

Acts Chapter 2:31-33

³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

He foresaw- Many people think about prophets as only speaking about the future, but this is not always the case. Prophets were the mouthpieces of God in the world. That means that they spoke whatever it was that God gave them to say. Sometimes, God spoke through the prophets regarding current events, like Nathan calling out David or Elijah calling out Ahab. Sometimes, God spoke about the short term future, like when certain places were going to be conquered or overthrown. And sometimes, God spoke through the prophets about the long-term future, like in Messianic prophecy. In this case, God spoke through David a long-term prophecy about the resurrection of Christ. Only through God's activity could such a long-term prophecy become fulfilled. Many people have tried and failed to predict the future and the further out you go, the less likely you are to be able to guess something right.

And spoke about- It's kind of interesting to consider what Peter means by "spoke about" here. We presume that the Psalms David produced were something that was only written down and read by other people later on, because that is how we receive them today. However, the Psalms were originally a part of worship, which was often set to music. Perhaps David, as a musician, had something to do with the presentation of the Psalms that he was inspired to write. Perhaps he even read them himself, in front of the assembly. Or, perhaps, Peter just means that David was inspired to write the Psalms and was "speaking" to people through the medium of writing.

The resurrection- At first glance, this wording seems kind of clunky. We wonder why there is a "the" in front of the word "resurrection." Sometimes, we use a definite article ("the") to indicate that something is the only one of its kind or that it is the chief example. Certainly, there are other examples of resurrection in the Scriptures. In fact, there are 10 times that are mentioned. In Jesus' ministry, He raises 3 from the dead: Widow of Nain's son, Jairus' daughter, and Lazarus. As Jesus' dies on the cross, tombs are opened and people are resurrected. Peter prays for a woman named Tabitha (Dorcas) and she is resurrected. Paul resurrects a man who fell out of the window during his sermon. And then, in the Old Testament, resurrections are attributed to Elijah and Elisha. Nevertheless, Jesus' resurrection is the pinnacle of everything. His resurrection is the resurrection from which millions or billions more will come. Still, many like the Sadducees said there was no resurrection and even today, people deny that such a thing can happen.

Of the Christ- Again, we see another definite article which seems a bit clunky. Similar to Jesus' resurrection being *the* resurrection, Jesus is *the* Christ. The word Christ is not Jesus' last name, it is a title. "Christ" is the New Testament, Greek equivalent of the Hebrew "Messiah" in the Old Testament. The literal meaning of the word is "anointed one." In the Old Testament, kings and high priests had a horn of oil poured on their heads to indicate that they were set apart from the rest for holy service to God. We must be careful not to misinterpret what this means for Jesus. Jesus was not chosen to be the Christ based on an exceptional human resume. Jesus was set apart from before the foundations of the world to be the Christ, the Savior of the World.

that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption- Peter repeats himself, in order to clarify what it was that David foresaw and prophesied about. What David was prophesying about here all falls under the umbrella of Christ's resurrection. Everything happened the way that it was supposed to happen, according to David's words.

³² **This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.**

This Jesus- Peter specifies which Jesus he is talking about by referring back to the things He has done, those mentioned in previous verses. Today, Jesus is still known chiefly by the things He has done for us and also Who He is. We sometimes refer to Jesus as "Christ the crucified" or "The Living One." There are many other titles by which Christ can be known, based on the things He has done or does: Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, etc. Ultimately, there is no one else like Jesus. What He has done and Who He is set Him apart from all others.

God raised up- Again, we have an indicator of how Jesus was raised from the dead. Here, it says that God raised Him from the dead. When we talk about God, we are talking about the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At various points in the Scriptures, it talks about the Father raising Him and even seems to hint at the Spirit and the Son playing a part. In the end, it's not really necessary to narrow it down. The point is that Christ is risen.

And of that- By saying "of that," Peter might as well be drawing a big arrow to what he has just been saying. As important as it is to be willing to share the Gospel with people, you must also be sound in the content of the message. Here, the content of the Gospel is wrapped up in a nice neat package: Jesus crucified and raised for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We all are witnesses- Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea, to the ends of the earth. By definition, a witness is somebody who sees something happen, but there is the implication that the person who has seen something will say something, helping to show that what they have said is true. In the apostolic era, there were first-hand witnesses for the Church to use, but after John died, there did not cease to be witnesses. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and seeing what God has done in their lives, all believers are witnesses.

³³ **Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.**

Being therefore exalted- To be exalted is to be put into a very high position or place that is above others. To be exalted is the exact opposite of being humbled. Just as Jesus' humiliation began at His incarnation, Jesus is raised up again to His proper place. Surprisingly, Jesus' crucifixion is often talked about as part of His exaltation, as He is "lifted up" upon the cross. Though Jesus was bruised, bloodied, mocked, and stripped naked on that cross, it was not the humiliation they thought it was. The cross is a victory. The cross shows that Jesus is king. Just as Moses raised up the bronze serpent in the wilderness as the people were dying from venomous snake bites, people look to the cross to see God's power to heal, restore, and forgive through His one and only Son's sacrifice. From there, Jesus exaltation continues as He rises from the

dead, descends in hell, ascends into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

At the right hand of God- As previously discussed, the right hand was a prominent position in the courts of earthly kings. They were the chief advisor and the greatest among those who served the king. When we think of this, there are a lot of ways that we can go wrong. We are not to picture three thrones with the Father in the middle, the Son to His right, and the Spirit to His left. First of all, God is Spirit and has now physically made Himself known to us through the incarnation of Christ. Secondly, all three persons of the Trinity exist as one divine substance and cannot be divided. Third, there are no rankings of the persons of the Trinity. Jesus should not be thought of as merely a servant of His Father and the Holy Spirit should not be regarded as an afterthought, third among the members. However, if we do not seek to push the “right hand” designation too far, it can help us to realize that Jesus is now seated in power and with great authority. He is no longer humiliated in any sense of the word. As a demonstration of His power, He will come again to be our judge on the Last Day

And having received from the Father- In the first few verses of the Book of Acts, Jesus says that the disciples are to wait for the promise of the Father. This promise from the Father has now come to fruition in the sending of the Helper, the Holy Spirit. It is a bit interesting that Jesus says this promise comes specifically from the Father. However, we remember that Jesus tells His disciples that He will pray to the Father for this Helper. In His complete keeping and fulfillment of the Law and God’s will for Him, Jesus prays to His Father. This highlights for us that God does indeed listen to and answer our prayers.

The promise of the Holy Spirit- The wording is a little bit confusing here. This part of the verse is meant to indicate that the promise of the Holy Spirit has been kept. We all know that we have received promises that have not been kept, but this is not one of those. In fact, God keeps His perfect record of promise-keeping alive by fulfilling Jesus’ words to His disciples. The fact that God always keeps His promises is one of the great comforts that we have as Christians, especially considering what wonderful things that God promises. From God, we receive grace, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and ultimately, eternal life.

He has poured out this- When it rains really hard, we say that it is “pouring.” Every inch of ground is drenched in water. In a similar way, God holds nothing back from us in the sending of His Holy Spirit. God has given us His all, so that we might be saved. In baptism, we receive the poured out Holy Spirit in His fullness.

That you yourselves are seeing and hearing- Reminds us again of the miraculous events of Pentecost. A sound like a great rushing wind, tongues of fire, and people speaking languages they did not know. Peter reminds the crowd that all of these things come from God and the work of His Spirit.