

THE SANHEDRIN AND THE NAME OF THE RESURRECTED JESUS - Acts 4:1-31

032821A

INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 24:44-48 = Luke's Great Commission. *Nations* = ethnicities. Jn 18:36 *My kingdom is not of this world* [this created order]- *realm* [here, place: i.e. this side of the resurrection].
2. Yet, one motif in Acts is conflict w/ civil authorities: court scenes; riots.
3. In Act 4& 5 - Sanhedrin, gov't of Jewish society under Roman rule - why such vehement opposition to Christians?

1st: The Sanhedrin Questions the Authority of the Name - A 4:1-7

1. Recall A 3 - heal lame man - proclaim name of resurrected Jesus - crowd joined by temple police & Sadducees - *greatly disturbed* - the more they heard, the more they became agitated.
2. Heard what? *proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead*. That's the crime. What occasions conflict w/ Sanhedrin is preaching the resurrection.
 - i. Jesus' resurrection -> preach in Jesus the res of the dead. Jesus is the 1st-fruit: the time of harvest has begun; Jesus redemptive kingdom begins to encompass the world.
 - ii. A 17:18,32 - Paul *preaching Jesus & the res of the dead*; in A 24:21 - *for the res of the dead I am on trial*. Here is 1st trial in Sanhedrin: A 4:3
3. How is res life manifest? v4: hear gospel w/ faith & join church [A2:41-42] Infuriates Sadducees: in charge of temple, anti-supernaturalists, Torah only. Recall Jesus' conflict w/ Sads in Lk 20 - the question of authority [v2]; Jesus used Ps 118:22 [Ptr uses in A 4:11]; & Ps 110 [Ptr used in A 2:34].
4. A 4:5-7 same Sads confront Ptr on same issue - v7: authority, *power, name*

2nd: Peter Testifies to the Name - A 4:8-12

1. v7,9,10 -> v16 *noteworthy miracle* = context to preach res of dead
2. Ptr reiterates message of A 2&3 - cites Ps 118:22 & indicts hearers. Keepers of temple saw Jesus as threat to temple but He is cornerstone of NCov temple -> glorified cosmos.
3. v12 - v7 *in what name?* v10 *by the name of Jesus Christ - no other name*
 - i. exclusivity of *the name - no one else; no other name*. Who gave Jesus this *name that has been given?* God: name above all names [Phil 2:9]
 - ii. Authority to do what? *be saved* [2x] - from what? Death, wrath. How? by grace thru faith in Christ - alone: justification, adoption - res glory.
 - iii. Universal [*under heaven among men*]; exclusive [*no one else, no other name*].

3rd: The Sanhedrin Opposes the Name - A 4:13-22

1. Ptr's *confidence* altho *uneducated & untrained* - due to rlnshp w/ Jesus. -
2. v17-18 - seek to thwart from *any man* hearing about anything re: this *name*
 - i. *warn*: threat w/ harm; *summoned - command*
 - ii. stop *speaking* & do not *speak* in Jesus' name [2x].
3. v19-20 - Ptr sees Sanhedrin as opposing God - Ptr calls them to *judge*. Ptr *cannot stop speaking* - 2C 13:8; Lk 24:48; 1Jn 1:1-3.
4. v21 *more threats* - release: political but Ptr *glorify God*

4th: The Church Prays in the Name & Apostles Proclaim the Name - A 4:23-31

1. Ptr & Jn report to the church what Sanhedrin *said to them*: then church's says: they *lift up their voices w/ one accord* in prayer: v24 [Ex 20:11 = IVth] importance of "theology" - God as Creator/Sabbath
2. v25-26: cites Ps 2:1-2 - doct of *Christ* - who speaks Ps 2?
 - i. the HS thru David - *Your servant* = Jesus v27
 - ii. HS authors Scripture - Rv 2-3 *hear what the Spirit says to the churches*
 - iii. *Gentiles* [Rms] & *peoples* [Jews] oppose YHWH but God accomplishes His *predestinating purpose* - A 2:23-24a

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3. v29-30 Sanhed's words - apostle's words: *word of God*: pray & proclaim
 - i. On what basis does church pray? - v30
 - ii. How to speak? v29, 31 - confidence, boldness. Why? v13
 - iii. Lord's *Hand* = providence & miracles - evidence power of res'd Jesus
4. Vitality & love of early church [v32ff]
5. v33 = summary of this period time - inclusio - v2

Applic #1: May Our Lives Draw Attention to the Name of Resurrected Jesus

1. The Christian life is supernatural - spiritual cripples since birth can begin yelling & leaping & living life in name of Jesus that glorifies God
2. Such living gives opportunities to speak the gospel in the name of Jesus.
3. Let us be confident in *the name* - there is not other name - you know His name: speak of His name to others - to all men under heaven.

Applic #2: Let Us Be the Church Built on Jesus the Cornerstone

1. Psa 118:22 evidently bec/ an important vs for Ptr - 1Ptr 2:4-10
2. You are God's temple - worship & witness - blessed be His name! AMEN