

It is Written

Holy Trinity Chico - April 18, 2021

1. Reading: Luke 24:36-49
2. Key text: ...”This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.
 - a. 3 things
 - i. The Gospel comes first as the story of how God fulfilled all His promises to Israel. It comes as the culmination of the Israel story
 1. According to Scot Mcnight, “The Gospel is the story of Jesus of Nazareth told as the climax of the long story of Israel, which in turn is the story of how the one true God is rescuing the world.” (McKnight, Scot, The King Jesus Gospel, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2016, pg. 12)
 - ii. During the 40 days of appearances Jesus reinterpreted the Old Testament for them so that they could see how it pointed to Him, especially to His death and resurrection.
 - iii. This sermon brings together three evidences for the Lordship of Jesus – Old testament Prophecy, Human witness (especially apostolic witness) and the witness of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Let’s look together at the first sermon preached after Jesus ascended to heaven.
 - i. The Apostle Peter strings together Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday, Ascension day and Pentecost (not necessarily in that order) into a sermon based on the aforementioned “Law of Moses, The Prophets and the Psalms...”, in other words, the OT.
3. Acts 2:14-40
 - a. Introduction: Joel 2:28-32
 - i. The “apparent drunkenness” and “tongues” is the prophetic outpouring that was prophesied by Joel
 - ii. He appeals to the eye-witness testimony of their own experience of seeing the spirit manifestation on the disciples. They have heard them “declaring the wonders of God” in their own languages!
 1. Deut. 11:12 ²Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; ³ the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country;
 2. Majesty of God or Mighty acts of God...

b. First Text: Joel 2:28-32 –

i. Wonders and Signs – Life of Jesus

1. Explanation – vs. 22 - Miracles, wonders and signs which Jesus performed are the ones Joel was talking about in his prophesy. They use the same Greek words. The original readers of the Old Testament would have seen these verses as referring to something like the judgments poured out on Egypt.

ii. Some of the Miracles, wonders and signs in Jesus life include The star that led the wisemen, the cloud of darkness that covered the earth at His death, Jesus stilling the wind and waves, Feeding the 5000, water to wine, raising Lazarus from the dead and His many healings

iii. Jesus death

1. Common knowledge, They were all witnesses of this, no need for a scripture verse

a. However, we could cite Isaiah 53 - ¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;

2. Jesus resurrection - God raised Him from the dead. As proof of this he appeals to Ps. 16

c. Second Text: Ps. 16:8-11 –Resurrection from the dead

i. He quotes Ps. 16 and says it is a prophetic word about the resurrection of the Messiah (and therefore it implies His death as foreknown by God)

1. The phrase “Realm of the Dead” is Sheol in Psalm 16 and Hades in Acts 2

ii. David died and was buried. David was a prophet (common knowledge) and David had a covenant with God about one of His descendants ruling on the throne. (2 Sam. 11:7-16, Ps. 89, Ps.132:11-12)

1. Ps. 132:11 The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath he will not revoke: “One of your own descendants I will place on your throne. (NIV)

2. Original readers would have seen Ps 16 as protection from death or maybe a hope of attaining to the resurrection of the dead,

3. Peter says this is a prophetic word about the Messiah rising from the dead.

iii. In addition to scripture we have the Witness of the spirit-filled – all those who appear to be drunk are eyewitness of the resurrection...(120 people – Acts 1:15)

iv. Exalted to the right hand of God and poured out the Holy Spirit

- d. Third Text – Ps. 110:1 (and Ps 16:28 – fill me with joy in your presence)
 - i. Exalted to the right hand of the Father (and therefore receiving and pouring out the Spirit)
 - ii. David did not ascend to heaven (his body is still here), but he prophesied again...
 - iii. Yahweh said to my lord... David has a “Lord” who is seated next to Yahweh. This is evidence of the ascension and session of Christ
 - iv. Ps. 110 is one of the most important Psalms used by the church to point to Jesus
 - 1. Mt. 22:44, 1 Cor. 15:25, Eph. 1:20-22, Col. 3:1, Heb. 1:3, 13, Heb. 8:1, Heb. 10:12, Heb. 12:2
 - v. Further evidence of the ascension and exaltation is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they are experiencing (they have seen and heard), which comes from “The Lord”.
 - 1. Interesting note is that in Joel 2 The Spirit was to be poured out by Yahweh, but Peter says that Jesus is involved.

e. Peter’s Conclusion

- i. Jesus is the resurrected, ascended, exalted Lord sitting next to Yahweh, Jesus is the Messiah-Christ (the Son of David who has the everlasting throne) who was to come.
 - a. They killed Him
 - 2. By implication – The Messiah has come and has inaugurated the last days and the era of the Spirit poured out on all flesh. The outpouring of the HS is evidence that Jesus is the Lord and Messiah and proves that He was sent by the Father and was not guilty of any wrongdoing.
- ii. How should they respond?
 - 1. Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ. This involved a clear and decisive decision and baptism probably included a confession of allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - 2. Then he circles back to Joel. The name they are to call on for salvation is Jesus (in the Joel text it is Yahweh), see Acts 4:12

4. Summary

- a. There are three witnesses Peter appeals to.
 - i. The witness of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. The signs, wonder and miracles associated with Jesus
 - 2. Spirit manifestation on the disciples is proof that we have entered the last days.
- b. The witness of the people and the disciples
 - i. The people knew of Jesus life and death and of the miracles done through him
 - ii. The disciples (120 in this case, but over 500 mentioned in 1 Cor. 15 by Paul) saw Jesus alive after His crucifixion and that he had been raised

- c. The witness of the Old Testament
 - i. The end times would be inaugurated by signs wonders and miracles and an outpouring of the HS on all people (Joel 2)
 - ii. The Messiah would die and rise again (Ps 16)
 - iii. The Messiah would be invited by Yahweh to sit at His right hand while waiting for His enemies to be made into His footstool (Ps 110)
 - iv. The only person who can meet all of these criteria is Jesus of Nazareth
- d. Therefore, Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus is the Lord seated next to Yahweh
- e. Therefore salvation (and receiving the HS and entering the Kingdom of God for which they had been waiting) is found by joining Him through repentance, faith and baptism
- f. One final nugget... Call on the name of the LORD (Yahweh...) becomes call on the name of Jesus
 - i. Read the next couple of "Gospellings" to see the elevation of the name of Jesus in Acts 3:11-26; Acts 4:5-12.

5. Conclusion

- a. The story of Jesus as Messiah and Lord is rooted in the Old Testament and an integral part of the Old Testament story about God's plan to save the world. This story shows, in part, how Jesus came as the fulfillment of Israel's hopes and Israel's story.
- b. This particular sermon brings together good Friday, resurrection Sunday, Ascension and Pentecost. Peter's revelation that he shared on this day was rooted in the revelation he received from Jesus during the 40 days between easter and ascension day.
- c. Practical note: In decision making... when you see a convergence of scripture, eye witness testimony and the evidence of the Holy Spirit, you have a situation that is worthy of great confidence and faith.
 - i. The early church would use this same three-fold criteria to make their decision to allow Gentiles to become full members of the Church without having to become Jewish.
 - ii. This in turn brings us back to the main point of the book of Ephesians...