

The Sovereignty of God and the Death of Jesus

Acts 2:22-24 (Page 92 in the NT section of the BPB)

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

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Today is Palm Sunday, which starts what is traditionally called Holy Week or Passion Week. It marks the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem where he was to suffer and die (Good Friday) and then be resurrected from the dead on the third day (Resurrection Sunday). Jesus had told his disciples what was going to happen but His disciples had not understood.

The book of Acts contains the story of how Jesus' disciples bore witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus and how the Holy Spirit moved in people's hearts to believe the message and become part of a new community of Jesus' followers, the Church. Contained in the story of Acts are a number of sermons that were preached primarily by Peter and Paul. What we see in these sermons is the focus on the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The passage I want to focus on today happened after Jesus' resurrection, ascension and exaltation on the day of Pentecost. I want to focus on a section Peter's sermon where he mentions Jesus life, death and resurrection.

While the subject at the start of His message is Jesus the Nazarene the emphasis of the message is on the sovereignty of God in all that took place in the life, death and resurrection as well as the following events that took place because of the preaching of the Good News.

Peter's Subject

²²Men of Israel, listen to these words:

Jesus the Nazarene,

God's Work through Jesus' Earthly Ministry (v. 22)

Jesus the Nazarene

a man attested to you

“Attested” – “show by proof, set forth” (4 times in the NT);

by God

with miracles (mighty/powerful works)

and wonders (describes the affect of the miracles, i.e. amazement))

and signs (point to something beyond themselves to who Jesus is and the significance of His coming)

which God performed (Acts 10:37-38)

through Him

in your midst,

just as you yourselves know— (1 Cor. 15:6)

God's Plan Carried Out through Sinful Men (v.23)

²³this *Man/One*,

God's Plan

delivered over (3:13-14)

by the predetermined plan (Acts 4:28; 5:38-39; 13:36)

and foreknowledge of God, (1 Pet. 1:2, 20)

Human Responsibility

you nailed to a cross

by the hands of godless men

and put *Him* to death.

(Acts 3:13-15; 5:30; Also in Paul's sermon in 13:27-28; 40-41)

Reconciling God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.

Gene. 45:4-9, 50:20; Job 42:1-2; Dan. 4:34-35, 37

God's Work in Raising Jesus from the Dead (v. 24-36)

²⁴But God raised Him up again,

putting an end to the agony of death,

“agony” - “birth pains”

since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

1Corinthians 15

God's Work through the Preaching of the Good News (vv. 37-39)

Conviction of Sin (v. 37)

Repentance (v.38)

Promise (v.38)

Forgiveness of sins

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13-14

The Growth of the Church (vv. 40-47)

Application

God has chosen the means to bring people to Himself: His people faithfully proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Have you believed/trusted in the Good News of Jesus' life, death and resurrection for the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit?