

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

The Acts of the Apostles



ACTS 2

PART-II



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ACTS 2: PART II

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Some questions to guide your thoughts as you meditate on Acts 2 ... read before Wednesday

1. **Peter's sermon (14-36)** (a) who is it addressed to? (14) (b) What are the 'last days'? Was the vision of Joel 2:28-32 fully fulfilled? (15-20) (d) The work and life of Christ summarized (v. 22-24) (e) Prophecy of David (Psalms 16:8-11, Psalms 110:1 (25-36) (e) Why does Peter use OT passages? (f) What is the main point of his sermon?
2. **Response to Peter's Sermon (37-41):** (a) What must we do? (b) When is the Holy Spirit given to believers? Is there an order? (c) Is the gift transferable to children (v.39)
3. **Birth of Church (42-47):** (a) who were 'added' to church? (b) what were some essential practices and characteristics of first church? (c) How could a 'physical' church building be a hinderance to God's work?
4. Important Themes in the book of Acts, Important Characters, and Lessons learned (*this is work-in-progress question and we can continue to build the list as we meditate on the book*)

Chapter 2

3. Peter's sermon (14-36)

- (a) Who is it addressed to? (14)
- (b) What are the 'last days'? Was the vision of Joel 2:28-32 fully fulfilled? (15-20)
- (c) The work and life of Christ summarized (22-24)
- (d) Prophecy of David (Psalms 16:8-11, Psalms 110:1 (25-36)
- (e) Why does Peter use OT passages?
- (f) What is the main point of his sermon?

3. Peter's Sermon

Fulfillment of Divine Promise & Calling

- **Matthew 16:17-19**

¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And **I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven**:

3b. Peter's Sermon: LAST DAYS

- What are the 'last days'? Was the vision of Joel 2:28-32 fully fulfilled? Are we living in Last days? (15-20)

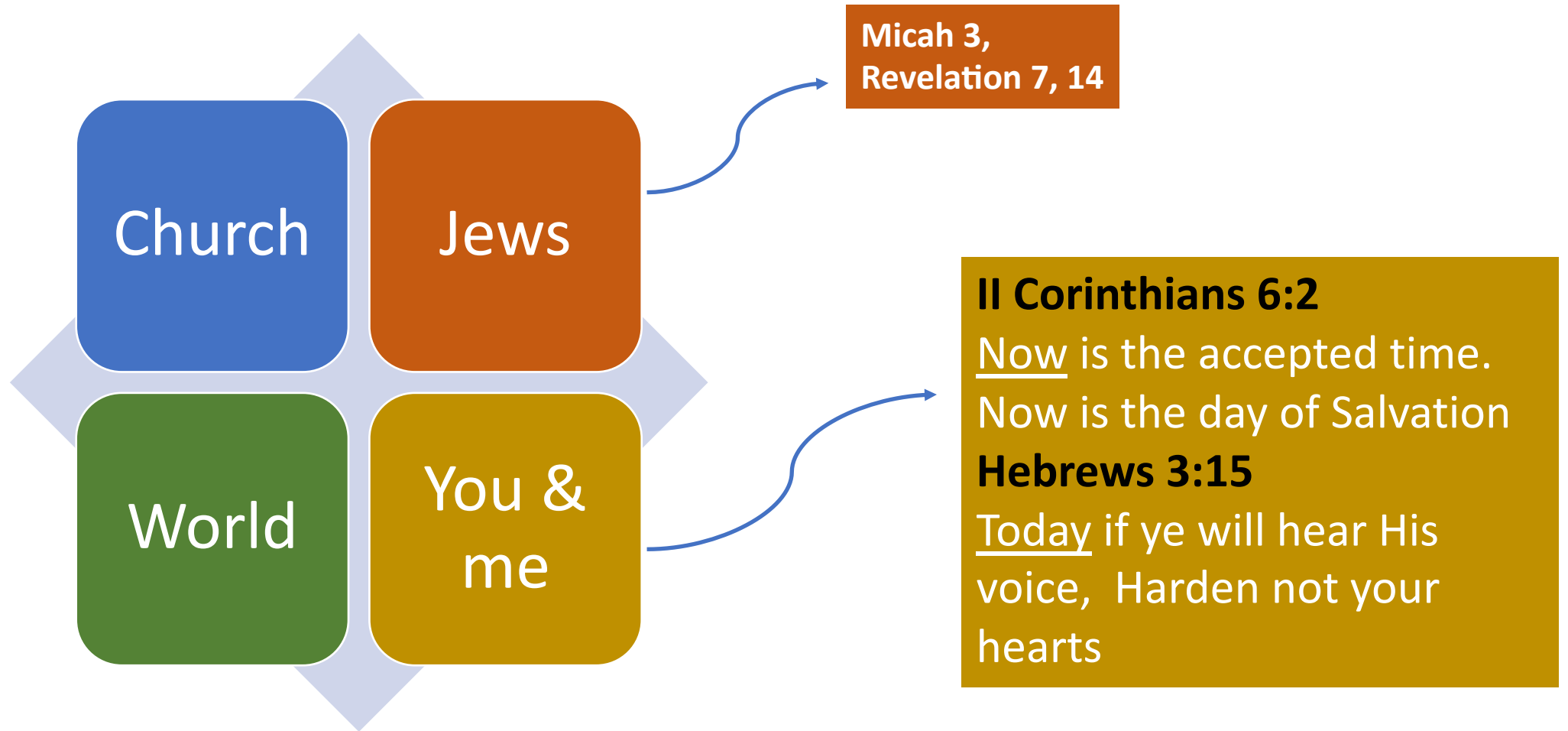
²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

³⁰ And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. ³² And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

3b. Peter's Sermon: Last days

- Last Days began with Jesus:
 - Hebrews 1:2 “but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son”
- Last Days continued with the outpouring of Spirit (Acts 2)
- We continue in the Last Days (II Timothy 3:1-5, II Peter 3:3)
- Last Days for church will end with the return of Jesus
 - “at that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:27) Read Luke 21, Matthew 24 for signs of end times. Also Joel 3
 - Many will be redeemed, Many will be destroyed during the last days!

Last Days for ...



3c. The work and life of Christ summarized (22-24)

who is Lord Jesus Christ?

- Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God
- Did miracles, and wonders, and signs
- He was crucified
- He rose again ... v.24 ... grave was not able to hold Him!!
 - We have been promised a similar victory ... “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (I Corinthians 15:55)

3d/e. Prophecy of David

(Psalms 16:8-11, Psalms 110:1 (25-36))

- David Prophesied the death and resurrection Jesus
- Prophecy has now come true ... and there are witnesses (like Peter)
- Why does Peter use Old Testament References?
 - Jewish people will be familiar with those scriptures
 - Fulfilled prophecies lend credibility to his message
 - **Witnessing insight:** It is good to look for common ground while starting conversation with unbelievers

3. (f) What is the main point of his sermon?

Messiah/Savior (that Jews have been waiting for) has Come

²¹ And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be **saved**. (**Salvation from sins, temptations, and death**)

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same **Jesus**, whom ye have crucified, both **Lord and Christ**.

4. Response to Peter's Sermon (37-41):

(a) What must we do (in response to deep conviction) 37?

Repent & Be Baptized (38)

How many people did Jesus Baptize? Zero

Jesus emphasized repentance and forgave the sins of many.

4. Response to Peter's Sermon (37-41):

(b) When is the Holy Spirit given to believers? Is there an order?

Repent --> Baptized → Holy Spirit (v.38)

Believed → Baptized → Laying on of Hands → Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17)

Faith → Holy Spirit -→ Baptism (Acts 10:44-48)

(c) Is the gift transferable to children (v.39) No ... salvation is promised to all, but it is a personal decision.

5. Birth of Church (41-47):

(a) who were 'added' to church?

- Received the word (41) + Baptized (41) ... then added (I Corinthians 12:13)
- Only those who are convicted of their sins and repented can be added to the church.
- Being INSIDE a church building, does not make us members of the Living Church.
- About 3,000 added
- The rich harvest is a fulfillment of Promise ...
Mathew 4:19 (fishers of men) Luke 24:46-49 (commission to witness)

Birth of Church (verses 41-47):

(b) Essential practices and characteristics of first church?

1. **Continued Steadfastly** (in apostles doctrine/teachings, fellowship, communion, prayer) (42)
2. Community that cared for one another (44/45)
3. Gladness (46)
4. Unity (46)
5. Worshippers (47)
6. Growing church (47) (Lord added)
7. Filled with the Holy Spirit

First Church ... a Wonderful Family of Believers!

Birth of Church (41-47):

C. How could a 'physical' church building be a hinderance to God's work?

- Having a physical building is a great blessing as it provides a permanent place for fellowship among believers and a place to welcome & witness to sinners
- It can become a hindrance if:
 - Focus shifts from glorifying God to being boastful of building,
 - Sinners are despised or unwelcomed,
 - Outreach work is restricted, or
 - Prevents meeting from home to home (as the first believers did)

Important themes/moral lessons/application

REVELATION + **A**PPPLICATION = **T**RANSFORMATION

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word,
and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.



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1. **The wait is over (1-4)** (a) How did the gift arrive? (b) Is this a personal or universal gift? (c) What are some images for holy spirit in the scriptures? (d) what is the difference in the holy spirit of OT and NT? (e) Why are we told to be filled with the holy spirit? (Ephesians 5:18)
2. **Speaking in Tongues (5-13)**... what is the source, purpose, message, and reaction?
 - **Speaking in Tongues** (dig a bit deeper) ... Is it a gift given to all believers? Is it to be used publicly or privately? Is it still relevant? (I Corinthians 14:21-22, I Corinthians 14:2, 13-15, I Corinthians 14:27-28, I Corinthians 12:30)
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Chapter 2

