted His offering.
    - He proves it by His present reign and the outpouring of His Spirit by which He has subdued people from all nations to Himself and brings judgement upon those who oppose Him.
- He is LORD and Christ!
  - This is for you to know with great certainty.
  - If you do not, you cannot be saved.
    - So come to Him...
      - If He is LORD, then obey Him—repent and submit to Him as Lord.
      - If He is Christ, then trust Him—come to Him for the forgiveness of sin for the new life that He imparts through the Spirit.
      - What possible reason could you give for resisting the One who has been shown to be LORD and Christ?
        - It is the height of folly!
        - Come to Him and embrace Him as Lord and Christ!
          - May He indeed work powerfully among us!