

**PETER'S FOURFOLD PROOF THAT JESUS IS BOTH LORD AND  
CHRIST  
Ac.2:1-36  
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Ac.2 contains the inspired record of:
  - a. The outpouring of the power of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles of Christ, or the baptism of the Apostles with the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, Lk.24:44-49; Ac.1:1-8.
  - b. Peter's sermon declaring that Jesus of Nazareth has been raised from the dead and that God hath made him both Lord and Christ.
2. In proof of his proposition, Peter in this sermon offers a series of four arguments.
3. The purpose of this study is to note and examine Peter's four arguments

**II. DISCUSSION**

**A. FIRST WE REVIEW THE TEXT OF AC.2:1-21 LEADING TO PETER'S FOUR ARGUMENTS.**

1. Vv.1-4 record the Apostle's reception of the power of the Holy Ghost and their beginning to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance.
  - a. Note what they were speaking by the power of the Spirit.
    - (1) "Other tongues," V.4.
    - (2) The languages of the people assembled from around the world, V.6.
    - (3) The tongues in which the people were born, i.e., their native languages, V.8.
    - (4) "The wonderful works of God," V.11.
2. Vv.5-13 declare the reaction of the people assembled.
  - a. Some were "confounded" (confused in mind; stirred up) because of what they saw and heard, V.6.
  - b. "They were all amazed (astonished) and marveled (wondered)," V.7.
  - c. "They were all amazed (astonished) and were in doubt (were in perplexity), saying one to another, What meaneth this?" V.12.
  - d. "Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine," V.13.

3. Vv.14-21 reveal that Peter, standing up with the eleven, begins to explain what has happened, or is happening, the meaning of what they are seeing and hearing.
  - a. First, these who are speaking these wonderful works of God are not drunk as ye suppose, Vv.14,15.
  - b. Then, in V.16, he begins to explain what they are really witnessing, what is really happening –“*this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.*”
  - c. Then, in Vv.17-21, he quotes Joel’s prophecy from the book of Joel Ch.2:28-32, which contained two major promises to be fulfilled in the last days.
    - (1) “I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh,” Vv.17,18.
    - (2) “Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved,” V.21.
4. Peter is telling them that the time has arrived for the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy and the promises therein.
5. But who is the Lord on whose name they must call in order to be saved?
  - a. Remember: Peter is addressing an unbelieving Jewish audience, one that denied that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ or the Lord on whose name they must call to be saved!
  - b. So Peter must prove to this audience of unbelievers that he is!

**B. PETER’S FOUR ARGUMENTS IN VV.22-35 ARE DESIGNED FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

1. His first argument, Vv.22-24: The evidence of God’s approval of Jesus of Nazareth by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did by him in their midst, which they couldn’t deny, and his resurrection from the dead by God. Cf. Mt.3:16,17; Jno.1:29-34; 1Jno.5:6-10.
  - a. His miracles performed in their midst
    - (1) They could not deny, Mt.12:22-24; Lk.11:14,15; Jno.20:30,31.
    - (2) He performed by the Spirit of God, by the finger of God, Mt.12:28; Lk.11:20; Ac.10:38; Cf. Jno.3:2.
  - b. God raised Jesus from the dead, which resurrection is the ultimate proof of his Sonship, Ac.2:24; 3:15,26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30,33,34; 17:31; Rom.8:11; 10:9; 1Cor.6:14; 15:15; 2Cor.4:14; Gal.1:1; Eph.1:20; Col.2:12; 1Th.1:10; 1Pet.1:21; Rom.1:4. See Jno.10:17,18.
2. Peter’s 2<sup>nd</sup> argument, Vv.25-31: The testimony of their O.T. Scriptures.

- a. The prophecy of king David, Vv.25-28; Psa.16:8-11; 49:15.
- b. Peter's inspired explanation of David's prophecy, Vv.29-31.
- 3. Peter's 3<sup>rd</sup> argument, V.32: Eye witness evidence and testimony by the inspired witnesses who testified to the risen Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. Consider Mk.16:14,15; Lk.24:36-49; Jno.20:24-28; Lk.24:44-49; Jno.15:26,27; Ac.1:1-8; 5:32; 1Jno.1:1-3; rev.1:1,2,9.
  - b. 1Cor.15:1-8.
  - c. These men sacrificed their very lives rather than deny what they saw and heard.
  - d. They were tried and proven witnesses standing the test for any court in the land.
- 4. Peter's 4<sup>th</sup> argument, Vv.33-35: The powerful, undeniable evidence of his being exalted to God's right hand in heaven, the proof of which he hath shed for on this occasion, which all of you present now see and hear.
  - a. V.33. See Ac.2:1-16.
  - b. Once again citing scriptural proof from king David from Psa.110:1 that it was not David but Jesus of Nazareth who was risen from the dead, had ascended unto heaven, and was sitting at the right hand of God on the throne, Vv.34,35. Cf. 1Cor.15:25,26

**B. PETER'S CONCLUSION AS A RESULT OF HIS FOURFOLD ARGUMENT, V.36.**

- 1. He is now both Lord and Christ, the anointed ruler reigning in his kingdom.
- 2. Now you can be saved by calling on his name as promised in V.21.
- 3. Now believers can also receive the outpouring of the Spirit as per Joel's prophecy in Vv.17,18.

**III. CONCLUSION**

- 1. His success on this occasion in the very face of an unbelieving, hostile audience, showing the overwhelming power of the evidence offered for his proposition that this Jesus of Nazareth who you by wicked hand have crucified and slain, is in evidence by the very response of the 3,000 who believed, asked what to do, and obeyed the gospel, Vv.37-41.
- 2. Then being saved, the Lord added them to the church, V.47.