

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 352
Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8
Verses: Acts 2:23-32
Topic: The Incorruptible Christ
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Acts 2:23-32 MKJV this One given to you by the before-determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken and by lawless hands, crucifying Him, you put Him to death; (24) whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (25) For David speaks concerning Him, "I foresaw the Lord always before me, because He is at my right hand, that I should not be moved. (26) Therefore my heart rejoiced and my tongue was glad; and also My flesh shall rest in hope, (27) because You will not leave My soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your holy One to see corruption. (28) You revealed to Me the ways of life. You will fill Me with joy with Your countenance." (29) Men, brothers, it is permitted to say to you with plainness as to the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit upon his throne, (31) seeing this beforehand, he spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor would His flesh see corruption, (32) God raised up this Jesus, of which we all are witnesses.

Apparently the rabbis of New Testament times had great difficulty with this passage (Psalm 16) about David not seeing corruption and made up implausible explanations – such as David not being affected by insects during his life. Peter thus gets a high level of audience attention by referring to Psalm 16 and then explaining the inexplicable – by referring to Christ.

“That of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit upon his throne.” Jesus was a descendant of David and as such was born in the city of Bethlehem, David’s hometown. On one hand Jesus was a lowly carpenter, on the other hand He is of the royal line. This is a bit like the recent discovery by some genealogical researchers that apparently the ‘true king of England’ is an Australian stock and station agent! (This takes too long to explain). Jesus was hidden royalty and the rightful heir to the throne of David.

“Men, brothers, it is permitted to say to you with plainness as to the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.” It was clear that David was dead and that his mausoleum as a feature of Jerusalem then, though it has now been lost. This refutes some liberal scholars who maintain that David and Solomon never existed. David’s tomb is also mentioned by Josephus and by a Rabbi Benjamin.

Peter’s main point is two fold – a) Jesus was holy and innocent b) This meant that death could not hold Him and so He had to rise from the dead. This applies to us

also, because we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, we are innocent, and death will not be able to hold us, and we will also rise from the dead on the Last Day.

“of which we all are witnesses.” The whole 120 had seen Jesus after He rose from the dead – some individually and others presumably as part of the 500+ that Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 15. The resurrection of Jesus was a visible and verifiable demonstration of God’s power and the fulfillment of Psalm 16.

“You will not leave My soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your holy One to see corruption.” Other than the resurrection, there is a general spiritual principle here – that Christians may “go down to Hades” for a while, but they always come out. God does not abandon us to the natural processes of decay and the consequences that flesh is heir to. We will rise from the dead, and we will also rise from the midst of calamity and misfortune.

Psalms 34:19 KJV Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

“You will fill Me with joy with Your countenance.” The final lot of the Christian is always joy, whereas the final lot of the wicked is torment (Isaiah 66:24). We will see God face to face, know His love and experience great joy. Joy is a big part of the gospel and the result of its proclamation. The New Testament is full of rejoicing saints:

Acts 8:7-8 MKJV For out of those having unclean spirits, many came out, crying with loud voice. And many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. (8) And there was great joy in that city.

Thus God leads us through Hades to a place of great joy in His Presence. If you have been a Christian long enough you will have experienced this in many “little things”. The problem at work resolved, the last minute financial provision, the anguish at exam time – and at the end the gladness. We keep coming back to a place of joy – because that is the natural resting place of the Christian soul.

According to one ancient historian David died on the feast of Pentecost back in His time, so there is no small coincidence in Peter preaching about David on this day nearly a thousand years later after David’s passing. The spiritual realm is vast and complex and tantalizing –as the glimpse during the Transfiguration when Jesus spoke with Elijah and Moses, indicating they were very much alive in the spiritual realm and were still potent spiritual beings.

In the spiritual realm innocence breaks the bonds of death, life triumphs and joy explodes.

Blessings,

John Edmiston

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