

# Jesus Builds – the book of Acts

## Lesson Four | Pentecost (part 2)

### Background

The book of Acts was written by the physician, Luke, as a continuation of his Gospel. Jesus said he would build his church and Acts is the earliest history we have about that. It begins with the Ascension on Mount Olivet and then tracks the development of the early church with a particular focus on Peter in the early chapters and Paul in the later chapters, taking us to the early AD 60s.

### Context

Jesus likely died on the Passover on Friday, April 3, AD 33, and resurrected on the Feast of the Sheaf of First Fruits on Sunday, April 5. Jesus then made post-resurrection appearances for 40 days (Acts 1:3). He instructed his disciples to remain in Jerusalem waiting for the fulfillment of the Father's promise of the Holy Spirit. That fulfillment came on the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost, meaning fifty), on Sunday, May 24, AD 33.

### Bible Study Tip

Allow other portions of Acts and its overall purpose to inform what Acts 2 means.

### *Evidence for Jesus (2:22-47)*

1. Peter's sermon begins in Acts 2:22 by grounding his presentation in historical facts. The Christian faith is a reasoned / evidentiary / forensic faith.
2. **Proof** - God provided "miracles, wonders, and signs" vindicating Jesus' message. (Acts 2:22)
3. The actual, historical resurrection of Jesus is central to the faith, and without it there is no Christianity. (Acts 2:23-24)
4. **Proof** - King David prophesied about Jesus in Psalm 16:8-11 (see Acts 2:25-28). This is what we call a Messianic Psalm.
5. **Proof** - King David is buried in a tomb known to Peter's audience (Acts 2:29), but God promised one of his descendants would be seated on his throne (2 Samuel 7:5-13), and this is why David prophesied the resurrection of the Messiah in Psalm 16:10 (see Acts 2:31). The implication is that Jesus' tomb is empty.
6. **Proof** - Peter and the other disciples were eyewitnesses to the resurrected Jesus. (Acts 2:32)
7. **Proof** - The pouring out of the Holy Spirit witnessed that day was caused by Jesus himself, which means he is alive and has divine authority. (Acts 2:33) In fact, King David prophesied in Psalm 110:1 that the Messiah would be placed at the right hand of God until his enemies are overthrown. (Acts 2:34-35)
8. **Conclusion to Peter's Argument** - Peter begins Acts 2:36 with "therefore," indicating his conclusion. Namely, "the house of Israel" should "know with certainty" that the Jesus they murdered is Lord and Christ.
9. **Response to the Argument** - The heart response of the crowd was deep conviction. (Acts 2:37) Why were they convicted? Why do they ask, "what must we do?"
10. **Conviction is Not Enough** - They must **repent** (what does that mean? repent about what?) and be "baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ **for** the forgiveness of sins." The word **for** is the Greek preposition "eis" and can mean "for" or "on the basis of" depending on context. Nowhere else in Acts is forgiveness of sins linked to baptism. (Acts 3:19, 5:31, 10:43, 13:38f, 26:18)
11. Why does Acts 2:40 say to be "saved from this corrupt generation"? What does "saved" mean here?
12. Does Acts 2:45 teach or promote communism?