

Luke 23:1–12

Herod and Pilate, Cooperating to Do What God Purposed Beforehand

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Main idea: Nations still rage, peoples plot vanity, and kings and rulers still conspire. But our Lord does whatever His almighty hand and His redeeming purpose determined before to be done.

¹ Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.” ³ Then Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him and said, “It is as you say.”

⁴ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.” ⁵ But they were the more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.” ⁶ When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. ⁷ And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. ⁹ Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. ¹⁰ And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. ¹¹ Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹² That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Introduction: What are we to do when nations rage, peoples plot vanity, and kings and rulers conspire against the Lord, against His Christ, and against us for His sake?

1. Praise God

a. It is exactly as He said it would be. cf. Ac 4:23–27

i. Herod and Pilate were a king and a ruler, and all of their and the peoples’ wicked interests and efforts combined for one goal. This is Luke’s main point throughout this passage.

1. Jesus’s death is the obvious design of the whole multitude of the council (v1a). In His religious trial, they had condemned Him for blasphemy (cf. 22:71), but when they come to Pilate (v1b), they charge Him with things they think can get Him murdered by Rome: inciting rebellion (v2a), inciting refusal to pay taxes (v2b), and inciting rivalry with Caesar (v2c). There’s nothing Rome loved more than order, money, and authority. They throw their three biggest charges against Him and hope something sticks.
2. Pilate. The one that seems to stick is the “King” claim (v3). Apparently, Pilate takes that one as the foundation of the other two. Luke doesn’t tell us about the rest of Jesus’s answer, about the spiritual nature of His kingdom. He gives us the short version, in which Jesus is basically saying that Pilate’s words, which he got from them, are the only identifiable substance of the charge. There’s simply no case against Him, which Pilate immediately recognizes and declares (v4).
3. The people. That should have been it. Jesus should have been released. Pilate has authority over this innocent Citizen, so now his duty shifts from prosecution to vindication and protection. But these murderers will make use of this weak magistrate to turn him into a murderer with them. Their guilt is by no means reduced by the fact that it is God’s saving plan that the Innocent would die for the guilty (cf. Ac 2:23; 4:27–28). The chief priests think that they are losing their mark, so they now appeal to Pilate’s personal prejudice. They know that he hates the Jews, and especially Galileans (v5, cf. 13:1). Probably they think they have struck the right cord by his response in v6, but this has brought up the issue of jurisdictions, and Pilate has discovered his way out of the situation (v7). Not only is Jesus’s hometown technically in Galilee, but the tetrarch is in town and available.
4. Herod. Herod is glad to have Jesus captive, because he hopes to see some sign (v8). But Jesus isn’t here to satisfy Herod’s fleshly curiosity; He’s here to die. He shows no sign; He answers no question (v9). Yet, the wicked will not give up on self-indulgence, and if Herod cannot indulge his curiosity, he will indulge his cruelty. He hears the vehement accusations (v10) and exercises his authority by mocking the idea of Christ’s authority (v11).

5. Beware of seeking Christ in the way of Pilate or Herod! Beware of opposing His reign like the chief priests and the crowd!

ii. What Pilate said in v3, God says from all eternity, cf. Ps 2:7–8

iii. God’s Word is true; trust it, and praise Him!

b. It is exactly as He has purposed. cf. Ac 4:28

i. God’s purpose in this passage was salvation through Christ for all whom He would bring to believe in Christ.

ii. God’s purposes in all other events is those saints coming into the inheritance for which Christ has qualified them, all to the praise of His glory. cf. Eph 1:11–12

iii. God’s purposes are good; trust this, and praise Him!

2. Imitate Christ

a. Suffer patiently. cf. 1Pet 2:20–21.

b. Suffer politely. cf. 1Pet 2:22–23a.

c. Suffer prayerfully. cf. 1Pet 2:23b, Ac 4:29–31a

d. Suffer perseveringly. cf. Ac 4:31b, 1Pet 2:24–25

3. Trust in Christ

a. In His and the Father’s shepherding and ruling. Ps. 2:10–11

b. In His atonement. cf. Ps 2:12.

c. In His doing all of these things being the perfect doing of them that is counted for believers through faith. And that it is Him to Whom the Spirit is conforming us, so there is not only forgiveness but also power for sanctification and assurance of its final success.

Conclusion: Nations still rage, peoples still plot vanity, and kings and rulers still conspire. But our Lord is still doing—even through them, and especially through them—whatever His hand and His purpose determined before to be done. So praise Him! And imitate Christ! Because you can trust Christ both for your righteous standing before God, and as the One in Whom you can walk righteously before God!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Luke 23, verses 1 through 12. These are God's words, then the whole multitude of them arose and led him to pilot. They began to accuse him saying. We found this fellow perverting. The nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar saying that he himself is Christ a king.

Then pilot asked him saying, are you the king of the Jews? He answered him and said it is, as you say.

So pilots said to the chief priests in the crowd, I find no fault in this man, but they were, the more fierce saying he stirs up the people teaching throughout old Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place. When pilot heard of Galilee, he asked if the man were a Galilean and as soon as he knew that he belonged to her ads jurisdiction, he sent him to heret who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Now inherit saw Jesus, he was exceedingly, glad for he had desired for a long time to see him because he had heard many things about him and he hoped to see some miracle done by them. And he questioned him with many words, but he answered him. Nothing and the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him, then Herod with his men of war, treated him with contempt, and mocked him a red him and a gorgeous robe and send him back to pilot that very day.

Pilot and Herod became friends with each other for previously. They had been at enmity with each other that sends this reading of gods inspired and inherent word. We rejoice to hope in his own words that he will bless the preaching of it to us. Please be seated.

What are we to do? When nations are raging and where when people's of many different parties are plotting what? The Bible calls vanity, the empty purposes. And glory of man, instead of the revealed word of God, What are we to do in the nations? Are raging and peoples are plotting vanity and kings and rulers are conspiring against the Lord and against his Christ.

And against us for his sake. This is perhaps not in those words but almost certainly the question that many of us have been asking is like in psalm 11. The foundations are being destroyed. What can the righteous do? And the answer is much like in psalm 11, the Lord is on his throne, and in this particular, passage the answer was the Lord is being judged by little men who sit on little thrones, so that God could accomplish his glorious saving purpose, The apostles, understood that Psalm 2 is behind, what is happening here, as pilot and Herod, and then the chief priests and the crowd, and the scribes all are conspiring together.

And what ends up being the murder of the son of God, the Christ, when they gotten more of the same spirit, when they were dragged before the Sanhedrin for preaching Christ and they came out and they reported to the brethren how things that gone with them in their trial.

They all rejoiced together in an acts chapter 4 before God and reported Psalm 2 in prayer and saying Lord, what you said in psalm 2 would happen to Jesus happened to Jesus exactly. Like, you had purposed for it to happen and there are aspects of it happening to us who belong to Jesus.

So, help us to serve you. Well just as you brought true, what you had promised concerning Jesus's death and Jesus's resurrection and so it's it's a glorious thing. When you come to a passage and you realize it and acts chapter 4, there's already been application of the passage and that in first Peter 2 with Jesus on trial and suffering patiently, and not responding with reviving when he's revived, but praying to God and persevering in order to to redeem us by his blood.

And as the shepherd and overseer of our souls. So you get first Peter 2 interpreting, the passage and both of them. But especially Acts 4 saying, you know, this is really something that psalm 2 was describing and we should read Luke 23, verses 1 through 12 and indeed more of the context here.

But at least this much, especially this much in light of Psalm 2 and I say is especially this much in light of Psalm 2 because the Holy Spirit by Luke gives us a great big hint in verse 12. That that is how we're supposed to read the passage that very day pilot and Herod became friends with each other.

For previously, they had been at enmity with each other. Now, Herod likes to call himself a king, he's really a tetrarch. And, and although they permitted that kind of language, it would have actually been offensive to Rome if he were called a king, but he liked to be called king and they kind of tolerated that so you have pilot a ruler and Herod a king and what does verse 12 say?

It says up until that day, they'd been an energy with each other because kings and rulers are among those nations that rage and those people's the plot vanity and the default settings for the wicked is that they hate and are hated by one another to three tells us that that that's the default setting apart from grace apart from the loving kindness, and mercy of God appearing in Jesus Christ.

And he saved us, not by righteous things that we had done, but by his mercy. And so pilot and Herod had been on the default setting verse 12 but they found something to be united in. This is very important. We just came out of the fellowship hall in which we started learning that only what God says are good.

Works are actually good works and only what God has commanded is a good thing in which to be united unity and the putting away. Even of earthly enmity is not always in itself. Good. Isn't it unless we read verse

12 in a very infantile and ignorant way or a very wicked way we would not come out of verse 12 and say isn't that nice pilot inherit became friends that day.

I'm so glad they could find unity in murdering Jesus Christ. That is a wicked worldly unity. There are wicked and worldly unities in the greatest one of them. All this wouldn't kings and rulers, conspire against the Lord and against his Christ and as the apostles recognize had been done to them.

And as has been done to those who are truly Christ, as Christ said, they hated me. They're going to hate you and the greater your likeness to the master and the greater your participation in whatever. The master says to do, the more they will hate you and they realize that God had given us even in that event, as described in this passage before us today.

What to do, when the nations are raging and people's are plotting in vain and kings and rulers are conspiring against the Lord, and against his Christ, and against his people for his sick?

No, there's great comfort for us already. Isn't there and September of 2021 at Hopewell Presbyterian Church that one of the questions again. Perhaps not an exactly these words but very much in these sentiments that has been on our hearts and on our minds for weeks and months. More than a year is a question that he sends up a great big notice in verse 12.

And says this is how we are to read and remember and respond to this passage. So what are we to do? There's a lot here. We may not end up doing it all this week, but what are we to do this passage answers. We are first of all to praise God.

We were first of all to praise God because it is exactly as he said it would be. And therefore, we know it is exactly as he has in goodness, purposed it to be. So the first thing we're to do is to praise God. It's probably not what you have been reading or hearing even on otherwise faithful, theologically conservative or otherwise, conservative blogs and podcasts and and such but we're not here for that.

We're here for the word of God, the Holy Spirit by the hand of the evangelist Luke. And the first thing we're supposed to do is prays God. The second thing we're supposed to do is imitate Christ part of your hope before. God, is that Jesus conducted himself, perfectly righteously.

In this situation, we feel like a leaderless people, don't? We how few of those who are in the public eye, whether in the civil sphere, or even in the church sphere are standing, as examples as models. So that those who have been placed under their care either in the state, or in the church are saying, here is a way to walk in a time like this.

And yet the scripture says you already have the perfect example. The Lord Jesus Christ. And finally and it's not really. Finally, it's initially because there is no praising God or imitating Christ apart from it. But we intend to take it last trust Christ trust in Christ because not only has he atone, but he who is atoned for us is shepherding and ruling us through this, even as he applies his own character to us.

So three things, very simple. Lots of details to be considered, especially under the first one. Praise God. Imitate Christ. Trust in Christ first. Then praise God. It is exactly as he said it would be as helpful at this point to actually turn to acts for.

And read what the, what the apostles and the church in its infancy said and responds to this event here and similar parallel event in their life as they remembered some too and start reading in verse 23 and being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

So when they heard that they raised their voice to God with one accord and said, Lord, you are God who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them. Now, they're praying to God. They address him as Lord. They're confession, is that Jesus is Lord.

He is the uncreated creator. Everything that was made was made through him, but he wasn't made because he's God, and the first thing they do in response to being persecuted is to praise. Their risen redeemer who was also God from ever lasting who, by the mouth of your servant David have said again.

Doctrine of scripture, We read Psalm 2 and it says of David, and you say or actually, I don't think it says of David, I think the it's assumed of David but the spirit here tells us, it's of David and yet it is the Lord. Who by the mouth of David said these things.

These are his words breathed out as it were not so much by David. But by Jesus, the one who first Peter chapter 1 says, it was the spirit of Christ who spoke through the prophets that came before about the Lord Jesus, who by the mouth of your servant. David have said, why did the nations rage and the people plot vain things.

The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against his Christ, four truly, against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed. And that's the word for Christ. Both Herod and Pontius Pilate with the Gentiles. And that's the word for nations.

And the people of Israel were gathered together. And so they praise God, and they say this is what Psalm 2 says, and in this way and this way and this way and this way it says, it says, kings and rulers, and there's Herod. And there's pilot it says nations and and people's and there's the Gentiles and from the people of Israel and they're all gathered together.

The first response is to look at this and say, praise God, he told us in Psalm 2, what would happen and here in Luke 23, verses 1 through 12, it exactly happened. And so God has told us that we will have trouble and it will be for his sake.

That will be accounted as sheep for the slaughter and be killed all day long in in some cases that parents rise against their children and children against their parents. That those with Christ given authority, in this world are going to rise up and oppress and try to crush those who belong to the king of kings.

Who sits on the throne. That's right above theirs and to whom they owe their obedience in their rule and their authority. And so we start from a place of praise. We say truly. Oh God, you have spoken. Everything that occurs is exactly according to your word. And if it's according to his word, it's according to his purpose to do, whatever your hand and your purpose determine before to be done.

So, let's see in the passage before us how it is exactly, according to his word because this is Luke's main point throughout. This passage is is to detail for us. The the way, the interests of the whole multitude of them verse one, and the chief priests, and the crowd verse four and the chief priests and scribes verse 10.

So you have this party and then you have pilot and we're going to be hereing and thinking a lot more about him. Next week, Lord willing or in a couple weeks probably in and the next passage. And then you have Herod and all of them have their own interests and Lucas, kind of showing us some of the, some of the intentions and purposes and desires of each one of them.

But he's also weaving it all together so that we can see. This is the the way by which Jesus came to die for our sins and so he is showing us that it is exactly. As God has said especially highlighting that verse 12 that very day pilot, inherit became friends with each other.

Here's that unity of Psalm. 2 that David prophesied by the Holy Spirit? Now, Jesus is death, is the obvious design of the whole multitude of the council. They they have already concluded that he's a blasphemer and needs to die. For blasphemy. They said what further testimony do? We need for we have heard it ourselves from his own mouth and that was, of course, after claiming to be the son of God and the Ian.

And so they want to execute him for blasphemy, but Romans don't execute for blasphemy and so they come to pilot and they start charging him with the things that will get him killed. They're not just expressing what they think and why they want him killed. They're saying whatever they think they need to say in order to get their purpose done.

Right. They're not saying he just claimed to be the son of God and Yahweh get them pilot. No. They use arguments that are going to work on Romans. You know what? Romans care about. Romans care about order and I think care about authority and they care about money. And so they charge him with things that that violate or go against order and go against authority chain of command and and ultimately the rule of Rome and money.

So verse two, a they began to accuse him saying. We found this fellow perverting. The nation later. They're going to say he stirs up the people. We know you Romans really like things orderly? Well, there's nothing more orderly than this guy. We have brought to you. He is a threat to your Roman order.

They also come and saying and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar this great big orderly, Roman operation. You've got, it's expensive. This guy keeps people from paying their taxes. How's Rome gonna function, you know, they can't call us special session of Congress and just authorize the printing of more money.

And so they say he's disorderly, he's anti-government finances, and he's against the authority of room too saying that he himself is Christ. A king. Now for pilot the charge that seems to stick the most is that he's claiming to be a king. Perhaps he takes this as the foundation of stirring up the people and causing a rebellion and also saying, you know, don't pay, don't pay taxes to Caesar just pay taxes to me because I'm the king and you should be giving me your money.

And there are little was self-made, kings, who say and do things like that and every age and every place and so pilot thinks. Oh, so that's what he is as interesting. He just Luke, just tells us and you can you can go to other gospels and get more of what?

What Jesus says. Pilot asks him saying are you the king of the Jews? Jesus answers them and says you said it, the idea here is a little bit different than you say that I am there. They're similar answers in verse 70 of chapter 22 and verse 3, of chapter 23, because the Jews know what Jesus means in verse 70 because they conclude in verse 71, he's just committed.

Blasphemy. He's not just saying, well, you guys say that? I'm the son of God, but I'm not really this son of God. He says you said, and then he uses the translation I am and his response there gets them to say a blast fever. But when Jesus responds here to pilot me says, you said it, he understands that Jesus is saying the only evidence you have for this claim that I am.

I am in competition with Rome as a king is what you just said. To me. I you don't have words from my mouth. You don't have. I witness testimony. You have what they just said and you just repeated. That's all you got and we can see that. That's what Jesus is saying because pilot immediately in Luke's passage and I understand he's condensing it, but he's condensing it so that we can see this dynamic.

So pilot said to the chief priests in the crowd. I find no fault in this man pilot like order. Too pilot wants this thing to go away. He's a bit cowardly. He enjoys his his government job and it's got perks. So long, those things aren't going bad in Jerusalem, but Jerusalem is full of Jews.

First century Jews. And it's not exactly the best job to have depend on things not going badly there. And he would like, for this, just to go away. He's gonna spend a lot of the rest of the passage trying to make it go away. So you got the interests of the people's and you've got the, the interest of pilot who is actually very glad when the people think that they're gonna stick the knife in with, with a little bit of prejudice.

But they were the more fear saying he stirs up the people teaching throughout old Judea beginning from Galilee and you're supposed to if you're from Jerusalem and especially if you're pilot say Galilean with that kind of disgust and and hostility because they know that pilot is the guy who what he mixed the the blood of those Galileans, who came up to Jerusalem with their sacrifices.

We don't know exactly why he had them executed, but he had them executed. That's a pretty good indication. He doesn't like them. And so they see that they're not gaining the what they want from pilot, and they say he's been doing it, not just here. But everywhere and you know, where he comes from pilot, he comes from Galilee pilots like who gallon, not my jurisdiction.

And so now you have the purposes of the people and you have the purposes of pilot and it's going to mix with the purposes of errant. They thought Galilee would be the clincher Galileans up. Being how pilot gets out of it. As soon as he knew. Oh, sorry. When pilot heard of Galilee.

He asked if the man were about, is he a Galilean? I verify he probably when he says, is he a gallon? They're like, yeah, we got them. He hates Galileans, that's the part. We knew that was good to put in there, but as soon as he knew that he belonged to Araid's jurisdiction verse 7, he sent him to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly. Glad you know, the Bible includes a number of people who are glad to hear preaching about Jesus, or glad to see Jesus for one reason or another, but it's not for the reason of a sinner who deserves the wrath of God and needs a tonement for his sin and righteousness to stand before.

God, There's lots of reasons to be glad to hear preaching and lots of reasons to be glad to see and know about Jesus, and almost none of them our reasons that lead to salvation

Let us be careful with congratulating ourselves for being glad to see Jesus. You remember Herod heard John the baptizer gladly for a long time when he said, something's although he was there, he ended up in prison because he wasn't glad to hear about his sin. Now, when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad for he had desired for a long time to see him because he had heard many things about him and he hoped see some miracle done by him.

So he'd heard about Jesus, that Jesus could do all of these things for you. He can he can give you better finances, He could fix your marriage, He can he can make you happy and healthy and he can increase the size of your pocketbook. And he perhaps he can even miraculously heal whatever he's done for you Or maybe he can answer for you a bunch of questions that seems to be you know, where this went a little bit Queen of Sheba and and Solomon's style the questioned him with many words, but he that is, Jesus answered him.

Nothing you see. Jesus wasn't there to satisfy parents curiosity. Jesus was there to die for his people, Jesus isn't on the throne of heaven and he doesn't send his ministers to proclaim his word in order to satisfy your curiosity and give you what you want. He is there for the glory of God in the salvation of sinners and the gathering in of his church and they're being made like him.

So that God's plan of redemption from before the world began, can come to its ultimate climax. And with all of those whom he chose and all of those for whom he died and all of those who threat the ages, he's been sending his word so that they would be brought to him.

By faith have been gathered in, he will appear as the king and the judge and all of those other kingdoms will finally be shattered. That's psalm to also, isn't it? That's why he sends his preacher.

How upset Herod was like so many, who go to hear preaching, not to hear what Jesus wants to say and to follow Jesus as agenda for what he does with the preaching. But they go to hear preaching, or they go to hear Christ if we even give them credit for that.

When we talk about going to hear preaching and they just want whatever they want it out of him.

Jesus isn't talking but back to those that crowd they're talking, aren't they? Jesus answered him. Nothing and the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. Then Herod, he's going to get some pleasure out of Christ. This is going to get the pleasure of mocking him with, as men of war, treated him with contempt and mopped him, a raid him in a gorgeous robe.

This goes along with the king charge, so what a king, right previously? We had them 22 versus 64 and 65 same, prophesy some profit now, mocking him, put the robe on him and we know that there's more that's being done from the other gospels. Luke focuses on this, it's related to the charge of his being king, a raid him, in a gorgeous room.

A kingly row, royal row and sent him back to pilot. Is you can seek Christ in a way just to get out of your responsibilities and be like pilot and you can seek Christ in a way to get what you want from him satisfy your curiosity, or, or your appetite for that, which is sensational or interesting.

You can be like Herod but Luke, says, pilot and heret. And even those who are more more full of hostility felt intentional hostility towards Christ. They are all gathering together against the Lord and his Christ. So, you praise God because it is exactly, as he said it would be.

You know, Jesus could have said in verse three. He could have said in verse three and Jesus answered him and said not only on my king of the Jews like he say, but I'm king of Rome and I'm king of all those other kingdoms, that Rome hadn't conquered yet and won't conquer.

And I'm going to shatter this Jewish illegitimate authority. I'm going to shatter roams authority, that is being employed a legitimately and I'm going to refer to all other authorities because at all, belongs to me.

It is exactly as God said it would be in. Jesus is exactly as God has said that he is king over all the nations who has commanded in Psalm 2 and we know Jesus obeys every command right to ask for the nations. As his inheritance you believe the Bible.

Do you believe that Jesus has asked for this nation as his inheritance? And do you think about politics and your citizenship and the authority? That all of the lesser magistrates from the White House, which is a lesser magistrate under Christ all the way down to the sheriff or whatever's lowest, I guess, dad.

That all the nations are his inheritance. God's Word is true and when you see it come true even in trouble because he's told you about a lot of trouble, hasn't he? But one of the first things to do, when you see his word come true, is to praise him for the truthfulness of that word, because it's not only exactly as he said it would be.

It's exactly. As he purposed it to be. Isn't that the application that they make in acts for when they're applying what Luke has just shown us here that in verses 1 through 12. And in our passages this morning that everything is exactly as God said it would be in Psalm 2.

And if it is exactly as he said it would be, then it is exactly as he purposed it to be. So verse 27 of x4 for truly against your holy servant Jesus, they would praise you. It's exactly as you said it would be and then verse 28 to do whatever your hand and your purpose determine before to be done.

So it's not just we praise you because it's actually you said it would be. It's we praise you because it's exactly as you purposed it to be. And what did he purpose in Christ? It was so those who deserve the shattering would have this time before, the son appears, where they can kiss the son submit to him.

Bow down to him trust in him before. His wrath is kindled, just a little and which case it'll be too late. So I'm too says because blessed are all who put their trust in them, they deserve to be shattered, they deserve to be cursed, but if they trust in the sun, who is sent first into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved with a trust in him.

Then they're not among the shattered. They're among the blasts. Blessed are all who put their trust in him. God's purposes in this passage are very plain salvation through Christ and his death, which is what sin deserves. And not just any death at the hands of the conspiring Jews or Herod, or pilot or Rome but a death on a tree because he's bearing the curse for sin and he rises again and is shown by the resurrection of the dead to be the son of God with power.

Romans chapter 1 says that's God's purposes in this passage and so when the apostles are making application of it, they understand that God has good purposes now. So what do they need to do? They just need to obey what they have. Personally been commanded to do now. Lord look on their threats and grant to your servants.

That with all boldness, they may speak your word by stretching out your hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy servant. Jesus. This is what they were given to do. The apostles were told by Jesus to go out and preach.

And there were told by Jesus, that they would do so that God would attest with signs and wonders Hebrews chapter 2. It says that's exactly what happens. Those who first heard him told the gospel and God attested was signs and wonders. That's the point of signs and wonders, but coming back to the end of acts for.

Sorry it's not the end of x4 coming back to to acts for 29 through 31, and how they're making application of this passage to their own life. They said, when Jesus went through that, it was exactly as God had said. And so it was exactly as God had purposed and God had purposed.

The part of his redeeming work throughout the ages for Jesus that Jesus would die for our sins and bear the curse for our sins. And now God has purposed for the part that's been assigned to us right now, says the apostles to go speak the word with boldness and that God will attest to the truth of the word about Jesus.

And that has God does the signs and wonders and is the apostles preach, the gospel people for whom Christ died will be brought to faith. And so what do they do? They say help us to speak boldly. We trust that this is exactly as you say and this is exactly as you purpose Well, fast forward to 2021 the love congregation.

Isn't this exactly as God has said, and don't you believe it is exactly as God is purpose. And that his purpose is to bring the saints into the inheritance for which Christ is qualified us unto his glory with fusions chapter 1, and we'll close with the end of the first point.

It says a lot.

Ephesians chapter 1, verse 11 and 12 and so much. We could do according to God's in with respect to God's purpose in Christ from eternity as they were praying and rejoicing and acts for and as Luke 23 went through 12 and with the clue and verse 12 to read it in the light of Psalm 2.

We ought to be responding that way, but just verse 11 and 12 in him. Also, we have that's in Christ. Also, we have obtained, an inheritance being predestined. According to the purpose, there's that language of him who works, all things. According to the council of his will that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of his glory.

So he prays him. Not only because it is exactly. As he has said and then we clinch our teeth and get ready to suffer it. We praise him because not only is it exactly, as he said it is exactly as he is purpose and he works all things according to that, same purpose.

And that purpose is that those saints for whom Christ died. The saints who have been elected in Christ from before the world began would come into the inheritance that Christ has earned for them. That Christ has obtained for us and that God would be glorified and that Christ would be glorified by his gathering.

In those for him, he died. That's his purpose in 2021 and all of the herods and pilots and others who plot. Yes, they're evil. Yes, they're wicked, the accusation and Peter sermon and act to old's true you did this you're guilty. They are guilty but as they do it, they're fulfilling what God has said and they are actively fulfilling what God has purposed.

So application number one is to praise him to praise him and we'll hear the other two Lord willing by his help next week. Let's pray.

Oh, our father and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Truly yours is all the glory. For you, may the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. And there isn't a creature that is acting in any other way than you have announced in your Word that they would.

And even when the wicked do wickedly, what they intend for evil, we praise you. Oh God who have intended it for good and the greatest good that there is not only whatever good you will bring in family lives and in church lives, and in nation lives who we praise.

You of God that they are serving the good of bringing those who you have chosen in Christ in love into that inheritance at Christ has earned help us. So God's by the testimony of your word and the power of your Holy Spirit, making us to believe it. To be sure that this is what is happening in our day that were all of the evil conspire against you and against your Christ and against us for your sake, is for your good.

Purpose will pray that you would help us in the intervening week to meditate upon your word and to consider some of these other passages that open up for us, how to respond to this part of Luke that we're in. So that we will be ready ready to consider what part we have been called to and to call upon your name for your help in it and to trust ultimately, in Christ glorify him.

We pray by what you bring out of our lives, through this portion of your word for we ask it in his name. Amen.