

- Most things that operate have a part that is indispensable. A car will not run without the motor. A phone will not work without a battery. The human body cannot function without the heart. A person can be totally brain dead, yet if the heart is still beating the body will continue on. In much the same way, the Bible has a part of it that is indispensable. Without this part, the story of the Bible just doesn't make complete sense. That motor, battery, or heart of the Bible is **Acts 2**.
- Some have referred to the second chapter of Acts as the hub of the Bible. That too is a great analogy. I refer to it as the heart because it is the part of the Bible where the “blood” of the story flows in and out. Without it there would be a great hole in what we know. Much of what we read in the Old Testament, and even some of Jesus’ own words would still be unfulfilled and many of the things we read after the fact would make us scratch our heads a little bit. We began our reading of the book of Acts this past Thursday for our Daily Bible Reading, so I thought this a good time for us to study through this most important chapter in the God’s Word. Most of us know **Acts 2:38** very well, but how do we know the rest of **Acts 2**? Hopefully after our time together in study this evening, we will be reminding of many important happenings from **Acts 2**, or we will come to grasp that which we did not know much better.

I. Everything before Acts 2 points ahead to Acts 2.**A. The Promise of the Holy Spirit is Fulfilled (vv.2-12,33)**

1. This prophecy was handed down by Jesus during the last days of His ministry on earth. (**John 16:1-16**)
2. Jesus begins by predicting difficult times for the Apostles. (**vv.1-5**)
3. He then promises them a Helper who will lead them into all truth once He is gone for good. (**vv.7-15**)
4. We see the fulfillment of His promises in the beginning of **Acts 2**. The Apostles are able to speak to all people about Jesus because of the help from the Holy Spirit.

B. The Promise of the Kingdom is Fulfilled (vv.16-21)

1. Up until this point, the Kingdom had only been preached and talked about as something in the future. This is the first time the Kingdom/Church is preached as a fact.
2. The Prophets Joel and Isaiah had much to say about this Kingdom that was coming.
3. Peter actually quotes from Joel during his sermon to the Jews. In doing so, he is confirming that the present day was the fulfillment of the words from Joel. (**Joel 2:28-32**)
4. Isaiah, also, has a great prophecy concerning the coming Kingdom/Church. (**Isa. 2:1-4**)
 - a. (**v.2**) The last days is a common reference to this last dispensation of Christianity. (**Heb. 1:1,2**)
 - b. (**v.2**) The “mountain” or government/rule of the Lord would be the greatest.
 - c. (**v.3**) This new covenant would be for all peoples.
 - d. (**v.3**) The Gospel was first preached in Jerusalem.
 - e. (**v.4**) The focus of this Kingdom and its people would be the spiritual over the physical.
5. The preaching of Peter confirms the prophecies that had been spoken many hundreds of years before.

C. The Promise of the Messiah is Fulfilled (vv.22-36)

1. Peter quotes from one of David’s psalms and puts it into the current context of what was going on. (**Psalm 22**)
2. Peter states that David could not have written this about himself because he was still in the grave.
3. This must have been about the Messiah, and Peter proclaims that this Jesus the Nazarene is that Messiah that David had prophesied of hundreds of years before hand.
4. They had no need to look any further because God had raised Him up and He was now seated at God’s right hand ruling His Kingdom that was being established this very day. Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah.
5. The prophecies concerning the Kingdom and its Ruler had all come to pass.

II. Everything after Acts 2 points back to Acts 2.

A. Forgiveness of Sins is Established (vv.37-41)

1. These people were guilty of killing God's Son. They were convicted of their sin and they sought out to know how they could have it forgiven of them.
2. Peter responded with their need for repentance and baptism in order to have their sins forgiven.
3. This wasn't something that only applied to them. Peter goes on to say that every person who is willing to do this will receive the same promise and reward. The message was consistent to all people.
4. Every instance of repentant, baptism, and the forgiveness of sins from this day on points back to this day as the beginning. It was from this day on that people could be justified by the saving blood of Jesus Christ through faith.
5. It was beginning at this point that people could become obedient to that Gospel of Jesus Christ that was preached to them and be set free from their sins. **(Rom. 6:17,18)**
6. On this day, 3,000 souls listened to Peter's warning to be saved from this perverse generation. That same warning and admonition is true for all people from that day even until now.

B. The Apostle's Doctrine is Established (vv.42,43)

1. It was the Apostle's doctrine that these new Kingdom citizens were devoting themselves too.
2. No longer were they to follow the teachings of Moses, but they were to follow the teachings of Jesus's Apostles.
3. Jesus told His Apostles that they would be the leaders of this new Kingdom. **(Matt. 19:28)**
4. They went on to write many letters to different churches and individuals directing them to walk as the Holy Spirit directed them to do so. **(II Peter 1:20,21)**
5. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian brethren to hold to the traditions and teachings given to them by the Apostles. **(II Thess. 2:15)**
6. From this point on, those wanting to please God would need to follow the men handpicked by His Son to lead the Church from earth from this day on through their teachings and writings.

C. The Church is Established (vv.44-47)

1. All references to the Church after this point are made as it being something already come. It is established during the course of this chapter.
2. Peter refers to this time as "the beginning" when discussing the conversion of Cornelius. **(Acts 10:47; 11:15)**
3. This beginning is in reference to the beginning of this new era. The Christian era was established with this message being presented to all who were present and to those who would hear it afar off.
4. These people joined themselves together as a functioning unit of people. They took care of each others needs and they established a routine of unity and worship.
5. The Lord was adding to "their number" or "the church" those who were being saved. They were added to the full assembly of saved saints, but they were also joined to this group of local saints.
6. While we may not be able to say that we are a part of the church at Jerusalem, we can say that we are a part of the full body that those same saints were joined to during those first few days of the church. We can look back there and know that we are a part of the same body that was established back in the first century. Local bodies may come and go, but the Church of Jesus began standing on that day and continues to stand even to this one.

You may be thinking to yourself, "yeah Nick this was a cool educational lesson, but so what?" The so what of this lesson is the fact that God will always keep His promises. This plan was laid out from the very beginning of all that is, and God was going to do whatever necessary to have this Kingdom established. We know that the Lord is good for every promise that He has ever made. Have you taken advantage of His promises of salvation through His Son? May God help us all to put our faith and trust in Him, His Son, and His plan so that we may spent all eternity with Him as His good and faithful servants.