

Begin the Service with Joel 2:28-32**The Day of the LORD**

²⁸ "And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your old men will dream dreams,

your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens

and on the earth,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

³² And everyone who calls

on the name of the LORD will be saved;

for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be deliverance,

as the LORD has said,

even among the survivors

whom the LORD calls.

Intro

There are Bibles on the tables, there's an outline to take notes, and there are questions on the table.

Let me pray first...

Recap/Context

Just a recap where we got to in the Book of Acts - last week

[Powerpoint 1-Recap/Context]

Recap/Context – Acts 2:1-13

- The Apostles waiting in Jerusalem to be baptized by Holy Spirit as Jesus promised
- Holy Spirit appeared as wind and fire
- The Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in different languages
- The people in Jerusalem hear the Apostles speak in the people's own language
- There were 2 responses from the crowd:
 - a. V12 - "What does this mean?"
 - b. V13 – "The Apostles are drunk!"
- The Holy Spirit changed the Apostles from wimps to bold, brave witnesses for Jesus 1

Now you may have seen books in the bookshops

Like Windows 10 for Dummies

Computers for Dummies

Well this section of Acts chapter 2 is a bit like

[\[Powerpoint 2-Christianity for Dummies\]](#)

Christianity for Dummies

Explanation from Peter (Acts 2:14-21)

So beginning with verses 14 to 21

Peter stands up and explains to the crowd what is going on with the Apostles speaking all these different languages

[\[Powerpoint 3-Explanation\]](#)

Peter says - they're not drunk - it's only 9 o'clock in the morning!

And in fact the explanation for what is going on is actually a fulfilment of what the OT prophet Joel prophesied between 792-740BC

We read this prophesy earlier from Joel chapter 2:28-32

Joel foretold a time when God would pour out His Spirit and incredible things will happen - like what the Apostles are doing right now in Acts 2

And this will lead to people being saved by God if they just call upon the name of the Lord and believe in Him (v21)

Sermon by Peter (Acts 2:22-36)

Having explained the Apostles' behaviour

Peter now launches into his first sermon from verses 22 to 36

And we can split Peter's sermon into a 3 parts

[Powerpoint 4-Sermon by Peter-3 parts]

- A. Proposition - God raised Jesus from the dead (vv22-24)
- B. Evidence - 3 fold evidence (vv25-35)
- C. Conclusion - that Jesus is in fact Lord and the Messiah (v36)

A. Proposition (vv22-24)

So let's look at the Proposition first

[Powerpoint 5-Proposition]

Peter says Jesus was a man from Nazareth, who by God through Jesus, performed many miracles, wonders and signs - which his listeners are already familiar with

And yet Jesus was crucified and put to death

This was all part of God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge

And this cruel crucifixion was done by the Jews with the help of wicked men (The Romans in charge of ruling Israel at the time)

But death could not keep Jesus down - and God raised Jesus to life

It's this resurrection that is the fundamental cornerstone of Christianity

Without Jesus' resurrection our faith is useless - our hope of our own resurrection and eternal life - is a completely false hope

B. Evidence 3 fold evidence (vv25-35)

So Peter gives 3 pieces of evidence

[Powerpoint 6-Evidence]

1, Peter quotes King David and Psalm 16:8-11 - and David speaks of someone who will not be abandoned to the realm of the dead. And Peter's argument is that David can't be speaking about himself because David is dead and buried and his tomb is there for all to see. So David must be talking about another someone? You see, David knew that God had promised that one of David's descendants would be raised and sit on David's throne forever. That person, Peter says, is none other than Jesus Himself - And God has raised Jesus to life and He sits at the right hand of God in the Highest Place in Heaven

2, The 2nd piece of evidence Peter gives is that the Apostles are all witnesses of the resurrected Jesus - they're eye witnesses - they saw Jesus raised! They ate with Him, they talked with Him, and they saw His wounds

3, The 3rd piece of evidence is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit - that the Apostles are experiencing right now - and that the crowd are witnessing And Peter says that this outpouring of the Spirit - only comes because Jesus promised it - and sent the Holy Spirit to them when He was raised from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father in Heaven

And again, Peter quotes from another of King David's psalms - psalm 110 King David didn't ascend into Heaven, but in Psalm 110 - he prophesied about the Lord Jesus - that He would sit at God's right hand until His enemies became His footstool (cf. 1 Cor 15:25-26)

Which leads to the 3rd and final part of Peter's sermon

[Powerpoint 7-Conclusion]

C. Conclusion - that Jesus is in fact Lord and the Messiah (v36)

In verse 36 - Jesus is both Lord - which makes Him God - and He is also the Messiah - God's Chosen Anointed One from the Old Testament - the One chosen to save people from their sins

Conversion of Souls (Acts 2:37-41)

Peter's sermon had a massive impact

He has presented Christianity for Dummies

Jesus came to Earth performed many signs and wonders

The Jews killed Him when they shouldn't have

Jesus died for the sins of the world to be forgiven

Jesus was raised from the dead

Jesus is Lord God and the Messiah

[Powerpoint 8-Conversion]

With Peter's simple sermon - see v37

The people were cut to the heart

God's Words through Peter - had penetrated their hearts and minds!

And so they ask the 64 million dollar question!

"Brothers, what shall we do?"

What a question - we should all long for someone to ask us that question

Look at Peter's response

There are 2 commands in v38

1. Repent - U Turn - turn away from Sin - say sorry to God - move towards God
2. Be Baptized in the name of Jesus - Baptism = symbol of washing away of sin and belief in Jesus

And there are 2 promises in v38

1. The forgiveness of sins
2. The receiving of the Holy Spirit - which comes and lives inside all believers (John 3) - as our life coach

And the extent of these promises is in v39

It's to the people in the crowd and to their children

And it's for all people who far off - for all whom God in His grace calls to Him

The result of Peter's command to repent and be baptized was that - in v41 - 3000 people believed and were baptized and became part of this new Christian family

Amazing!

(pause)

Our Response

What are we to make of this event today? How should we respond this evening?

Here's 3 responses:

[Powerpoint 9a-Response 1]

1. Pray for those who don't know Jesus that they would repent and believe in Jesus

[Powerpoint 9b-Response 2]

2. Pray for a revival - 3000 people believed in one day! Pray that God would use us to bring about a revival - ask Him to show us how we might achieve this with His help

[Powerpoint 9c-Response 3]

3. Pray and commit to sharing Acts 2:14-41 Christianity for Dummies - with at least one person in the next week or so?

Q&A

Let's pray...