

# Acts 2:22-36

## May 25, 2025



### CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

### MAIN POINT

In today's study, we'll continue in Peter's sermon to the gathered believers at Pentecost. In last week's passage, Peter spoke of the presence and works of the Holy Spirit as evidence pointing to Jesus. In this week's passage, Peter would offer proof that Jesus is the risen Messiah.

### INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**What command did Jesus issue to His followers after His resurrection?**

**We studied part of Peter's sermon last week (Acts 2:14-21). What was His message in those verses?**

In Acts 1:8, Jesus said that the believers would receive the Holy Spirit and then be His witnesses in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In our passage today, we see that, following the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a Spirit-filled Peter stood up and began to do exactly what Jesus commanded: bear witness.



## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:22-24.

**What did Peter communicate about Jesus in these verses?**

**What can we learn about God and His sovereignty from the truth Peter shared here?**

Peter began this portion of his address by relating to his audience: “Fellow Israelites” (v.22). Later in Acts and through his letters, we see Paul do this effectively as well. While not many of us may have the opportunity to speak to crowds of multiple thousands of people through a Holy Spirit-filled sermon, we can all work to find common ground as we build relationships and walk out the Great Commission in our everyday lives.

If Peter’s Jewish audience hadn’t witnessed Jesus’s miracles and signs first and, many had likely heard about Him, what He’d done, His conviction and crucifixion, and the lie planted by the religious leaders that His body had been stolen from the tomb (Matthew 28:12-15). Since we know that Jesus also appeared to people for forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3), it’s possible this audience had heard conflicting reports. If they didn’t know what to believe before, Peter’s sermon was meant to set the record straight. As a reliable witness does, Peter used his sermon to share the truth about Jesus that He knew personally: Jesus is the risen Messiah.

Verses 22-24 explain that Jesus really is the Son of God. The miracles Jesus performed pointed to this fact, and so did His resurrection (v.24). Peter also reminded the crowds that all of this was a part of God’s plan.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:25-31.

**How did Peter make his case that Jesus is the risen Messiah in these verses?**

**Why would Peter use David as an example here?**

**In what ways did Peter contrast Jesus and David, and why was this comparison important for his audience?**

Peter quoted Psalm 16:8-11 in these verses. Peter said that Jesus overcame death (v. 24), then backed that truth up with Old Testament prophecy in verse 27.



King David was a beloved and important patriarch in the eyes of the Israelites, but he was just a man. He was dead and buried, but Jesus overcame death and the grave when “God raised him up” (v.24).

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:32-36.

**What did Peter say about Jesus in these verses?**

**How did Peter act as Jesus’s witness in this passage?**

Peter and other believers were personal witnesses to Jesus’s resurrection. After His resurrection, Jesus “presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs” (Acts 1:3). Peter had witnessed this and openly proclaimed it to the gathered Jews. The passage Peter cited in verses 34-35 here is Psalm 110:1—another passage that points to the truth about Jesus.

Notice the order in which Peter structured his sermon to this point: He cleared up misconceptions about himself and the other disciples so he could stand as a reliable witness (Acts 2:15) and offered the truth about Jesus with proof and personal testimony to back it up. Next week, we’ll get to Peter’s conclusion and call-to-action: repent and believe.

## **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**What can we learn from Peter’s sermon about how to share the truth of Jesus effectively with those around us?**

**How can you witness to God’s work in your life personally? How can we collectively do this as a church and group?**

**Who has God called you to proclaim His truth to? How have you responded?**

## **PRAYER**

*Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.*

Thank God for His divine plan that made a way for us to be in relationship with Him forever. Thank Him for sending Jesus to the cross to die for our sins and for the gift of salvation. Ask for God’s help as you continue your study of Acts, that your group would



gain understanding, learn from the believers of the early church, and be inspired to share Jesus boldly.

## LOOKING AHEAD

*Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.*

**June 1, 2025 --- Acts 2:37-41**

## COMMENTARY

### Acts 2:22-36

**2:23** Peter's declaration articulates a major paradox of the Christian life: Jesus's death occurred as a result of the plan and foreknowledge of God, but it was the free (and sinful) acts of human beings that executed that plan. The Bible often affirms the reality of both divine sovereignty and genuine human choice without explaining how the two can possibly work together without conflict (e.g., 4:28; Gn 45:5).

**2:24** The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental event of Christianity and the basis of the gospel. Peter made several important statements about the resurrection in this verse. First, it was God who raised Jesus from the dead. This pictures the resurrection as God the Father's vindication of God the Son. Second, Jesus was literally dead before the resurrection, not simply injured. Thus his resurrection was no mere resuscitation. Notice also that Peter personifies death as an actual force that holds the deceased in its embrace. Third, death's power was overcome by the resurrection, which means that believers should no longer fear it.

**2:25–28** The second OT passage Peter cited is Ps 16:8–11. He recognized that Jesus was the one about whom David had prophesied, one who would not see the decay of death (also in v. 31).

**2:29–30** Peter identified David as a prophet because he had prophesied through his psalm about the Messiah. David would have treasured this God-given foreknowledge because it entailed Israel's eventual salvation through his own progeny. David would have a victorious descendant on his throne. Peter saw all of this as having been fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is now seated at God's right hand (v. 25; Eph 1:20).

**2:31** The citation is from Ps 16:10, referred to by some as a typico-prophetic psalm, in which the meaning of the words described more than just David's experience.



**2:32** Throughout this passage Peter has affirmed the reality and significance of Jesus's resurrection. Now he states most clearly the basis of his claims: he and the rest of the apostles were all witnesses to the risen Jesus. They had seen the risen Christ for themselves.

**2:33** This verse describes the relationship of the Father and the Son to the coming of the Spirit.

**2:34–35** The third and final OT passage cited by Peter is Ps 110:1. Peter cited David as the authority for his seeing Jesus as seated at God's right hand, with all of his enemies in full subjection. The basis of this victory and exaltation was Jesus's resurrection.

**2:36** Peter addressed his words specifically to Jews (the house of Israel) and affirmed that Jesus whom they crucified was both Lord and Messiah. By calling Jesus "Lord and Messiah," Peter was staking the biggest possible claims. "Lord" is reserved in the Greek translation of the OT (the Septuagint or LXX) for God (Yahweh). Thus, Peter says Jesus is God. Peter further noted that Jesus was the Messiah (anointed one), Israel's hope for salvation.

